



# WOODBITS

## NEWSLETTER

### Issue 186

### November 2021

### Welcome

## SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello!

Another good meeting at Adeyfield at our 9th November event with 31 members attending plus 6 guests, five of whom converted to membership, one on his first visit! For those absent, we had an excellent demonstration on finishing techniques and materials by Terry Smart (Chestnut Finishes) with a diverse selection of discounted products and finishes for sale during the meeting.

### **Our first post lock-down competition – where were our beginners?!**

Terry kindly agreed to judge our first post lock-down competition which appropriately enough was *A Decorated Platter or Bowl* (based on the previous demo in September by Mick Hanbury). Thanks to everyone who entered as we had some super entries in both the “Advanced” and “Open” categories (See pictures elsewhere in this issue). However, we had zero “Beginner” entries. Can I please make an appeal to all our beginners to enter items as it is DEFINITELY NOT about winning but the main aim is to obtain feedback and helpful suggestions for improvement both from the professional demonstrator and from more experienced club members. Learning from others and exchanging ideas is a key function of club membership and whatever our expertise, we all benefit from that approach at all levels.

### **Resumption of Saturday training sessions**

Talking about key functions of the club, following on from the member consultation at October’s meeting, we are considering how best to proceed with the many suggestions made. Top of the list is the resumption of our hands-on all day Saturday training sessions. As a reminder, the aim of these sessions is for members to use the six available club lathes, under guidance, to learn or practice basic techniques (for beginners) or experiment with advanced techniques (which may involve additional specialised accessories either owned by the club or on loan for the session from fellow members). These sessions provide a fantastic opportunity for club members to share expertise and help each other in their woodturning journey. Initially the venue will be in the “back-room” at Adeyfield but we are also considering liaising with other organisations with more suitable premises. Further announcements will be made very soon so we can start either next month or early next year.

### **Turned Contributions Appeal: – thanks for a terrific response!**

The club will have a stand at the Frogmore Craft Fair at Hemel Hempstead on Sunday 5th December manned by Adam Blackie, Peter Hoare and Keith Harrup. There will be woodturning demonstrations throughout the day using one of the club lathes. Our main reasons for attending will be to promote wood turning to the public as well as promotion of the club to potential new

members. We will also be selling turnings to boost club funds. Following an appeal for the donation of suitable sale items, we have had a tremendous response from club members for which very grateful thanks.

### **Christmas Meeting**

Next month (14th December) we have our Christmas club evening which we hope to celebrate in style to make up for the cancelled event last year. Details to follow but a possible activity might include hands on sharpening tuition.

Enjoy another edition of *Woodbits*! As always do please contact me or any member of your committee either if you have any comments relating to club activities, or would just like a chat about turning! All are very welcome!

Tim  
Tim Pettigrew  
Chairman

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### **STOP PRESS**

News is emerging about the impact of the Omicron variant and at the committee on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> the latest guidelines will be discussed as they relate to our December meeting. We will also be contacting the Adeyfield Centre to understand their position. Please contact one of the committee if you would like your opinions on this to be taken into account.

Chairman: Tim Pettigrew [chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk](mailto:chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk)  
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# Contents

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN .....	1
Contents.....	3
Club News .....	4
October Competition .....	4
John Sharp - Sad news .....	6
Training Sessions.....	6
Committee responsibilities .....	6
Raffle .....	6
Terry Smart: Finishing demonstration – Review by Allen Kaye.....	7
An alternative bowl saver – Keith Goddard.....	11
Woodturning sessions on-line .....	12
For Sale and wanted .....	13
Poetry Corner.....	15

