



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 185

October 2021

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello!

I am writing this in the aftermath of our first club night meeting since the end of lockdown (12th October). We had about 35 participants – about the same as for the September meeting.

Corona Creations

We had a display of some fantastic Corona Creation turnings made during the Pandemic lock-downs and these generated much discussion. It was so good to be able to examine and handle the items rather than relying on remote viewing via the Zoom sessions and chat about how they were made. See the photos in Club News

Member consultation

We also decided that it would be a good opportunity to have a member consultation session to find out what you, our members, like or dislike about the club together with suggestions for future activities. We had a fantastic response from all who attended for which many thanks and we are also grateful to Adam (our treasurer), who masterminded the project and gives a summary of issues raised in this issue of Woodbits.

For those members who were absent it is still not too late to contribute either by chatting at November's meeting or by contacting any of the committee by phone or e-mail. All constructive comments negative or positive are very welcome!

Another aim of the consultation was to split the members by location to provide the opportunity of finding close neighbours for future woodturning collaboration. After all we are members of a club with common interests and the social interaction between members is important for mutual support and sharing of expertise. We hope to build on this at future club nights and in the resumption of occasional Saturday hands on lathe sessions.

Colin Clark Charity Sale

Sandy Clark the widow of Colin had a sale table of items from Colin's workshop to raise funds for two charities. Colin who did so much for the club as secretary and newsletter editor, died on the 18th April this year. Keith Goddard a close friend of Colin and Sandy, was manning the sales table and there is a report and summary in the Club News.

Turned Contributions Needed – Can you help?

Adam is also endeavouring to boost club funds with an initiative involving the sale of items at the Frogmore Fair. See details in Club News of how you can help

November competition reminder

We are planning to restart the Club competitions at the **9th November** meeting. The set subject will be based on Mick Hanbury's demo - namely a decorated platter or bowl. The rules have been updated as follow:

For the SET SUBJECT there shall be two categories: BEGINNERS (in their first two years of turning) and EXPERIENCED. Both just one item per person. The OPEN submissions are for all without distinction as to experience. Just one item per person. Judging will be by the evening's visiting demonstrator Terry Smart (Chestnut Finishes) who will make helpful comments on the submissions.

That's enough rambling from me but as always I welcome the opportunity to hear from anyone who may have concerns or ideas relating to the management of our Club.

Tim
Tim Pettigrew
Chairman

Tim's contact details:
chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk
Telephone 01923 241107,
Mobile 07713803894.

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Club News

Celebration of items made in lockdown and Competitions – Corona Creations

As noted by Tim, we had a good selection of items brought for display at the club night. Many thanks to everyone.

Photos by Don Guy



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

Sale of items – Colin Clark

On the night I took £280 from the sales of Colin's tools. The total from sales so far that I have calculated is £2220. The money has been going to Rennie Grove Hospice Care at Home and Prostate Cancer UK. I have put together a number of tools that will go to Colin's grandchildren's school. There are a large number of clamps which I will bring to the December meeting and at subsequent meetings I will bring a load of wood. I have been in contact with a Marquetry club where I hope to be able to sell his large quantity of veneers and marquetry items. Sandy has agreed that any useful items remaining will be donated to Rotary and Work Aid which will be refurbished and sent to Africa.

Keith Goddard

Committee responsibilities

Alan Lewis currently manages the Club Facebook pages and the website. He has indicated that he will be resigning from the committee and Harvey Alison has offered to take this on.

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

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.

Wizardry in Wood

See link below for a video of the amazing submissions and prizes awarded at the recent Wizardry in Wood. Look out from around 40 seconds in for some of Tony Taylors work.

[Wizardry in Wood Video - YouTube](#)

Redbourn Annual Craft Fair

Malcolm Wickens sent in a flyer (see Page 20) for the annual craft fair in Redbourn. It takes place this coming weekend. At our round table chats at the last meeting he suggested that members donate some of their projects that could them be used at such events. It also takes the pressure off individuals to have enough stock when manning shows.

