



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 220

September 2024

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the September 2024 newsletter.

For the September club night activities we must thank Bob Marshall, who arranged for club beginners to learn from more advanced turners; whilst also generating plenty of discussion from the latter on whose technique was superior. A great evening of knowledge sharing and an opportunity to get to know each other better.

Unfortunately, Andrew Street, our club photographer, had a camera malfunction and this may be a reason why your competition entry does not appear in this month's newsletter. We attempted to contact all who entered, but if we missed you, please get in touch.

OCTOBER MEETING - Our next club meeting is on 8 th October and we will welcome Steve Heeley as our demonstrator. Steve has a lifelong history of woodworking and turning and his website is here - <http://www.steveheeley.co.uk/>

TRAINING NEWS - Turning days have already started at Letchworth Men in Sheds – see the article inside by Steve Hart. We have two dates booked in October, so if you are a beginner, or simply want to hang out for a day, please contact Steve.

Last month I announced that Mel will be stepping down as training co-ordinator from the end of this year, if you can help fill her shoes, please get in touch.

OCTOBER COMPETITION TABLES - The advanced competition is Two or More Woods. Hint - I am planning four native species in one vase. Whilst the beginners are asked to make a Paper Weight.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS - In this edition, David Evans has contributed his fourth "Off Centre" article whose theme is "Social Media and Turning". Talking of which, please try our FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk>

Alan Lewis has contributed an article on a bowl from three woods which I expect we'll see in the competition this month. Looking forward to seeing you in October

Adam Blackie

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Chairman and Treasurer: Adam Blackie treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Club Secretary : Peter Clark secretary@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Allen Kaye hertsandbedsnewsletter@gmail.com

Club News

August Competition

Beginners



..

1st James Blackie



2nd Jack Parker

Advanced



1st Chris Bentley

2nd = Harvey Alison

2nd = Phil Walters (no photo)



3rd Peter Hoare

3

Open

1st Harvey Alison



2nd Peter Hoare



3rd = James Blackie

3rd = Tony Taylor (no photo)

Meetings Calendar

2024

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

Competition Subjects

2024

Beginners

Oct	Paper Weight
Nov	Bud Vase
Dec	Xmas tree decoration

Advanced

Two or More Woods
Pen/Pencil/Brush Holder
Pair Candle Holders

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.

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

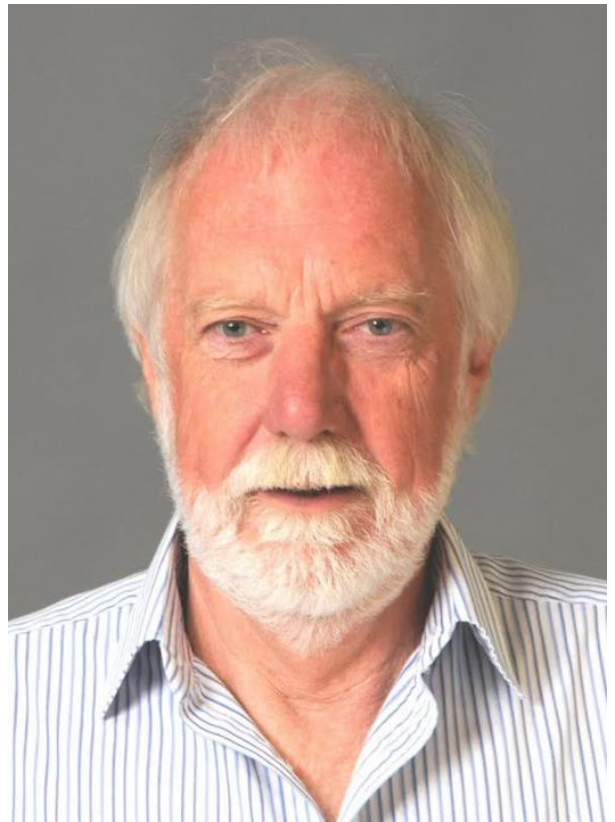
Tel 07720 677456 Email Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk

Malcolm Wickens (17.1.52 – 13.7.24) – Obituary by Grahame Hill

It is with great sadness that this obituary is written for Malcolm Wickens, who had been a committed member, and an ambassador, of our Woodturning Club for over a decade.