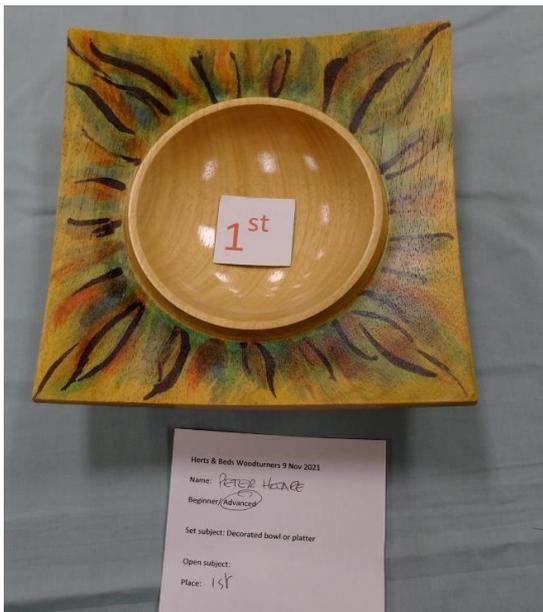
# Club News

## October Competition

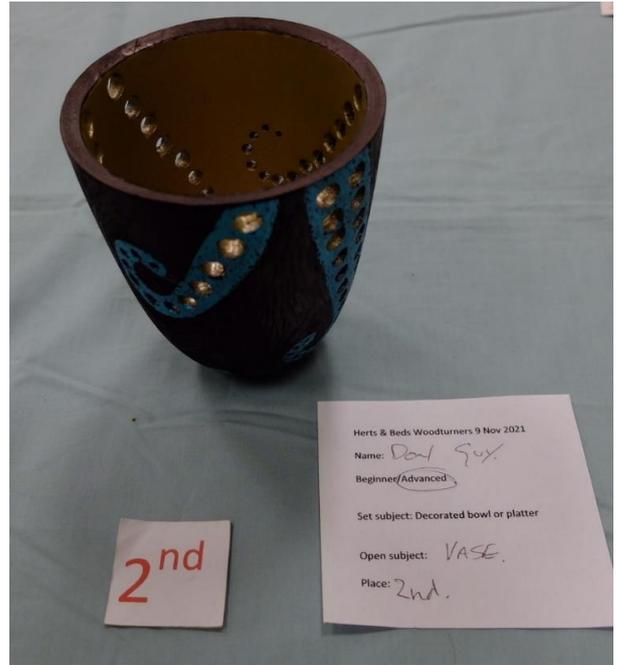
This month Terry Smart from Chestnut Products judged the competition. Terry is not a woodturner and was influenced by his knowledge of finishing.

Photos by Don Guy

## Advanced



# Open



## John Sharp - Sad news

Adam, our treasurer was contacted by Carol Sharp recently to let us know that John had passed away.

Many of you will know John – he joined in 2004 and ran the sales table for many years. He joined the committee in 2010. A very keen member of the club, not only through his committee work but as a talented woodworker and turner. Before his retirement, John was an electrician and so also helped by electrically testing the club's equipment.

He was always quietly spoken, friendly and had a good knowledge of working in wood. He was one of the old school of gentlemen, always open for conversation and he could talk about any topic.

John was much respected and will be sadly missed.

Through Adam, Carol wishes to dispose of John's workshop equipment and in a separate document I have included a list of such and details of how you can bid for items. Also, if you wish further details of the funeral or wish to pass messages directly to Carol, please contact Adam in the first instance.

## Training Sessions

We hope to run beginner Saturday training sessions this year – if you are interested in helping to train or be trained yourself- please contact Tim Pettigrew on [chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk](mailto:chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk)

## Committee responsibilities

Bruce Edhouse used to organise the training days but as he has now moved to Derbyshire, he cannot continue with this responsibility and we need a replacement Training Manager – if you are interested in taking this on please contact Tim Pettigrew on [chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk](mailto:chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk)

## Raffle

Steve Beadle (Raffle Co-ordinator) is always looking for the usual helpers and newbies to help buy the goodies for the raffle. Please contact him if you can help.