Frogmore Craft Fair 2021 APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

Peter Hoare and I will be attending the Frogmore Craft Fair at Hemel Hempstead on Sunday 6th December. It is their annual Christmas Fair.

Our main reason for attending will be to promote the club to potential new members. We will also be selling items that we have made, and in my case for club funds. Things that I am selling are:

- too good to go on my log-burner.
- not good enough for my wife to covet.
- now cluttering up my workspace.
- here is a sample.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

I will be asking the punters for a **contribution to club funds**.

That's because people are generous at Christmas.

And being a Christmas fair, the trees are likely to sell very well.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS YOU NO LONGER WANT?
or can you make me a tree?

It would be great if you could donate a few items or make a few Christmas Trees. Please bring your donations to the signing in desk at the November meeting. I will be very happy to receive anything you can offer. I do mean anything. And I look forward to telling you all how it goes at the December meeting.

Regards

Adam Blackie
Club Treasurer – and maker of far too many bowls

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

Members Consultation Evening - 12 October 2021

Our club night on 12th October was partly dedicated to a consultation designed to get feedback from members about their club. The Committee wanted to ascertain what we do well, what can be improved and to solicit ideas about the future activities of the club.

We split the room into two groups and requested 15 minutes of the evening for conversations about the club and its activities. We were surprised to find that conversations had to be drawn to a close after more than 40 minutes. The members had a lot to contribute.

We had agreed beforehand to circulate the results of these conversations, so the following is what we heard and will be acting upon.

If you missed this interesting session, and you have your own ideas that are not already in the summary below, you might let us know by email or come and see one of us at a future meeting.

Thanks

Adam Blackie (Treasurer)

Consultation Summary (In no particular order)

Members Feedback on Current Activities.	Committee Response
The balance between Club Nights and Demonstration Nights is OK. Some preference for fewer club nights.	We will maintain the existing balance and try to make club nights more appealing with perhaps more hands on sessions with a training element (See similar comments under Club Nights, below.)
Demonstration Nights are a primary reason to belong to our club for most members.	We will continue according to our current arrangements.
Preference for live meetings to Zoom / on-line version.	We agree with this sentiment. Zoom was a temporary solution to the Covid restrictions.
£2.00 member entrance fee for the professional demonstrations was thought to be excellent value for money.	The committee will consider a modest increase only subject to the future needs of the club.
Most members are happy with the Adeyfield location.	We agree. The distribution of member locations makes Adeyfield the geographic centre for the club.
The CCTV set-up for professional demonstrators is working well visually, but the sound could be improved.	We agree and will look into this as a priority. There have been problems with our microphone set-up and / or with the Adeyfield sound system. Do we have any audio experts in the membership who might advise? There may also be a T-Loop system available at Adeyfield for those using hearing aids. We will investigate this possibility.
The monthly Club Competition is well supported, but perhaps there could be fewer categories.	We agree. In future we will have one less category i.e. a themed competition for Beginners and Advanced members. Also a third Open category, for non-themed items.
Member voting on competition entries was largely rejected in favour of retaining the demonstrator as judge. A professional appraisal is valuable to members	We agree. We will ensure demonstrators are always briefed in advance so that they are prepared to adjudicate. On Club nights two committee members will judge the

trying to improve their technique.	entries.
Several new members and visitors had discovered the club via a stand at a craft fair.	This is reassuring. We will continue to attend local Craft Fairs where possible and will encourage members who attend fairs on their own behalf to represent the club.
Club Nights could be more interesting if there were more member participation / hands on activities.	We will attempt to make club nights more appealing with some hands on sessions with a training element and perhaps a brief member presentation where possible.
Good management and politeness on Demonstration Nights – Keeping the chatter down.	This is noted. The Chairman will intervene if necessary.