Malcolm died suddenly on 13 July 2024, on the golf course, on what was a beautiful day, in a scenic setting. His funeral took place at the Hemel Hempstead Crematorium. It was attended by over 130 people, who had known Malcolm from all aspects of his life; family, long-time friends, members from Herts and Beds Woodturners, Police who worked with Malcolm in his role as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Redbourn, and, members from the Verulam Golf Club, where he had been a member for some 37 years. The funeral was also attended by a further 40 participants via the webcam streaming facility. It was a tremendous participation, to celebrate and remember the life of Malcolm.

Malcolm had always enjoyed a very busy social life. In his younger days, he participated in kart racing, sailing, where he was a very competent sailor, in both dingy and larger boats. He also sailed on many prestigious trips with the London Sailing Project. Malcolm also enjoyed camping, judo and themed parties to name but a few. Nothing stopped him from living life to the full.



Malcolm had a long love affair with his MG which he ran for almost 50 years. Malcolm could often be seen at classic car meets and on rallies across the country. He was also active in the Redbourn Classic Car Club which he helped to run.

Another aspect of Malcolm's life was his further contribution to the Redbourn community. Most notable was his long and highly successful role within Neighbourhood Watch. In December 2023 Malcolm received a personal award from the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire Constabulary in recognition of his outstanding contribution.

Malcolm had a very distinguished career. He worked for Kent Instruments before moving on to Hunting Surveys. His time there included a 6-month posting to Singapore as their South-east Asia representative. Returning to the UK he joined British Aerospace in June 1985 and stayed with the company, latterly MBDA, for the next 29 years. In this time, he rose through the ranks holding a variety of roles including Head of Risk Management, Business Systems Manager, Group IT Process Manager and, for the last 10 years of his career, Audit Manager IT & Policy. His was a highly successful career with significant responsibilities encompassing standards setting, compliance, and quality control across numerous major Europe-wide projects. He took retirement in Sept 2014.

It was a wonderful surprise, three years ago, that I was able to meet up regularly with Malcolm again at the Herts & Beds Woodturners' Club. Our friendship was rekindled through our love of wood. Recently, he volunteered to become an ambassador for the club, where his role was to support new and potential new members. He was an accomplished woodturner, who enjoyed learning from other professional woodturners, and members of the club.

Malcolm made many different wooden artefacts for friends and family as gifts, of which I am sure will be treasured. He also held family and friendships dear to his heart. He was a devoted uncle and idolised his nieces. He also took any duties he was given seriously, especially when he carried out his role as best man and usher for his close friends, with due diligence and integrity.

We all will have our personal thoughts and memories of Malcolm, who had a keen love of life, a sense of fun, and a gift of helping others. We are all very shocked by his sudden and untimely death. He was a true gentleman who will be sadly missed, and fondly remembered by all those who had the good fortune to know him.

Grahame Hill

Man's Shed Update 29th August 2024

The workshops at the Mans Shed (MS) on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month are up and running.

The workshop 19th Sept was attended by seven of us, made up of two tutors Adam Blackie and Grahame Hill, four "trainee" woodturners and me. The trainees were from both MS and H&BW clubs.

After introductions I outlined that as we were still establishing the workshop, it was important we start first with a discussion on the workshop management (mainly the role of the workshop manager (for this workshop Grahame). This was then followed by a discussion led by myself on workshop and health and safety (with Adam and Grahame making sure I didn't miss anything out).

Separating into three (Tutor/Trainee) groups we set up three lathes. Adam and Grahame groups started spindle turning (dibbers) and Dave, Colin & I assembled the new chucks purchased by the MS and attaching them to the lathe, we then started turning our dibber.

