



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 222

November 2024

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS. Mick Hanbury was our demonstrator in November and he was well received. Tony Taylor's review is once again included in this newsletter.

Your committee is currently planning the 10th December Christmas Club Night which, so far, will include two mini demo's delivered by club members, an extra special raffle, a Christmas Quiz with prizes and a bumper display on the sales table.

If you have a Christmas Jumper please wear it to the meeting in December. I will be awarding prizes to the most and the least tasteful examples

Also, if you can find a moment before the meeting to clear out unused tools from your workshop Rob Wiscott will be happy to receive them and then to sell them on the sales table. This adds significantly to our club funds.

TRAINING NEWS. Dave Washer is now established as our training organiser and will shortly be publishing the Aylesbury dates for 2025. He will soon have more news on the Day in a Workshop scheme and Letchworth Men in Sheds training days. If you are interested to take part or to help deliver, please contact Dave via training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk.

COMPETITION TABLES. December's Advanced competition is a PAIR of candle holders, whilst Beginners are asked to make a Christmas Decoration. The contributions this month have a Christmassy theme which should help to kick off the season for us all.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS – Organiser needed. We have a growing number of links with other organisations including Men in Sheds, Middlesex Hospital and a couple of schools. All are great opportunities for us to promote the craft of woodturning to the wider world. If you have the urge to help co-ordinate these worthwhile events, please let me know.

FINALLY - Steve Hart will email the 2025 Subs renewal details in December. The club needs to pass on a small increase in AWGB membership costs this year, but I am pleased to report that our own club finances are in great shape so we have decided to keep the Herts and Beds element of the renewal fixed at last year's level.

Adam Blackie Chairman

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Club News

October Competition

Beginners



1st James Blackie



2nd Andrew Lee



3rd Patrick Stileman

Advanced



1st Harvey Alison



2nd Peter Kemp



3rd Peter Hoare

Open

1st Harvey Alison



2nd Peter Hoare



3rd Tony Taylor

Meetings Calendar

2024

Dec 10th Christmas Social

2025

Jan 14th Gary Rance?

Feb 11th Steven Kearvell

Mar 11th Stewart Furini

Competition Subjects

2024

Beginners

Advanced

Dec Xmas tree decoration

Pair Candle Holders

2025

Beginners

Advanced

Jan Ring Bowl (6-7cm dia)

Natural Edged Hollow form *

Feb Two Woods

Decorated platter

Mar Bud Vase

Coloured ball

Apr Egg

Pair of egg cups

May Pair of light pulls

String box

June Platter

Lidded bowl

July Tool Handle

Hollow form

Aug Pair of coasters

Natural edged vase

Sept An Apple

Box with finial

Oct Spinning top

Pair of goblets

Nov Kitchen Roll holder

Mug

Dec Dice shaker

Winged bowl

* No finishing process – straight from tool

Raffle purchase Diary for 2024-25

I am the raffle coordinator for the forthcoming year and need to fill the diary for the purchase of prizes. To ensure we get a selection of prizes we ask different members of the membership to the club to buy the raffle prizes. This ensures we have a variation every month.

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

I need 2 volunteers to buy the Raffle prizes for January 14th and March 11th 2025.

Full receipts are required for each spend made.

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

Steve Beadle

Tel 07720 677456

Email Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk

Aylesbury Training Day – Dave Washer

9th November 2024

Following Mel's decision to retire from the Training Co-ordinators post I have been asked to take over the position and would like to take this opportunity to thank Mel for all her hard work in arranging the training days at Aylesbury including the most recent one on the 9th November.

It also seems a good time to introduce myself to all existing and new members of the club, my name is Dave Washer and have been a member of the club for seven months and have no woodturning experience. Having inherited my late father's lathe, I decided to join Herts & Beds Woodturners Association to gain some experience in using it rather than sell the lathe.