Ideas for New Activities.	Committee Response
Restart the Saturday Training Sessions at Adeyfield – and on Club Nights if possible.	We agree. A top priority on both counts – especially as we have 6 lathes available
Provide some guidance / tuition on Safety techniques	We will consider occasional briefing sessions – perhaps focussed on Club Nights
Run some sessions on the basics for those new to turning.	We will consider setting out the club lathes at demo nights for those wanting some basic instruction. A separate room is available and has been used for the Saturday training sessions. Its availability on Club nights will be explored.
There was some support for a “Buddy” system, particularly from new members.	We will consider helping new members progress via a mentor and mentee system and also consider a short induction course for beginners. Our club professional is Gary Rance, he will be consulted on a beginners curriculum.
Knowing where fellow club members are based would be useful to some members. We discovered that many members live near each other but were unaware of this.	We will explore ways to encourage members to link up outside the organised club events. It might start with a register of those willing to host other members at their own workshops or to collaborate on specialist techniques or with specialist tools.
Selling members surplus output at Craft Fairs to boost Club Funds.	We agree this is a good idea. It will be trialled in November with contributions to the Frogmore Craft Fair.
The list of questions used to prompt this evening’s conversations could be circulated to members who did not attend and give a second chance to members who did not / could not speak on the night.	We agree. These are included as an Appendix below.

Ideas for Future Demonstrations	Committee Response
Tool grinding and sharpening using various methods.	We agree that sharpening is a vital part of the woodturning process. The committee will consider investing in a premium bench grinder including a CBN wheel, plus jig systems to match. We will also consider a Sorby Pro Edge system but suspect that most members use bench grinder based systems.
Finishing. How to remove / avoid tool marks in finished items. What finishes go best on different woods / items.	This is always important. The November demo by Terry Smart will address many of these issues.
Demonstrate specialist tools. E.g. Bowl saver, deep hollower, texturing tools, beading tools, etc.	It's possible that the club may be acquiring a Bowlsaver and other tools, made possible through a donation from Sandy Clark. We will keep the club informed.
It would be interesting to see a demonstration or two by our more experienced members if they have the presentation ability.	We agree. We will explore this idea as an event on club nights.
Woodturning often involves preparation of a blank using powertools, (Bandsaw, Chainsaw, Planer, Thicknesser, etc) Consider a power tool Demo during a club night.	It would be difficult to transport large items to the club, i.e. bandsaw, planer-thicknesser; and a petrol chainsaw demo would need to be outside. An electric chainsaw demo might be feasible and will be considered.
Suggestions for future Demonstrators – Colwyn Way	We will consider this suggestion and welcome any others that members might have. Additionally there is a list on the AWGB site for us to consider - https://www.awgb.co.uk/demonstrators/

What to make for Christmas – Allen Kaye

In recent years I have made items for sale for a local church charity. It has always been a challenge knowing what to make. My aim is to turn and finish items that are simple and quick to turn and finish but are still attractive enough for people to want to buy for themselves and as presents. I do always include some more interesting and challenging pieces as well.

This year I thought I would reflect on what has gone well in the past and also do some research using Google! This for my own interest and also to share with others – particularly bearing in mind Adam's and Malcolm's request for donations – see the Club News

First - what has happened in previous years. Last year was special in that it was a virtual fair which meant I made just one of nine different items which were put up on a website and orders taken. It seemed a good idea until I realised that the time between the orders coming in and the actual date of collection was a bit too tight for comfort. I offered pens, small bowls and platters, tea lights, pendants, coasters, light pulls and of course the inevitable turned Xmas trees! The three examples below were good sellers and were quite easy to make.

Pens

Always attractive to people especially if the wood they are made from has some provenance – even if it is just from a local wood, in this case Sherrardswood. They are very quick to make and finish so in this case I gave people the choice of wood and made to order which was appreciated. Even though they are attractive and functional, people do not want to pay that much so I always stick to the cheapest 7mm kit.