Our workshop session covered:

- Workshop Management
- Workshop Layout
- Health & Safety
- Drive's and Chucks
- Spindle Turning
- Tutoring (for me)
- Socializing (Tea, dinner and coffee breaks out in the sun)

Alan Barnett from the Man's Shed said "Many thanks to the wood turner tutors today! Really enjoyed it"

We have recognised that these workshops will at this stage be focused on experience building, so all workshops will be supported by Tutors (or experienced turners). When we are in the position to, we can change the focus of each workshop to include "open" sessions. Our next training workshops are scheduled for Thursday 3rd & 17th October. These are open to all Man Shed members and visitors (H&BW included), beginners or experienced. Please let me know if you would like to come along, the farm is a great place to socialise, meetup and get to know your fellow turners.

If you have any aspiration in this area the MS can give you that opportunity to develop your tutoring, so please contact me.

Just to reiterate the following information. Workshops will be held monthly on 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month between 10:00-16:00

Each Thursday – will have a designated workshop supervisor – who will be responsible for the workshop, who attends, what projects are undertaken and by whom.

On the designated days the workshop will be used solely:

-
- For Woodturning.
- For MS members and visitors (H&BW included)
- Visitors allowed up to the 4 visits then expected to join the MS.

Please contact me if you want more information, join the H&B MS WhatsApp group, comment or get involved.

Regards
Steve
07508004511
sahart@btinternet.com

Training

Club Training Update – Mel Williams

Beginners

Mel Williams has arranged two further dates this year at Aylesbury.

- 19th October
- 9th November.

These sessions are rapidly filling up so be quick and book a slot with Mel Williams (training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk).

If these dates are inconvenient, we are launching a new option for beginners soon.

Yet more beginners options

Launching in late 2024

We are aware that Aylesbury is not an ideal location for those members who are based in the east of our region, so we are exploring a joint venture with **Letchworth Men In Sheds** to use their facilities. It's early days and negotiations are ongoing, and we should have more concrete plans by the end of the summer.

Mel Williams can be contacted on training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Training support from the AWGB

As a member of the AWGB, all members have access to the support they offer.

The following list is a national one showing workshops that all AWGB members can attend. For more details see the AWGB website.

1 October	Intermediate - Advanced	Bowl & colour	Mick Hanbury	Turners Retreat
11 October	Beginner - Intermediate	Humming Top	Gary Rance	Wendover, Buckinghamshire
6 November	Beginner - Intermediate	Texture and colour	Chris Parker	Leyland, Lancashire

Gluing it Up! – Alan Lewis

Inspired by reading Richard Finley's book *Turning Decorative Bowls* and some recent work by Teraina Eugenie Hird (Miss Tee) in which wood segments were glued up to make a bowl. I thought I would give it a go.

First choice was to decide on the woods. I had a look through my stash of wood and found some 'off cuts' of Yew, Sapele and American White Oak



I cut the yew so that they had a square section of 50mm (approx. 2") and sanded them flat on a belt sander and the surface of the sapele where they were to be glued together.

Cut the white oak to a width of 45mm (approx. 1 3/4"), height of 55mm (approx. 2 3/16") and 250mm (approx. 10") long. The long edges were sanded flat where they would be glued to the yew and sapele.

I didn't take too much notice of grain direction.



All the pieces glued together ready to cut into a circle for turning.
All the pieces were glued with standard white PVA and left to dry for a couple of days.



Cut into a circle about 250mm (approx. 10") in diameter and drilled ready to mounting on a screw chuck for turning the outside.



Outside turned ready for standing with mounting tennon for turning the inside.

The turning was made using a 3/8 bowl gouge with swept back wings and a nose angle of 48° .



Outside sanded and finished.

Sanded through 120, 180, 240, 320.

