

South Downs Woodturners

August 2022

Dear Member

It's been a while since I penned a newsletter but material has been a bit slow to accumulate. We've now had several meetings in our present home and things seem to be settling in nicely. Because of the change of evening from Thursday to Wednesday, and my habit of booking theatre tickets long in advance, I wasn't able to be at the last two meetings, but all reports suggest they went well. I plan to be at the next meeting, so I've not deserted you all yet.

A small group met at the Hall in July on a very hot day, and did a big sort out and tidy of the store cupboard. Gordon has built a wheeled storage unit which now houses the shop, the library, and the cameras, and will make setting up much simpler (see page 7) - thanks Gordon. We were also able to figure out how to use the projector and screen in the Hall which should also simplify life for us - it seems to have lower resolution than our own projector (which needs repair work) but using our own projector is complicated by the fact that we'd have to front project with long cables trailing over the floor. The new camera system, whilst less sophisticated than the old one, seems to be doing the job and is pretty foolproof to use.

Our next step looks likely to be to explore remote demonstrations, which many professional turners are now using. Unlike Lancing, the broadband in Beeding is fast enough to allow this. It will mean investing in some camera/audio kit which we'll be looking into in the near future, with the aim of doing a try out soon, so watch this space.

All best to all members

Norman

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Our next meeting - please put the date in your diary now:

Wednesday August 31st 2022 from 7:00 pm in Bramber Hall

This will be a hands-on evening. We plan to have at least two lathes running and maybe a sharpening station. Don't forget to bring along your existing project, a few tools or just a bit of timber to practise on, lots of assistance and experienced help available, particularly if you are struggling with something. We'd really like you to get involved whatever your experience level. There maybe a bit of a challenge on offer too, as well as the usual tools and turnings, raffle, a cuppa and the **chairman's challenge of a lidded box**.

Please remember to bring your own coffee mug, and if you still have any library books from pre-lockdown we'd be grateful for their return so that others can borrow them.

CARBIDE TOOLS



I'm very pleased with them and will bring them along to the next meeting if anyone wants to have a go. The inserts are flat-topped scraping type but they cut well and should be easy to sharpen on a diamond plate. Total cost well below the price of one commercial tool.

Regular readers may recall that a while back I described having bought a set of carbide turning-tool tips on Amazon. I paid less than £12 for 5 tips, including fixing screws. I've now turned four of them into turning tools, using some odd bits of 1/2" or 3/8" square steel bar and home-made handles.

ARE YOU STILL IN? YOUR FINAL NEWSLETTER?

Anyone who was due to pay a subscription has now had several reminders and there are still members who have not renewed or joined. If you are one of them, then this is the last newsletter you will get from the Club. We will now be printing new membership cards, which you'll need to be able to come to future meetings. We will also remove your name from the membership database as required by GDPR.

We are sad to be losing you but we do understand that there could be many reasons for this, and you will always be welcome to join or re-join us in future.

PROGRAMME & EVENTS UPDATE FROM GORDON EATON– AUGUST 2022

Hi All. Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the July meeting. I thought Kevin Hutson was very good – small, high quality, very precise work, nicely finished. We shall certainly ask him back some time in the future!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday August 31st. This will be a practical/social evening as we used to run them at our Lancing venue – three lathes set up (possibly also a sharpening station). Whilst each lathe will be manned, it would be great if members would participate! Bring along some wood and some tools and join in – could be a project you are not sure how to start (or finish), a technique you would like advice on or perhaps a technique you would like to show off! As always, there will be the Tools n' Turnings table – please bring along anything of interest and perhaps say a few words about it. We plan to have the shop and library open too. Chairman's Challenge – BOX! Any type of lidded box, large or small. Could be inspired by Kevin's demo?

Just a reminder of the rest of the year's schedule:

September (Wed. 28th) – Member demonstration. Experienced member Anna Cates will demonstrate the making of candlesticks. Anna is a member of the Sussex Guild and always produces quality original work. Competition: BOWLS – any type of bowl, plain, natural edge, coloured or decorated. Let's see a good turnout for this.

October (Wed. 26th) – Two-member demonstration. Gordon Eaton and Andy Heath will demonstrate different methods of chasing threads in wood.

November (Wed. 30th) – Competition: "Candlesticks". Any shape or size, any design you like. As always, there will be three categories of entry (Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced). You are the judges but one might perhaps expect advanced entries to comprise a pair? Member demonstration: "A Clever Trick!" Barry Chidlow will demonstrate creating a turned illusion.