Tea light holders

These were very easy to produce in volume - I had a couple of old bearers made of satinwood – I just used a forstner bit top and bottom to make the recesses to hold the pieces and the simple but contemporary shape was very quick to turn.

Coasters

An unexpected success. Although not a turned item, people were attracted by the mix of woods and their usefulness meant I had to make lots and lots. I did however have great difficulty in finding the right finish. Initially I chose a spray lacquer but found on testing that a hot cup of tea welded itself to the lacquer! After removing that finish and replacing with gloss polyurethane varnish I found it was then too shiny and showed up every imperfection. Finally I used 3 coats of satin varnish. The woods were mahogany, ash and walnut.



Ideas from the Internet

Axminster produce a short video entitled 4 easy to make Xmas decorations – Xmas tree, Snowman Fir Tree and something a little different, a Xmas house.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqiCtl_ImRw

Pinterest has hundreds of ideas – no how to instructions but sometimes just the image is all you need.

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/johncranmer/wood-turning-christmas/>

Yet further ideas without too many irritating adverts

<https://www.bobvila.com/slideshow/12-simple-woodworking-projects-for-christmas-48295>

Bowl sander from a kit by Prokraft – Mark Sole

I had been looking at bowl sanders for a while, but they were in the main beyond my budget for a tool that might not be used too often. On to Google, 'Bowl Sanders' and there I found a kit from Prokraft.

The kit arrived very quickly and once I had identified all the parts I went in search of some suitable wood. The handle was a left over from a large wall mounted towel rail I had made, the swivel section with the bearings came from a piece of my old bed headboard and the rotating section was made from an unidentified scrap I had in stock.

I made the rotating head first as this seemed and was the easiest, the instructions were very clear and it took very little time, it also gave me the confidence to push on.

The next piece was the swivel section to take the spindle bearings, this was quite difficult for me as I only have an old Bosch drill mounted in a Wolfcraft pillar drill stand.

I made this section a bit bigger than needed at first and once the piece was cut and drilled I made it in to a better shape using a fine microplane.

The problem I had with this section was that as the wood was old pine locking the piece while drilling from both sides caused the bearings to end up slightly offset. No problem it still worked well.



It was great fun to make even with basic tools.

The instructions and diagrams from Prokraft are very good and easy to understand, better still click on to the Prokraft website, <https://www.prokraft.co.uk/> - search *sanders* and there you have it. The 25 minute video for the construction kit is very informative and a great aid in making the Bowl sander.

Notes on making Salt and Pepper Grinders – Tony Taylor

In my experience salt and pepper grinders are very well received as gifts and are kept and used for many years. They can also sell profitably, provided that you find the correct market. Because of the cost the mechanism and some nice wood and the time involved in making, you will have set a price which is rather high for local craft outlets, but no problem for on-line sites such as Etsy.



The choice of mechanism comes first. The cheaper versions cost about £5 each and have the adjusting screw nut at the top. The so-called crush/grind mechanism is rather expensive at about £12 each, but I strongly recommend it because it lasts for years and allows for a wide range of designs. If you are interested in trying your hand at these, I suggest that you consider making several sets as they become much easier with experience. It is then worthwhile to buy some tools which greatly facilitate the job.

For the crush/grind system Axminster provide a very useful instruction sheet, which you can access from their website. The basic needs are Forstner bits of diameters 22, 25, 38 and 45 mm and an extender bar to allow you to drill the full length of the body of the mill with the 25 mm bit. Drilling the base seems a bit complex, but it can be made much quicker and simpler if you purchase the special drill, which enables you to do this confidently in one operation. In this case you will not need the 45 mm bit. Ideally you should also get the Robert Sorby tool to scrape the slots for the springy retaining clips – though you could make this quite easily.