Finished with two coats of Hampshire Sheen Citrus Burnishing Oil




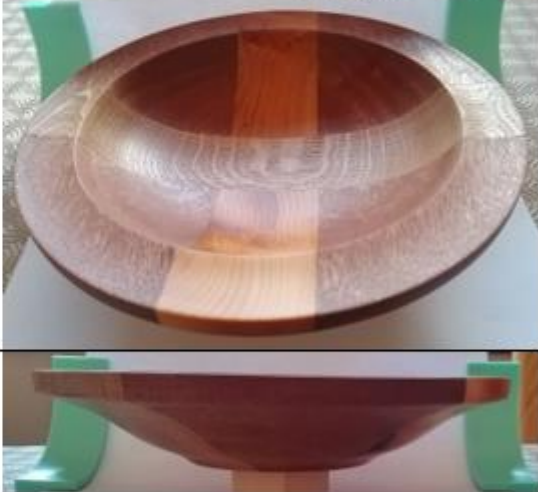
Outside profile is a flowing ogee shape



Inside turned ready for standing.

The turning was made using a 3/8 bowl gouge with swept back wings and a nose angle of 48°.



<p>Inside sanded and finished.</p> <p>Sanded through 120, 180, 240, 320.</p> <p>Finished with two coats of Hampshire Sheen Citrus Burnishing Oil</p>	
<p>Final finished piece</p> <p>Diameter 225mm (approx. 9 1/8") by 45mm (approx. 1 3/4") high</p>	

Enjoyed doing this project and would do it again using different woods.
My advice to anyone trying this is to make sure that the surfaces of the wood being glued together are perfectly flat so you get a good glue joint. My initial tests and checks showed that the surfaces were not flat and it took some time to get them flat for a good glue joint.

Alan Lewis

Herts & Beds Woodturners: Wood Lathe Safety

For further info and more details you can refer to the AWGB website – see [Woodturning Safety – AWGB](#)

General Guidelines

- Personal Protective Equipment
 - Eye protection is essential. A dust mask is optional for cutting but essential for dust-creating activities eg scraping, sanding or working with dry wood
 - Gloves should not be worn
- Clothing, Hair and Jewelry
 - Avoid dangling or loose clothing. Don't wear jewellery especially rings and watches. Tie back long hair.
- Ensure your work piece is sound and securely attached. Check frequently.
- Unplug the lathe if changing speed ranges with pulleys
- Ensure all lathe components are secured before turning on: headstock; tailstock; tool rest; workpiece. Prior to starting the lathe – check that the pulley/speed control is set for a slow enough speed. Check that chuck key, spanners, knockout-bar etc have been removed and stowed. Disengage the spindle lock.
- Check / Tighten the chuck regularly – a recently cut tenon may shrink slightly as the newly cut surfaces dry a little and/or the wood fibres become crushed in the chuck jaws. Tighten to ensure the workpiece does not become loose.
- Ensure workpiece is balanced as possible. Extra caution is needed when using wood with voids, bark, inclusions, cracks or checks. Maintain awareness of the profile “ghosting” across the top of the workpiece. Listen to sound of your cutting and sanding. A sudden change in what you can hear is often an early warning when wood has started to split or come loose.
- Start at low speed when turning to round
- Spin the workpiece manually to check balance and check for obstructions
- Be aware of others around you: ensure no-one is in the line of the workpiece, in case it comes loose. Advise others to put on a dust mask if needed
- Be aware of slip hazards, e.g. wood shavings

Handling Dust

- Fine dust is possibly the most serious long-term health hazard of woodturning.
- Be aware of the hazards of materials you are using. Dry woods create more dust than green (wet) wood. Some woods are toxic, e.g. Yew and Laburnum. MDF contains toxic glues. See [Wood Allergies and Toxicity](#).
- Spalted wood (with black stains) may have fungus spores in if the wood has not been kiln dried. These can be harmful.

- Cleaning your workshop can kick up a lot of dust – especially with a broom. A dust mask or respirator should be worn during cleaning, and continue to be worn until you leave the work area.