December (Wed. 21st) Christmas social evening. Full content yet to be decided but will include our usual Christmas tree Chairman's Challenge. Fill the tree with turned seasonal items (snowmen, Xmas trees, baubles etc.). Prizes for the best ones! There may be a "speed turning" competition – turn a small item against the clock. We have done this before and it was a lot of fun – not many items actually finished but prizes given to the best efforts! Plus mince pies, wine etc.

Look forward to seeing everyone on the 31st. Cheers

Gordon

Chairman's note:

You'll notice that the programme as it stands relies very heavily on a small number of members who are willing to demonstrate their methods. We very much need some new blood to provide new demonstrations. This need not be a full evening demo, it can be a fill-in on a competition evening, or manning a lathe at a practical evening, but we can't keep things fresh by relying on the same few people all the time. It's clear from our competition entries that there are some extremely competent turners amongst us, so please consider whether you can share your expertise by volunteering to do a bit of demonstrating.

CAMCORDER FOR SALE



As a result of our move to the new camera system, we have one of the Club's camcorders for sale. It's a Panasonic HC-V210, 10 MPx model with 38x optical and 72x digital zoom. It's in full working order, and complete with battery and charger. It records to an SD card (not included). The other cameras we sold on eBay raised £80 each for Club funds, so we are asking the same for this one. Let me know if you are interested and I'll bring it to the next meeting.

RECENT MEETINGS



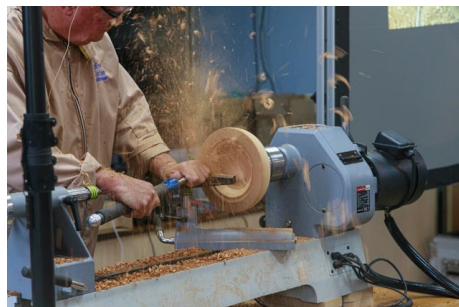
An attentive audience watches Gordon showering himself in shavings.

June 29th was our first full-scale demo evening at Bramber. Turnout was excellent. The main event of the evening was a demo by our very own Gordon Eaton who showed how to turn a bowl, in preparation for the September competition.

This was also the first proper run for our new camera system which seemed to work well.



Shaping the outside - with sensible tailstock support



Hollowing out - with copious shavings

On 27th July we had our first professional demo since before the pandemic. Kevin Hutson brought his own lathe and showed how to make two small objects, a lidded box and a decorative chess piece. Hopefully some inspiration for the next Chairman's challenge.



Thanks to everyone who helped out with setting up and closing down the meetings and leaving the Hall so tidy.

Special thanks to Barry Chidlow for the photographs

Volunteers still needed

Our appeal in the last newsletter for volunteers to help with running the Club produced several responses, and we're grateful to all of them - we'll be taking all of them up on their offers. However, we can still use more help to run the raffle, provide refreshments and run things like the shop, the library and the toolbank. The more people we have who can help out occasionally, the less work it is for any of us. Do think whether you could offer a bit of help. You can contact any member of the committee or e-mail me directly.

WOOTURNING WEEKENDER

Tony Trigg attended the recent Woodturning Weekender, organised by Chestnut Finishes on 30 & 31 July at the Museum of the Great Western Railway in Swindon. He said it was a great occasion, well worth the visit, and sent me a pile of photos, some of which are below.



Joey Richardson demonstrates turning a thin-walled pot



Stewart Furini in full-colouring action



Richard Findley takes questions



Darren Breeze emulating Stewart Furini



A fine display of colouring and ornamentation



Not the easiest thing to turn!



L: A display of more conventional turnings

R: An interesting site for an evening meal!



CARBIDE TOOL FOR SALE



As I mentioned on page 1, I have made myself a set of carbide scrapers. That leaves me with a tipped tool which I bought as an experiment and am now offering for sale. I've only used one corner of the insert, which is of the cutting type. I'm asking £20 for it and will bring it along to the next meeting - e-mail me if you are interested.

JOE HARPER

In the last newsletter I reported the death of long-time member Joe Harper, who died on June 16th. Joe's funeral was held on July 22nd, and I attended on behalf of the club, along with Jim and Yvonne Young. We have made a donation from the Club in Joe's memory, to his favoured charity, the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance.

A BOWL FOR A GOOD CAUSE



A little while ago, Don Johnston asked if anyone had a big slab of oak he could use to make a bowl for a commission. I didn't have any oak but I did have a rough turned burr elm blank. It was part of a slab I bought back in the early 80s. Most of it got turned, but moving house and greater job responsibilities intervened and it had been sitting in my garage since then, so I was happy to donate it to a good cause.