## Club Leaflets

New leaflets promoting the club are now available. These have been printed to hand out at the Frogmore Craft Fair in Hemel Hempstead on the 5th December. If any members are running their own craft fair stalls over Christmas could you consider handing out a few of our leaflets? If so there will be a stock on the welcome desk at Adeyfield on 14th December. If you would like a supply before then please contact Adam and he will post some to you.

# Terry Smart: Finishing demonstration – Review by Allen Kaye

Photos by Don Guy

For the October club night Terry from Chestnut products was invited to give a talk about finishing. Terry is not a woodturner but has vast experience and knowledge of the nature of the different finishes.

His company is well known and in normal times he was always to be found at Trade Fairs and Woodworking Shows talking through his products and answering questions. It is to his credit that he has always willing to personally and advise support woodworkers and turners and help them achieve the best possible finish outcome for their products.



The first useful item he described was the table of products that shows clearly what finishes can be used together. The chart has been reproduced in earlier newsletters – if you don't have a copy then you can download it directly from his website. He gave a few examples to show the value of the chart.

One theme that he emphasised throughout the talk is the need for good preparation – the best finish product cannot hide a poorly prepared piece. Some people he explained feel that different timbers require different finishes but he felt that the types of timber rarely makes a difference.

Starting with 80 grit! (which was a little surprising) he took us through the process of sanding and explained the process by which each subsequent grit took out the scratches made by the previous grit and emphasised the importance of moving steadily through the range of grit rather than jumping from say 120 to 400. He also described the action of the NyWeb coloured sanding pads that takes you to 1000 grit. Helpfully he noted a quick way of remembering the order of the 4 pads - Green Red Orange White ie GROW.

Another tip came here – try to avoid running your hand over a sanded piece because the oil in your fingers will leave deposits that will show up as marks at the end. If you really have to do this then make sure your hands are dry and clean. In response to a question, he stated that surgical spirit is better than meths at cleaning up the finish prior to finishing. Even when apparently finished and really smooth, it can be surprising to look at the surface with a microscope so a tack cloth impregnated with resin can be good for a final step – don't press too hard.

At this stage Terry moved on to the application of a finish. Sealing the timber is often a necessary start and this can be achieved using a sanding sealer. Always apply finishes sparingly. Sanding sealers do not need to be thinned however old thinners that have thickened up may well need to be thinned. More quick tips came here – shake the can each time as the sanding agent tends to drop down to the bottom of the can. Wipe the mouth of the can after use makes the cap easier to undo next time. The sanding agent will help fill up the pores of the wood – it does not raise the grain - the act of sanding removes the fine material left on the surface by the sealer. Cellulose sanding sealer can be used but it is smellier and takes longer to cure.

At this point in response to a question about fire hazards – many of these products will catch fire however Terry explained that sanding sealer on rags will not spontaneously combust (but oil in rags can do so and should be disposed of carefully)

The sanding sealer is then sanded with the last grit abrasive used in the preparation stage. A wax can be then applied. Different waxes were discussed but rather than detail this here I have reproduced the latest Newsletter from Terry in the pages following.

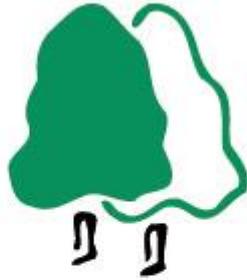
At the end Terry asked for a show of hands to see how many people had registered for his regular newsletters and it appeared that many were not aware of this. If this latest newsletter looks to be interesting to you then you can request them to be sent directly to your own inbox. See the link below.

<https://chestnutproducts.co.uk/welcome-to-our-newsletters/>

This newsletter also gives details of their Christmas LIVE demo with Emma Cook.

After the talk Terry was asked to judge the competition entries and the results are earlier in this newsletter. He assessed the pieces mainly on the finish.