You will need to start with two 60 mm squares of dry wood of a length to suit the length of the mechanism chosen. Styles & Bates list a wide range of lengths from 123 to 470 mm. I find the 195 to be most suitable. Buy the mechanism first and sketch a plan of the work based on it as the suppliers are not very clear as to exactly what the quoted length refers to. Round the piece between centres and form a chucking spigot at the headstock end. Mark where to divide off the top section and cut another chucking spigot just beyond this before parting off to the left of this spigot. You can now mount the base section in the chuck for drilling through the whole length at 25 mm. Now use the special drill if you have it, otherwise drill with the 45 mm bit 19 mm depth then the 38 mm drill to 53 mm depth.

Finally scrape a slot at the bottom of the 38 mm hole to receive the spring tags. Now turn the piece around and drill out the top to 38 mm diameter to a depth of 15 mm. Now put the top section in the chuck and drill 22 mm diameter 40 mm deep and scrape the slot 12 mm in to receive the spring tags. Turn a spigot 10 mm long and 38 mm diameter. You can now put the two pieces together and secure with a tailstock cone in the open bottom end. Now shape the form of the lower section and as much of the upper as is accessible. Sand and finish the lower section and set aside. Now make a jam chuck to receive the spigot on the upper part and complete its shape. I like to distinguish the salt and pepper mills by setting a white and black disc respectively in the top. Drill a 25 hole 5 mm deep and glue a disc of ivory substitute or of ebony in place. Finish turning the shape, sand and finish.

The final stage is to insert the mechanism parts. This is best done by turning waste pieces of wood to press the parts in on the lathe with the tailstock screw. The choice of finish rather depends on the wood and your preference. Sanding sealer followed by denibbing and microcrystalline wax is simple and effective and mellows with age. If you prefer to preserve the pristine colour of the wood use two coats of lacquer. Auto lacquer gives a very long-lasting finish. There are lots of ideas for design on Youtube, so do have a go.

Mid century Danish style posey vase – Terainia Hird

A small glass jar can be fitted to allow fresh flowers to be displayed.



This particular piece of very punky spalted beech (from Jason's Wood Craft) was a nightmare turn. The thinner I went the more it warped due to the stress relief between the punky & the harder wood. This made it really difficult to finish despite a couple of hours shear scraping & sanding (to 600 grit), especially the inside which I admit I gave up on.

A crack opened up on the base as I was turning of the tenon, so a last minute rescue with CA glue to hold it together. Approx 5 1/2" tall & 3 1/2" dia.

Despite the imperfections it's still a beautiful piece with a lovely tactile feel. Finished with 4 coats of shellac sanding sealer, Yorkshire Grit Original, MyMix friction polish & Hampshire Sheen High Gloss Wax.

What a great idea to turn a vase with the right dimensions to insert a glass jar - Allen

AWGB Member Training Workshops

AWGB members can apply for a workshop which has been pre-arranged or to request a workshop on a specific subject. We try to offer a varied programme but if a topic is suggested and there is enough interest in a region then the Association will try to organise a suitable workshop. Workshops are usually presented by professional woodturners. There will be no fixed charge but members are encouraged to make a voluntary donation to the development fund which goes towards putting on more workshops.

Every AWGB member may apply for training, and every effort is made to accommodate your requirements within the budget available.

Our own Gary Rance led a workshop in August for members Grahame Hill, Harvey Alison and Bob Harvey.

Next Session

28th November 2021	Intermediate - Advanced	Pagoda Box	Paul Howard	Tiptree, Essex
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Application

To apply and for more information about the workshops go to the AWGB website below:
<https://www.awgb.co.uk/training/training-workshop-dates/>

You will need to complete a 'Training Workshop Application' form.

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:

Oct 29, 2021 07:30 PM
Nov 5, 2021 07:30 PM
Nov 12, 2021 07:30 PM
Nov 19, 2021 07:30 PM
Nov 26, 2021 07:30 PM
Dec 3, 2021 07:30 PM
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 – and they will reserve a spot for you. Your log in details will be sent in return.

Shows and Fairs

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I had details of an event in Bristol sent to me this week – see below. If you want more details then please contact Philip Boden on Facebook (Woodworking Live Bristol). Alternatively email philipboden@aol.com or Telephone 01895 904560.