Apart from watching my dad a few times I have no wood turning experience but I have a keen interest in woodworking so I thought I would give it a go. In the 7 months I have been a member, I have seen some great demonstration, been invited to several workshops to get ideas for setting up my own workshop and met some really interesting people; what a great club we have.



Mel was one of the first people I spoke to at the club night and she gave me a general overview of the training which the club provides, so when I heard that she wanted to retire from the post, I offered my services, so with me just about to take over the Training Co-ordinators role, I booked on the Aylesbury course in November, and what a great day we had.

With four Trainers and four trainees, we all arrived at Queens Park Community Centre for a 9:30 start. We had all been asked beforehand if we had a particular item we would like to make, suggestions were bowl hollowing, box making and festive snowmen. All suggestions were fulfilled and each trainee was given time by the trainer to set up the lathe with the required material, of course the trainers have also spent time to plan the day and provide the best opportunity for the trainees to improve his/her skills.

Throughout the day we were free to use the facilities of the Community Centre which includes a small café where we all went for our lunch break. After a break we went back to the workshop and started to complete our turned items, most trainees opted to complete the turned item at their own workshop which is absolutely fine, you may have a certain finish that you wish for your item which is not available at the Queens Park Workshop.

The day for me has help to improve my confidence and skills when woodturning and I would encourage anyone new or returning to woodturning to book yourself on one of the day courses at Aylesbury. It's a great meeting place to form relationships with likeminded woodturners and club members.

So, I would like your ideas for training, anything new you would like to try or any new techniques you would like to be shown if so please drop me an email or tap me on the shoulder at the next meeting, I'll be interested to hear your ideas. Even if you don't want any training give me a shout at the next meeting, I'm always interested to meet old and new members.

Watch out for next month's Newsletter where I'll be able to provide some training dates for 2025.

Some photos below give a sense of the day:





Projects

In response to asking for decorative Xmas ideas, Paul Boyes sent me some before and after photos of the Xmas trees he made for his family. Once turned, he gave the younger members of his family various small sachets of glitter, paint and glue for them to decorate themselves according to their own ideas. Photos below show the raw trees, the finished trees and then a table with the set of trees mounted in a wood slice as a centre piece.



And from my own workshop, three items that proved very popular at the church fayre but were particularly easy and quick to make - kitchen roll holders, spinning tops and cup and balls.



Christmas and Craft Fairs

There are always number of craft fairs in the run up to Xmas. They make good opportunities to sell the things we make and also often gives us good ideas for what we might make in the future. The easiest way to find one locally is of course to search the net but there are a few were noting here.

Firstly Peter Clark has a Craft fair table at the Baldock Christmas Fair in St Mary's Church Hall, rather than on the High Street) this year on Saturday 7th December (11.00am till 4.30pm) and another at the Memorial Hall, Stotfold on the 14th December (12.00 noon till 4.00pm). Any club members in the area welcome to drop by.

There is a craft event at Standalone Farm on 7th and 8th December in Letchworth. The Man Shed there will be represented and also a joint table organised by Chris Squires, myself and a non-member. Proceeds to go to charity. Chris will be there on Saturday and Sunday and I will be there on Sunday.

Keith Goddard was again this year at Haresfoot School selling items on behalf of a number of charities. Adam has written up a more detailed piece following.

CHRISTMAS FAIR – Haresfoot School

It came as no surprise to me that Keith Goddard ran a stall at the Haresfoot School Christmas Fair on the 23rd November. Keith kindly made me aware of his plans so I could visit and support his efforts.

However, as you'll see from the photos Keith needed no support and put on the most professional display of turned item that I have seen for some time.

Although the fair was only scheduled for three hours, Keith took just over £1200 in that time, which is a tremendous result of which I am sure he is very happy.

So, why does Keith do it? The answer is simple. ALL his sales go to his chosen charities. This year the two recipients are: Rectory Lane Cemetery in Berkhamstead where Keith has already raised funds for the restoration of several graves, and he is aiming to restore another in 2025. It's a specific grave, but I don't know who's nor why, but I am sure Keith will be happy to explain.