# CHESTNUT

P R O D U C T S

**Wax, Rainbow Wax and More Wax! Wow!**

WEEK COMMENCING 21 NOVEMBER 2021

## A selection of the questions we've been asked recently.

Hi Allen

It's nearly the end of November, and thoughts are turning to 'that event' taking place next month. Can I mention Christmas? The build up to it started ages ago in the shops, and we've noticed an increase in orders too. If you're after something for the big day please order early!

And why not join us for our Christmas Conkers LIVE with Emma Cook on Saturday 4 December. It will feature a festive demo from Emma, some bad cracker jokes and anything else we can think of. [Click this link](#) to get yourself on the guest list!

Now, some questions...

[Download this Newsletter as a PDF here](#)

A regular correspondent contacted us recently whilst halfway through a renovation project. They'd mounted a damaged vase back onto their lathe (with no small amount of ingenuity!) and sanded off the damaged finish. We'd already advised that a wax would be the safest way to proceed after that, as there was no way of knowing what had been applied previously (wax will work over pretty much any coating). The problem was, they'd applied the WoodWax 22 and due to the size of the vase it had dried before they'd had a chance to buff it, leaving a too-thick coating of wax. What to do?

It's counter-intuitive, but the best course here is to apply more wax! Do this using something like a fine NyWeb (Orange or White) and this will soften and remove the excess wax, leaving just a thin coat behind.

(Prevention is better than cure, so for future reference apply in small areas on a large piece; the wax will blend in and won't show join marks).

Something that's come up a couple of times recently, which I think is pre-empting a potential situation, is: what can be used to soften the Rainbow Waxes if they dry out and go hard? This is pretty simple, but perhaps not what you'd expect. Our Reducer works great at this, just add some to the jar and let it soak in. Some mixing might be required, depending on how much it has dried out. It might not return to the exact same consistency as when fresh, but it will make it easy to use and avoid waste.

Water could be used for this, but it might go stale and start to smell, so only do this as a last resort.

And finally this week we're looping back to our first question in a way. We were contacted by a carver looking to finish a very intricate piece he'd made. Which sealer should he use, and what to put on top of it? I suggested one of our aerosol sanding sealers, and as Melamine Gloss Lacquer was not going to be used we settled on the Acrylic Sanding Sealer. A

s it was going to be indoors, WoodWax 22 would be a good option for finishing it, but care needs to be taken to prevent the wax drying in the various nooks and crannies of the carving. If it does, it could be noticeable. So the trick here is to apply the wax with a brush (our Small Round Brush is ideal for this, but other brushes could be used), and to use a stippling motion when doing so - dabbing the wax onto the surface rather than using a stroking motion.

Don't let the wax get too dry; buff it after 30 seconds using a fairly stiff bristle brush - we sell brushes that are perfect for this, but if you're only doing one piece then a shoe brush will suffice. This will pick the soft, surplus wax out, and leave a thin coating.

So those are this week's questions, but I often get contacted by people wanting me to include their site in the Newsletter. I usually politely say no as I don't always think the input is interesting or relevant. But this one caught me on a good day, following up on my ramblings about idioms many months ago. It's an interesting bit of fun if you've got nothing better to do and if, like me, you have even a passing interest in the English language. [The ultimate guide to idioms.](#)

On that note I'll bid you farewell for this week and will return next Friday as usual.

All the best

Terry

## An alternative bowl saver – Keith Goddard

When investigating bowl prices I was taken aback by the £497 required by Axminster and so I did further searches and found that Killinger Machines in Germany provided a bowl saver at a much lower price. I phoned them and was informed that they would send one minus their VAT plus delivery charges. I would then be charge almost the same amount of VAT in the UK.

At the rate of exchange on the day of order I paid £287. This was followed with VAT and customs charges of £ 69 making a savings of £141. The whole process took a very acceptable ten days. I then looked at the laser guide. The price at Axminster Tools was £95. I decided to make one. I had Laser pointer, a suitable metal bar and purchased a replacement bolt for £1.

Chris Tucker's son , Matthew, did the appropriate drilling of the bolt, turning of the metal bar and I made the Laser holder out of wood so total saving of £235.