Don sent me photos of the bowl, which he finished recently. It was polished with finishing oil and a coat of microwax polish. It is a beautiful job and he received £250 for it from the lady who commissioned it, with all the money going to The Friends of Warminghurst Church, where it will add greatly to the funds supporting this lovely dis-established 13th century church. It is always open and well worth a visit to see and feel its history, the peace within it and some excellent 18th century woodwork.

DESIGNS WOODCRAFT MAKERS DAY 2022 - HELP WANTED

We have been contacted by Designs Woodcraft, who are organising a Makers' Day on Saturday 10 Sep 10:00 - 17:00 at their workshops near Angmering. Details are at <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cf8eohZDvh6/>

It's described as "A fun creative day for makers and likeminded people". The day includes team build sessions, CNC sign making, and wood sales/blank cutting boards. Wood Work Supply will be showcasing both Wood Repair and O3a brands of superglues, along with a pop-up shop. Rubio Monocoat will be running mini versions of their own makers days - giving an in-depth opportunity to use and try combinations of these fantastic oils. Scott and Sargeant will be bringing some toys along, and Smoking Knives will be running a marking knife mini course, where you can finish your own marking knife right there with us on the day.

The House BBQ will be smoking for lunch.

The day costs £15 and there are still a few tickets available. It is a not-for-profit event, run at a cost to the organisers and contributors to bring together the maker community for a day of woodworking, fun and socialising. The ticket price will go some way to covering the cost of the additional items required to put on the event, with any surplus funds being donated to their charity partner (Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals). All consumables, tools, and training costs will be covered by the organisers and contributors to ensure that everyone gets the opportunity to get involved without any additional costs on the day. So go along and meet some of your fellow makers and hopefully learn some new skills.

Now here's where we need your help. We've been invited to contribute to the day by setting up a turning demonstration, just making small items - could be pens, key-rings, eggcups, whatever. The Club will provide the lathe but we need a couple of volunteers to work a stand. Dave Smith and Gordon Eaton have already volunteered, but neither can do all day, and we ideally need two people all the time. Unfortunately, I can't go that day. Attendance would be good publicity for us and might attract new members. If you would be willing to do a half-day or even a full day, please contact me as soon as you can. You get free entry to the show!

FANCY A DAY OUT? Les Thorne all-day demo in Cambridge



Cambridge Woodturners have Les Thorne coming to demonstrate and entertain club members on Saturday 3rd September at Duxford Community Centre, Duxford, CB22 4RE. The venue is just off of the M11 at the Duxford Imperial War Museum. A whole day of Les Thorne with a superb well tested buffet lunch from other one-day events with unlimited tea/coffee/soft drinks. Tickets cost £16 and I have application forms, or you can contact the secretary, John Bowskill as: johnbowskill@virginmedia.com or 07854 826888

MIKE SIMS MAKES EARRINGS

Earrings have been with us for over 7000 years. Originating in ancient Asia, they have signified wealth and social class. They were banned in the 13th century by the Catholic church, and have featured in many popular songs. Golden Earrings was recorded by Willie Nelson and others, and Don't Make Me Take My Earrings Out was recorded by Gretchen Wilson, a well-known country artist, in 2009.

I started making earrings after reading several articles on jewellery making in the AAW American Woodturner magazines, particularly one written by Michael Hamilton-Clark, where he describes many aspects of earring making. **Photo 1** shows some of Michael's earrings.



There are several styles of earrings and different types of fittings (findings) to attach to the ear. This article describes making long, dangly earrings that use hook findings for pierced ears.

Blanks for earrings can be made from most woods, but those with a closer, straight grain are more successful, particularly if fine detail is to be added, such as small beads. The box of scraps is a good source and off-cuts from pen blanks are a particularly suitable size. Pieces that are about 2 in (5 cm) long by ¾ in (19 mm) square are perfect.

Start by mounting the blank between a chuck and a live centre. If you have pin jaws for your chuck, they will grip the blank securely, but I use the smallest of my O'Donnell dovetail jaws to hold the blank, so I have to firstly grip the blank by its flat sides and cut a small tenon on the tailstock end.

The blank can now be reversed, gripping the tenon in the chuck. However you chuck your blank, before starting to turn, replace the live centre with a Jacobs chuck fitted with a drill bit and drill the hole that will take the stem of the earring finding (**Photo 2**). The finding stem that I use is 0.7 mm, so a 1 mm drill suffices, when the finding is glued into place. Drill the hole at least 10 mm deep at low speed, clearing shavings as you go. It is better to do this now, rather than later when the earring has been turned down to a very small diameter. Replace the Jacobs chuck with the live centre and secure the blank.