MASKS

- Wood lathe users must have their own dust mask.
- Woodworking masks have different standards (based on percentage and size of particulates filtered). P2 or P3 standard is highly recommended. The mask should be well-fitted. Single-use (disposable) masks are not recommended
- Dust collectors and air cleaners help to minimize dust build up in the workshop and they remove larger airborne dust particles.
- Non-powered respirators are the most common choice. Some masks are bulky, and may be difficult to wear with (safety) glasses.
- Powered respirators are expensive but may be useful for the regular turner.

COVID!

- Woodworking masks do not filter OUTGOING air. They are not designed to protect others from disease.
- Surgical and cloth masks are not rated for woodworking.

VISOR

- A polycarbonate visor is very useful. Acetate visors are splash-protectors – not suitable for woodturning.
- If other people are spectating, consider using a protective screen between lathe and audience – especially across “the firing line”.

SANDING

- Sanding produces a lot of dust – get the best finish you can off (sharp!) tools
- Extraction is strongly advised – either a main workshop device or vacuum at the machine
- Be aware that dust particles remain airborne for hours after sanding. Wearing a respirator only whilst sanding is not sufficient. It is better to wear it for the remainder of that woodturning session. An air cleaner can help remove larger airborne particles.
- Cutting clean, moist wood with a sharp tool will produce large shavings which are not hazardous. At all other times, use extraction.

WORK AREA

- Check that the work area is suitable and safe ie well lit, non-slip, no trip hazards and ventilated.
- All equipment to be used should be in good repair, check electrical plugs and cables are not damaged. Equipment (especially lathes and grinders) should be suitably anchored to a bench or floor. Regular PAT testing is a useful check
- Ensure that there is a suitable fire extinguisher to hand, consider what the action would be if anyone was injured – how to summon help, emergency first aid.

TOOLS

- Understand the safe usage of each tool when woodturning.
- Keep tools sharp. Don't force a cut with a dull tool.

CONTROLS

- On a new lathe check the position of the power and emergency stop buttons
- Prior to starting the lathe – check that the pulley/speed control is set for a slow enough speed.
- On a lathe electronic variable speed, it is good practice to turn the speed to the lowest setting before turning the lathe on. Similarly, prior to stopping, turn the speed down, then stop the lathe.
- If the lathe can be run in forward or reverse direction:
 - Cutting must only be done when the workpiece is turning downwards towards the toolrest. This is forwards for right-handed turning.
 - When turning in reverse, the grubscrews on the chuck must be checked for secureness. If these are loose, the chuck may unscrew from the spindle.
- When turning the lathe on, always stand aside – out of the “line of fire”.
- Never adjust or move the toolrest or banjo when the lathe is spinning. Do not leave the lathe unattended, reach over it, or bend down near it when it is spinning

Finishes

- Many finishes can be used for woodturning. Precautions for finishes are varied. The following common principles apply:
 - Many finishes are flammable; cloths for application should be disposed of safely - be aware of the possibility of spontaneous combustion for some finishes. Read the tin.
 - Hazardous finishes should not be applied when the lathe is on, eg superglue!

Many finishes give off harmful fumes whilst drying – use a vapour rated face mask

For Sale and Wanted

Free Oak

We were contacted through the website by someone who is disposing of an old settee and two chairs. They are constructed of solid oak about 50 years old. The legs are about 4/5 inches square as well as some 1.5 inch solid oak arms and 6 foot long planks again all solid oak.

He is very reluctant to send it to the local council tip.

They will need some work in dismantling on site – he lives in Hoddeston. If you are interested please ring Tom on 07538029963 or email him tomstacey2@aol.com



For Sale – lathe and tools

Vicmarc VL175SH lathe

Several chucks and an extractor are also available separately see images. The current owner also has a number of wood turning tools available.

As a note the lathe is approx 2m in length reasonable size workshop will be required.