Bridgewater School in Berkhamstead. The school supports children with Special Educational Needs. They need to make a space where they can better provide for those with the most severe physical disadvantages. Its called "The Haven", a long-term project which Keith has been supporting it for a few years.

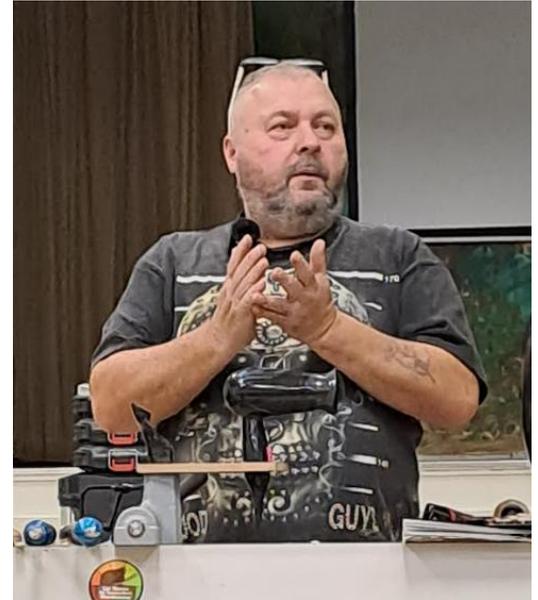
Finally, as you'll see from this photo's, Keith is also a great promoter of our club, handing out our leaflets to his customers and encouraging the craft in many other ways.



Demonstration by Mick Hanbury– Review by Tony Taylor

The demonstration was entirely devoted to making one of Mick's speciality shields – a purely decorative piece, designed to show a range of techniques in turning and in decoration.

Mick started with a 14 inch diameter disc of rippled Sycamore. It was mounted on a screw chuck with tailstock support and trued up. A dome shape was then formed with a bowl gouge, Mick showing three ways of presenting the tool – bevel contact, scraping and shear scraping. A chucking recess was cut and the piece reversed. Working on what was to be the rear of the shield, he hollowed this to match the domed front face, formed a minimal chucking recess and decorated the surface with beads and with the texturing tool.



The texturing was applied to a broad bead near the centre with the lathe at 1000 rpm and Again nearer the edge at 375 rpm. Mick prefers to sand with his own paste mixture of liquid paraffin and 20% beeswax to avoid dust and to fill the grain, finishing by simply burnishing.



The work was reversed once more to work on the front surface, first rolling over the chucking recess. The domed central section was carefully finished and decorative beads cut and a broad cove cut at the edge.

After sanding with paste and buffing away all traces of this he sprayed the surface with ebonising lacquer. Drying was speeded up with the hair drier and then a coat of melamine lacquer applied, which dried very quickly to provide a surface to receive Jo Sonja acrylic metallic paints applied with a broad soft brush. After painting the dome with red gold a striking flame effect was achieved with yellow gold spread out with finger strokes.

The next stage was to apply three coats of melamine spray and then to turn away the black from the edge band using a very sharp tool with short bevel. Again, this was paste sanded and burnished. Black defining lines were burned with a piece of Formica. The final step was to mark out evenly spaced holes with a bradawl to tap in a row of upholstery nails.

The finished piece was most effective and was much admired – another great demonstration from Mick Hanbury, full of humour and valuable technical information.

Tony Taylor



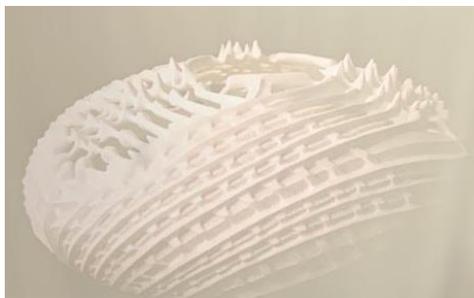
Our Club Ambassador Chris Squires displaying the completed shield.