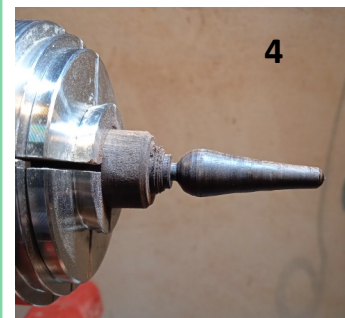
At this point you need to decide the shape of the earring. For this article I will describe making a simple elongated teardrop with a rounded top and bottom. It will be 10 mm diameter at the bottom and 2-3 mm diameter at the top.

True the blank to whatever your maximum diameter is to be, in my case 10 mm. I intend the length of the finished earring to be around 1 ¼ in (32 mm), so I mark this on the blank in pencil, allowing for the intrusion of the live centre at the tailstock end. I like to make this somewhat permanent by using a thin parting tool to further mark the two ends with a cut about 2 mm deep on the pencil marks (**Photo 3**).

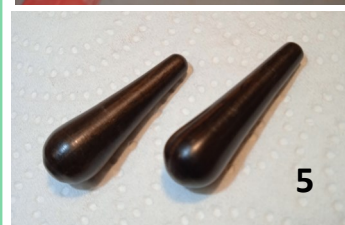
Then begin the shaping. Reduce the tailstock end to the intended minimum diameter, in my case 2-3 mm. The elongated teardrop shape can then be completed by joining the minimum diameter at the top end with the maximum diameter just above the bottom end. At this point the bottom (at the chuck end) can be rounded as much as possible, given that the parting tool cut is only 2 mm deep. Remember that sufficient material needs to be left at the bottom in order to support the work to be completed at the top. Remove the tailstock and finish the rounding of the top, using light cuts (**Photo 4**).



You can now sand and finish the piece that has been completed so far. Sand carefully by lightly gripping opposite sides of the work with the sandpaper, rather than pushing against one side. You can finish the piece with whatever you favour. My only advice here is to be aware that an earring, although not being handled very much, may be worn for extensive periods and exposed to natural oils of the skin. For this reason, do not use soft waxes.



The earring can now be parted off, or as I prefer, sawn off. Use a saw blade that is narrower than the parting off cut and saw off on the side of the cut away from the earring. This minimises the chance of tear-out at the centre. The sanding of the bottom is done by hand, as is the finish. The earrings in **Photo 5** are the result. They are made from ebony, finished with carnauba wax and yes, I did make two!



All that remains is to attach the findings. These can be glued in place with CA-glue or two-part epoxy. Roughen the stem before gluing, and apply the glue to the stem, rather than the earring where the glue will inevitably spill over onto the wood. Findings can be bought online or in your local craft shop. If you really want get into jewellery, it is cheaper to buy the wire and make your own.

The earring can be further embellished with beads. Some woods are striking on their own, such as olive or zebrano. Plainer woods such as pear, lime or some beeches benefit from being jazzed up with coloured beads. These can be placed on the top, or if big enough,



the bottom. Additionally these woods can be brought more to life by using spirit stain to colour them prior to finishing. The earrings in **Photo 6** are an example of wood (beech), with beads and findings.

Whatever you chose to make, the small size of earrings will test your turning skills, particularly making the second of the pair. They make good gifts and are rewarding to make. The shapes and sizes are only limited by your own imagination.

Editor's note: If you doubt your ability to make identical pairs, there seems now to be a fashion for single "statement" earrings (for both genders).

GORDON'S TROLLEY



As I mentioned in my introductory remarks, Gordon Eaton has built a rolling trolley for our store cupboard at Bramber. It takes the shop and library stock along with the video kit and allows it all to be wheeled out of the store and into the Hall in a single operation. Makes life very much easier for us.

Special thanks to Gordon for his efforts.

WORK BY MEMBERS

I get very little response to my requests for photos of members' work, so I've searched my files of past stuff and included a few below. I don't think I've used these before - apologies if I have.



Nut bowl by Anna Cates



Lidded box by Peter Pullin



Square edged bowl by Tony Trigg

AND FINALLY

Late as usual, but I hope you find it useful and informative. I'm still short of material for newsletters. I can use pictures of your work, your workshop or anything else you think may interest fellow members. I have a nice article from Tony Trigg which I will put in the next issue but I can always use more material.

As always, if you want to express your feelings on anything club related please contact me, or any member of the committee. It's always good to hear from you. For now, my very best wishes to all members as always. I'll look forward to seeing many of you again soon.

Norman Billingham