Calling all Woodturners a brand new Live Woodworking, event for next month
Woodworking Live Bristol Saturday 13th November 2021
Thornbury Leisure Centre Bristol
Tickets £11.00

Plenty of Free Parking
See some of the best Woodturners in the U.K. at this one-day show

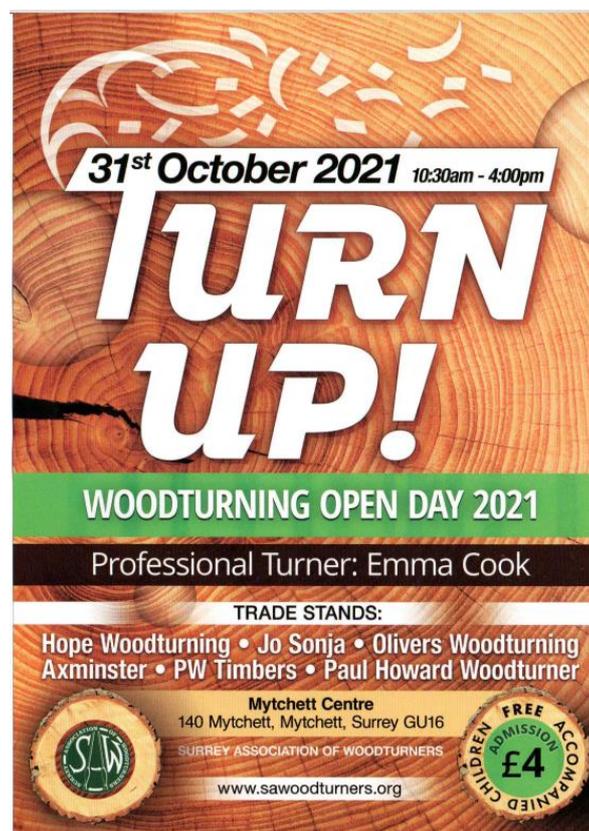
Improve your skills and techniques, talk to the professional woodturners at a Live indoor Show.
Tickets at Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/woodturning-live-bristol-tickets-194363344997>

Woodworking Live Bristol

Come and have a great day out

-----oooOOooo-----





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For Sale and wanted

Alan Lewis was contacted via email by a gentleman Ian Constable, in Tring who has some woodturning blanks, timber and a few tools for sale. Alan went to visit and thinks they may well be of interest to members and so agreed with him to make his contact details available through our newsletter. Ian has put photos and further details up on a website

<https://www.haywain.net/img/>

If you are interested please contact Ian by email at ian@haywain.net to make arrangements directly.

-----oooOOOooo-----

There are three items remaining for sale from Colin Clarke's workshop with all monies going to charity. Suggested prices as below

- Mitre saw jig £15
- Axminster belt and disc sander plus spare belt and discs £50
- Sealy 8 inch bench grinder £40

Interested members can contact me.
Regards Keith 07740238491



-----oooOOOooo-----

Maple trunk for collection free.

Someone contacted me with a photo of a maple trunk 7 inches diameter at the base – see photo.

If you are interested please give Colin a call on 01442873439 to arrange to collect it. You will probably need to take a chain saw to cut into manageable chunks



Poetry Corner

Master the tension from a preweek's apprehension

As the trip in the tunnel
Brings to a shoulder- fear's funnel
Completely allayed by this new team
Who met me, calmed me, with smile's beam
Donning the ear pieces whence issues soothed opus
Persuade to reassure a needed new focus
Keep still, remain unmoving, until it's all done
Hoping the process now will restore muscle fun
Thankyou my friends your devotion is shown
Allowing the scan's secrets once more to be blown
It's an experience preferable not to repeat
To locate the hot spot which makes all the heat
But to feel so safe in this machine's beat
Is down to this team's dream
I commend to all needy should meet

Martin Sexton October 2021