AWGB SEMINAR 2024 – Report by Gordon Cookson

Here is my description of the event without going into detail about the demos. However if there is enough interest in a particular demo, I could be persuaded to write that one up! This bi-annual Seminar gives you the chance to see well-known overseas demonstrators live rather than by IRD, as well as respected UK ones, attend Master Classes for 5 people if you book early enough, see a fabulous Instant Gallery, hear a Critique by three demonstrators of 6 pieces from the Instant Gallery including a fabulous Mulberry bowl made by Middlesex Member Eddie Morgan, buy a piece in the Auction in aid of the AWGB supportive activities or a Raffle ticket for some excellent prizes, and spend money with the traders plus talking to turners from all over the UK, Europe, Iceland, Canada and USA.

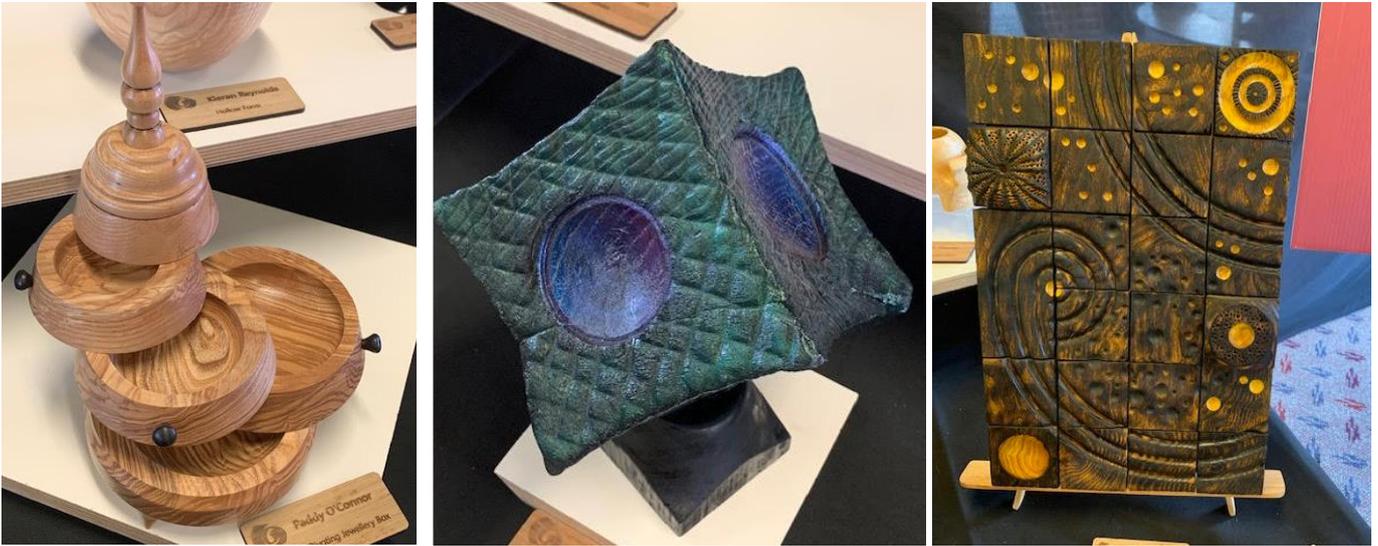
I always try to see the overseas demonstrators because I am not keen on IRDs. So I planned my way around 5 demos on each of 2 slots on Friday afternoon, 4 slots on Saturday and 3 slots on Sunday or put another way 9 demos over the weekend.

Amongst others, two of my choices were YANN MAROT from France for a Rope Bowl immediately below and ROLLY MUNRO from New Zealand for a slide show (at bottom of page) showing developments in his complicated carved and textured vessels that can take 100 hours to complete!



