

# Christchurch Society of Woodturners

## E- Newsletter

## August 2021

### Covid Update

The current intention remains to restart meetings in September. Confirmation and further information will appear on the website and in next month's newsletter.

### CSW Out and About

Clive Potter and Richard Slee ran a garage sale which was a surviving element of a much-depleted Sway Carnival. They were not inundated with customers, even when they tried to give stuff away to satisfy Clive's need for a clear out! The day was rescued with the sale of a mitre cutter in the afternoon and a generous club member who bought one of Clive's nail puzzles. No sales of club turning to report I'm afraid.

Mudford Arts Festival in contrast was very well supported and the club made the most of having more space than usual in the 'Demonstration Tent' combined with better than expected weather. You may have

unwittingly contributed to the success by donating one of your prized turnings to be sold for club funds - thank you!

As other shows have been cancelled, this was the only large event attended by the club this year. One of its main purposes is to generate interest in the club and a number of people have said they will be coming along to the next meeting. Please keep an eye out and make them welcome.



Andy's 'straight from the lathe' spinning tops were popular with the kids. John and Alan impressed with their displays and made a number of sales, whilst Paul showed his versatility by making a miniature replica of his 1m+ candlestick – not quite what the customers had in mind when told of a 'buy one, get one free' offer! Thanks to Greta and Clive who also supported the event. If you are happy to help at future shows, to meet some interesting people and chat about woodturning, please let Paul know. It's a great way to promote the club whilst making a few pounds to keep your subs low!



## Wood – An Odd Pair

Paul Reeves: After taking a rather large candlestick to our Mudeford Quay demonstration as a talking point / conversation opener, one of the club members present very helpfully suggested that I turn a matching one. Having accepted the challenge, I popped a piece of wood on the lathe and roughed it down. There was however one major difference. The first one stands at about 1m tall and so it was going to be quite difficult to copy as the piece of Boxwood in the chuck had a diameter of 5mm with a working length of 30mm. The finished article was a pretty close reproduction; however, I have been unable to find a candle small enough to go on it. Birthday candles are just enormous - maybe I should freeze one and turn it down to size.

The exercise serves to make a useful point - ie trying to match the suitability of a type of wood to the job in hand.

The large candlestick is made from Cedar which is relatively light in the dimensions used, and given that it may be situated outside on a terrace or deck, relatively weather resistant. However, trying to turn the tiny version in the same wood, although possible, would lead to problems with keeping all the detail crisp.



The Boxwood chosen for the miniature is ideal for small projects as it is very dense, taking tiny detail cuts without chipping etc. It always amazes me how strong a tiny goblet stem, maybe a quarter of a millimetre diameter, is. Using Boxwood to turn the large one would be very problematic as a) you would have difficulty in finding a lump of suitable diameter and b) it would take two of you to move it about!



## E-news Challenge

How long can a single, unbroken wood shaving get? Here's a target for you – bet you can't beat it! This one, at 121cm, was a by-product of turning some of Paul's Monkey Puzzle.

Anything over a metre, please send a photo to [e-news@christchurchwoodturners.org.uk](mailto:e-news@christchurchwoodturners.org.uk)



## Internet

Vic Russell 's suggestions this month:

The Wood Turners Catalog. An American Catalog some of you may find interesting.

[http://content.yudu.com/web/33r4n/0A33r4r/2020-catalog/html/index.html?refUrl=http%253A%252F%252Fcontent.yudu.com%252Fweb%252F33r4n%252F0A33r4r%252Fedition\\_list%252Findex.html](http://content.yudu.com/web/33r4n/0A33r4r/2020-catalog/html/index.html?refUrl=http%253A%252F%252Fcontent.yudu.com%252Fweb%252F33r4n%252F0A33r4r%252Fedition_list%252Findex.html)

Peacock Oil, who knew?! :-)

<https://www.skeltonsaws.co.uk/peacock-oil>

One from the Club Website on Polishing Wood.

<http://christchurchwoodturners.org.uk/onewebmedia/Polishing%20WoodV4.pdf>

Want to try Water based stain? This could be a cheaper option.

<https://www.ritdye.com/instructions/wood/>

## Mezzaluna

Rick Patrick: My son and I tend to have a 'Boys Outing' every year and the latest was a day's

experience at Forging a Knife. With 15 varieties to choose from, I opted for a blade I reckoned I might actually use. A

Mezzaluna (Italian for crescent moon) requires forging a foot long piece of carbon steel bar into an elongated tang at each end bent upwards and a blade formed from beating along both sides of one edge to naturally create a curve. Like all novices, there were the inevitable cock-ups along the way, which the professional blacksmith overseers would manage to recover most



times or else have to start again to catch up swiftly to whereabouts we had suffered our mishap. Unfortunately, my calamity occurred about 3 hours in. My blade didn't seem to be getting orange hot as quickly as earlier and needed to be left in the heat longer and longer, until I pulled it out and found the thinning blade had pot marks and lightning scars in its edge. The most probable cause was some clinker had built up where the air is jetted into the anthracite, which deflected the heat from where I was expecting. The pot marks showed where the metal boiled to a liquid and the scars were from when the liquid vaporized! Too late to start again. Just put up with re-forging a shallower blade. Time remaining was spent tempering, quenching and sharpening but too late to hammer on their Padauk blocks. So back at home, I turned some Laburnum handles with comfortable grips and shiny collets so that I could proudly proclaim, "I made all this myself."



Examples of knives and Rick's mezzaluna in use

## Introducing

Trevor Elliott is the club secretary. You know him - he greets you with a name badge as you arrive at meetings! (Remember the days when we had meetings?). He's been turning, and a club member, for 20 years. Trevor spent his working life in the print industry preparing the plates and films for web offset presses, later becoming a manager overseeing the production of, for example, 'Exchange and Mart'. In his early days he tells me he also printed



bank notes – but I'm not sure he meant me to share that! He had always enjoyed practical, hands-on activities and woodturning seemed like a natural progression from that. He has recently acquired a KS Twister Eco lathe which he is really happy with and is increasingly using a set of carbide tipped tools, not least to avoid having to sharpen tools as frequently. He particularly enjoys spindle turning – eg candlesticks or projects which involve a number of spindle turned elements – some excellent examples appear below.

Trevor spent £15 on his first car, a 1937 Ford 'Eight', and says you can't beat a good roast. He enjoys getting out on his e-bike, carp fishing and together with his wife, he keeps a stunning garden.





Trevor's Tazza has a Banksia spindle – nice detail



Projects involving spindle turned elements



Turned entirely with his carbide tools



From turning to spinning!

## Remember

Good judgement comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgement.



**Always keep your tools sharp!**

Anyone know where you can get a CBN wheel for this?



**Contributions** to this e-newsletter are very welcome as are suggestions and comment. I am particularly interested in the story of projects which members have taken on.

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