## Woodturning sessions on-line

Although our own Zoom sessions are now suspended as we can resume meetings in Adeyfield, many individuals and organisations are continuing to offer them.

If you do come across any others one that look useful please let me know and I will include the details in next month's Woodbits. There are many turners and also clubs offering Zoom and youtube sessions now. I will try to keep track of recommended ones here in the newsletter and by email but you may want to register with some of these directly to ensure you get reminders and details delivered straight into your inbox.

### Future Chestnut Products CONKERS sessions

Check out their website and sign up if you want reminders and updates

<https://chestnutproducts.co.uk/conkers-live/>

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### AWGB Talking Turning Online Sessions

The sessions have changed focus and AWGB will be talking about various turning subjects and having Q&A during the sessions. These are all free of charge to anyone wanting to participate and you can connect from almost any internet enabled device. Check out the link below.

<https://www.awgb.co.uk/talking-turning-zoom-sessions/>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please register in advance to ensure you receive the email with meeting details.

The meetings are at 7:30pm GMT every Friday evening. They will open the meeting at 7:15pm to allow everyone time to get connected before the meeting. The dates up to Xmas are as below:

Dec 10, 2021 07:30 PM  
Dec 17, 2021 07:30 PM  
Dec 24, 2021 07:30 PM  
Dec 31, 2021 07:30 PM

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### Record Power free interactive demonstrations

It is difficult to keep up with their new demos here when this newsletter is published only once per month.

Record Power are arranging many demonstrations and the best way to keep up is to register yourself directly with them to receive your invites and up to date lists of what is happening. Don't forget to check the time in our own time zone as some of these are international,

Simply send an email with RSVP in the subject line to [miked@recordpower.co.uk](mailto:miked@recordpower.co.uk) – and they will reserve a spot for you. Your log in details will be sent in return.

## For Sale and wanted

The most significant set of items for sale this month is given in the separate document that was sent with this newsletter. John Sharp was a respected member of this club and his widow Carol has kindly offered his tools and materials to members in his memory. Please see the list and contact Adam Blackie if you would like to make an offer.

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### Wood for sale

Alan Lewis was contacted by Martin Cotton about some wood he had available in Hemel Hempstead – see email and photos below:

**From:** Martin Cotton [martin@musicforawhile.co.uk](mailto:martin@musicforawhile.co.uk)

*Hello*

*I wonder if any of your members would be interested in acquiring a large piece of hardwood - 187cm x 28cm x 15cm? I'm not sure what species it is, but it is red in colour, as in the attached photos of a couple of offcuts, very tight-grained and dense (I don't think that it will even float in water).*

*The large piece was bought from a reclaim yard some years ago, and was originally twice as long - I used the other half to make a pair of garden gateposts, and also some new slats to replace rotten ones on a garden bench. would be good for what remains to be used.*

*I am in Piccotts End, Hemel Hempstead.*

*All best*

*Martin Cotton*



*It*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Coronet Major lathe for sale

Bob Marshall was contacted by a neighbour of his who has a Coronet Major which he has now decided to sell. He also has a Record 4" dust extractor and a small Record bandsaw for sale.

He's asking £500 o.n.o.

If you are interested please contact Bob directly. ( [marshall.bob@btinternet.com](mailto:marshall.bob@btinternet.com) )



of



## Poetry Corner

### STAYCATION

Staycation is the current word  
With such ideas that brings  
The chance now has just occurred  
To rethink happy things  
Trips here and there  
In or not in public's stare  
Perhaps join the whales for an on beach bask  
Relief of fleeting moment's time  
No need there to wear the mask  
Whilst sampling a summer's tippie flask  
Or around the shops again  
If that may be your bag  
Even enjoy the seasons rain  
Nor let your footsteps flag  
Happier times have now returned  
With pleasure's feast which we all have earned.

martin sexton November 2021