INSTANT GALLERY

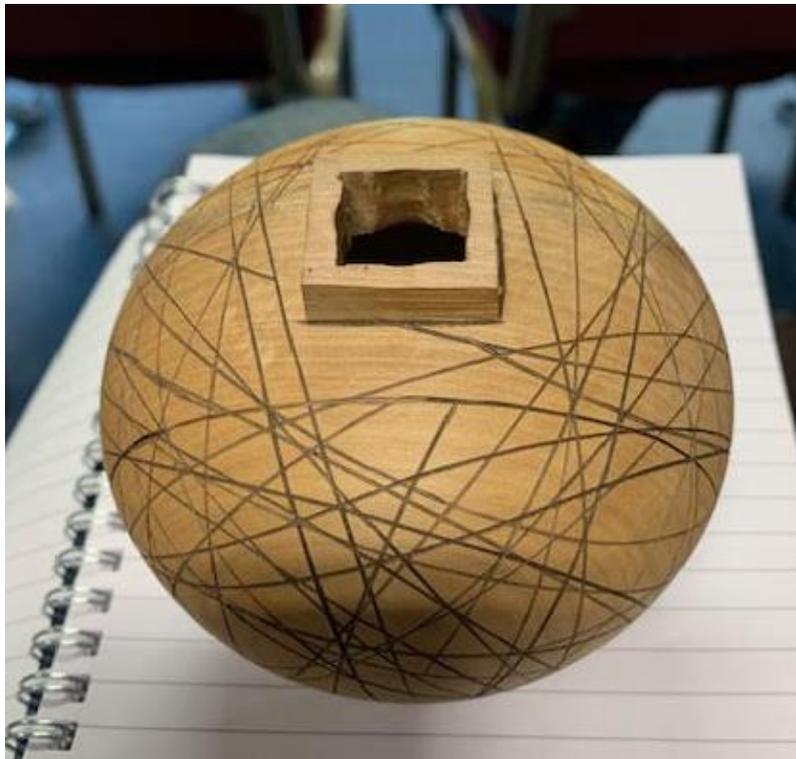
There was also an interesting display of 40 pieces, chosen from 103 entries, all made out of the same sized 6" cube of Ash by members of the Irish Woodturners Guild to celebrate their 40th Anniversary. As I bought the booklet I have only 3 pictures to include here.



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Other projects

YANN MAROT for a Textured Vase with a Square Opening.



SIMON HOPE for a Sphere Box with wooden Threaded Inserts to hold the two halves together. His lathe had a fold away tailstock (photos below), which I want to make for my 26lb tailstock on a 1900s lathe.



The Auction was fun with Emma Cook amusingly hustling extra bids. I bought a charred textured bowl made by Paul Hannaby. You would be surprised where the wood came from. See the end of the Newsletter for the answer!

The Critique was shorter than I would have liked with 2 pieces for each of the three demonstrators. Sadly, I only have a picture of Eddie's bowl - below.



I always enjoy going but I wish the advance publicity gave more details and a picture of the demonstration pieces. This would help people decide whether to attend and plan their timetable considering the price tag. Try setting £4.50 aside each week or ask for present contributions! I was not sure about going again this year having been to quite a few. However I was very fortunate to get one of Simon Hope's sponsorship's of half my ticket, many thanks Simon.

There will be further detail from the seminar next month.

Gordon Cookson

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale

Lathe

Philip Francis has a Union Graduate bowl lathe + chuck, 3 phase - £300, buyer collect. Proceeds towards workshop dust extraction at the Aylesbury Queens Art Centre.

Please contact him if you are interested philipfrancis51@yahoo.com

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Vicmarc VL175SH lathe

Several chucks and an extractor are also available separately see images. The current owner also has a number of woodturning tools available. As a note the lathe is approx 2m in length so a reasonable size workshop will be required.