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



so a

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





Off Centre

Woodturning from a different angle

Embracing social media by David Evans

We need to talk about social media. Not the social media that's making everyone angry, but the positive stuff. How it can be a cause for good and how we might use it as woodturners. Let's get the computer science bit out the way first. Social media platforms like TikTok, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram have a set of rules, signals and data that govern their operation. The collective term for these rules, signals and data is the 'algorithm'.

Put simply, if you search for 'woodturning', the algorithm will push more videos, pictures and comments about lathes, tools and woodturning your way because it thinks that is what you want. If it is what you want, you will engage with that content more and this is what the social media companies will pitch to advertisers. And before you know it an ad for a £6k Vicmarc VL300Short Adjustable Stand Mount EVS (Electronic Variable Speed) lathe will appear in your timeline. And we all know how woodturners can't resist the lure of a new piece of kit. The problem with social media is that it's the angry voices that rise to the top.



There will be woodturners who have never engaged with social media. Some may have dabbled and left, and others may have embraced it. As someone who is new to woodturning, I have found social media to be informative, inspiring and educational. Nothing can replace the excellent training organised by Club Training Officer Mel Williams or September's Club night where experience is passed on in real time, but social media does come a close second.

Many of the talented demonstrators the club has welcomed recently, including Emma Cook aka 'The Tiny Turner' and Britain's Best Woodworker 2023 Nathanael Griffiths, both have an online presence. What this means is that if you were unable to attend the club night you can still get inspired through their Instagram, YouTube or Facebook accounts. And before you all shout 'But they're young and high profile', our own young at heart Gary Rance has an excellent Instagram account. Go there and marvel at the skill required to turn out consistent high-quality apples and pears.

If it's skills rather than designs you are looking for, Anthony Lorton aka Gorilla Bowls, Dave Dalby and Richard Findley have excellent little videos on Instagram. Richard recently had a series on using the skew to create a taper. It was easy to follow and certainly inspirational, especially for the novice like me.

I mentioned earlier how the algorithm pushes adverts into your timeline based on what you search for. But let's not forget how the internet is now the shop window for many small-time turners. Kate Kitchen aka Kate Crafty Lass told us last year about how she uses Facebook to sell her small toy animals. And Stewart Furini, who also demonstrated for us last year, uses several online channels to promote and sell his stunning colour and texture work.

Social media has made the world a smaller place. I've mentioned before my current fascination with the Japanese kokeshi doll. The doll design would be straightforward for the experienced turner, but I like to watch how differently the Japanese use their tools, lathes and finishes; and how they source and season local wood. Not to mention the intricate painted designs. If you do use Instagram search for 'Kaori Kokeshi' to see what I'm talking about. Similarly for production turners in the Indian sub-continent; sitting on the floor, maybe holding the wood against the rest with a bare foot; churning out hundreds of spindles a day, not a face mask in sight. It's a world of wood turning inspiration on my phone and in my hand at a time and place of my choosing.

I'm not expecting everyone reading this to embrace social media. It can be an unpleasant environment, but as I've suggested it does have some pleasant corners, especially where woodturners reside. Just imagine the owner of social media platform X, Elon Musk, liking a video on an introduction to coves and beads. I'm confident that if he did, the World Wide Web would be a far pleasanter place to be.

David Evans works for NHS England and is new to woodturning. If you've got an idea for Off Centre come and talk to me on a club night or email info@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Poetry Corner

UNDERSTATED SPECTATOR'S ADMIRATION ABLEBODIED AND PARALYMPICS

Disadvantaged youth at the height of human endeavour
Individual's devotion with their back up team who savour
Their inspired success from enviable fortitude
Achieved by unswerving tenacious attitude
Ignoring their restrictions with deep felt convictions
Yet unassuming in their sensational success
So well earned by their persistent prowess

Couldn't we take a lesson from them all at a stroke
This inclusion so evident from this now time woke
Would that all youth mimicked their passion
Rising to great heights in similar fashion
Paris displayed all with it's classic sights abounding
Such a spectacle with results so astounding
What a backdrop to highlight the absolute pleasure
We all derived in amazing pride and measure

Martin Sexton September 2024