The current owner is willing to assist in relocating the lathe using his van



If you are interested in the first instance please contact
Dave Washer Mobile 07546 612450

Wanted

Second hand sharpening system and accessories

If you can help please contact Mike Pearson at mikepearson1@btinternet.com



Off Centre

Woodturning from a different angle

The power of collaboration by David Evans

This month you'll be able to read an article about how woodturning can change lives.

This might seem a bit melodramatic, but it's true. Last month a collaboration between Middlesex Woodturners Association and Herts & Beds Woodturners saw members give a demonstration to patients at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore.

The event organiser was charity Horatio's Garden which does work to support the rehabilitation of those who have suffered a spinal cord injury. Also contributing was Letchworth Men's Sheds who helped make a sit-down lathe mount for wheelchair users.

The charity had been looking for an activity that would engage more of the male patients at the hospital. After a short woodturning demo there was no shortage of volunteers wanting to pick up a tool. Spinal cord injuries usually result in long hospital stays and this gives patients more time to consider their predicament. It turns out woodturning not only helps with improving dexterity but is absorbing enough to distract the mind – even from the most challenging of circumstances.

One of the healthcare workers present remarked that they had never seen so many of the male patients engaged in an activity. The event was such a success that there are plans to run woodturning demos on a regular basis.

If this collaboration between club's changes just one person's life it will have been worth it. The fact that so many were willing to give up their time, expertise and experience is testament to the warmth of the community, but also the power of woodturning and crafting to improve a person's well-being.

I have written previously about this and as we enter the winter months it's become more poignant. With shorter days and fewer opportunities to socialise outside of club nights it's even more important we check in on each other. Like the group that demonstrated in Stanmore, we all have the capability of changing lives.

David Evans is a novice woodturner. If you've got an idea for Off Centre come and talk to him on a club night or email info@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk



Laughter corner

Some more for the lighter side - the remainder of the tool definitions from Gordon Cookson ..

Tool Definitions

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST: A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER: A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 pence part.

HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to make hoses too short.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent the object we are trying to hit.

UTILITY KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use.

ADJUSTABLE WRENCH: aka "Another hammer", aka "the Swedish Nut Lathe", aka "Crescent Wrench". Commonly used as a one size fits all wrench, usually results in rounding off nut heads before the use of pliers. Will randomly adjust size between bolts, resulting in busted buckles, curse words, and multiple threats to any inanimate objects within the immediate vicinity.

BLASTED TOOL: Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling 'Blasted thing!' at the top of your lungs. It is also, most often, the next tool that you will need.

Smile whilst you've still got your teeth



If you have just been reading Gordon's piece about the AWGB event – this is the bowl he was talking about. Paul Hannaby got the heavily woodworm holed Ash disc when helping with a final clearance of Ray Key's workshop. Not what I would expect for Ray's typical type of work !!

Poetry Corner

THE SOUNDS OF CRICKET

The snick off the quick
Heard all around the ground
The mellow thudding from the six, scudding
Through the sky with the bowlers sigh
Off the bat middle, the so sought after riddle
The fizz of the ball seam through the air, caused by either pace or spin
Which accounts for the bowlers expectant grin

The resonating 'owzat' across the field of play
In the umpire's ear from the first day of May
The high pitched click as the bails and stumps fall asunder
Clean bowled at the bowler's moment of thunder
The clump of the fast bowlers boot approaching the crease
Warning the batsman he's there, but only on lease
The agony groan at the unmentionables harm
The chuckling mirth by all others when it occurs
Is when batting loses it's charm

The shattering tile in the pavilion roof lead
From the straight drive over the bowler's head
The thwack of leather on skin at the fielder's catch
Maybe signaling the end of the match
The polite applause at each boundary made
Or batsman's innings end walk, for the skill displayed
The clack of the scoreboard numbers recording the score
With the differing view of each skipper, might it be more?

'Well played Sir' a phrase less often heard in these days of tension
Old world honesty, much missed but remembered, likely the end of its retention

Martin Sexton Sept 2024.