

# Christchurch Society of Woodturners

## E- Newsletter

## October 2021

### September Meeting

A good turnout at the last meeting heralds the return of normality. Congratulations to all award winners and thanks to Paul for a very good 'treen' demo with lots of turning snippets along the way (even the jokes seem to have improved!). Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the Lockdown Display. The next meeting is in October and includes a Treen competition – please bring along your competition entry and anything else for the general display table. If you missed the demonstration, the website has a comprehensive summary. On the right is Paul's table of treen exemplars – a lot of scope for you to produce your competition item.



### 2019 Award Winners



Best beginner  
Allan Rae



Most Improved  
David Hamilton



Innovation / Creativity  
Vic Russell



Table A Winner  
Nick Jazwinski



Table A Runner up  
Trevor Elliott ( collected by Paul)



Service to Club  
John Williams





Table B Winner  
Terry Miles

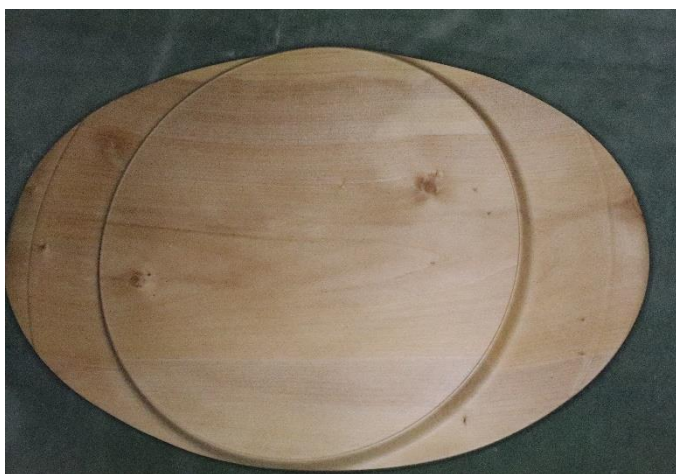


Table B r/u and President's Design  
Andy Ogilvie Cup



Long Service Special Award  
Richard Slee

## Lockdown Display



Paul Reeves



Roger Brigham



Alan Brooks



Dave Hamilton

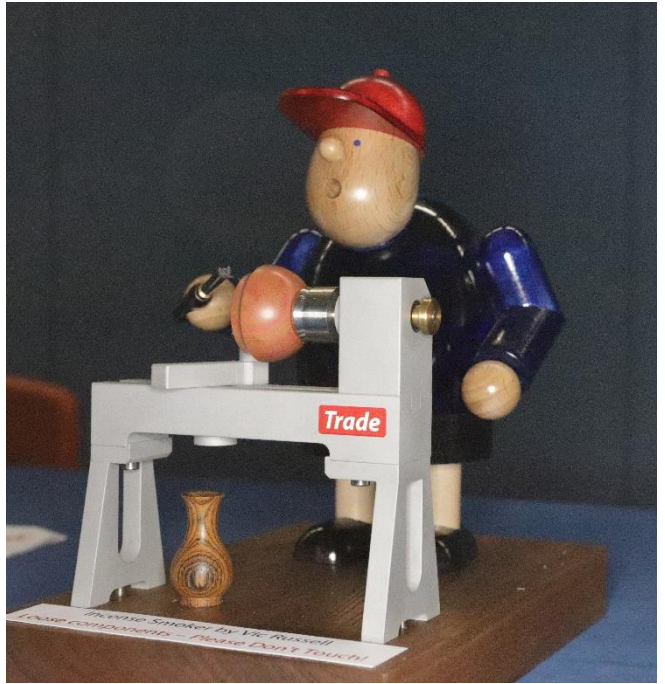


Andy Ogilvie





Mark Codling (above)



Vic Russell (right)



Bob Powell (left)

John Bolt



Geoff Beddoe



John Williams





Allan Rae (above)

Dave Hamilton (below)



Terry Miles (above)

Sorry! unknown (below)



Bill Gibson



Graham Turner



## Wood to Try

Paul Reeves: This month we are going to have a little look at ASH (*Fraxinus excelsior*). When I say a little look I mean it, as the wood is so versatile with so many uses and applications we can only scratch the surface in an article like this.

It has to be my favourite simply because as a woodturner you can turn, stain, colour, texture, scorch / burn, steam bend and the open pores of the grain lets you fill with either coloured inks or paints to highlight the natural shapes that emerge as you create your piece. Salad bowls, spindle work of all shapes and sizes, textured and coloured boxes / pepper mills (Les Thorne), candlesticks, platters, cutting boards and hollow vase forms just to list a few.

The natural wood varies from a creamy white to a swirly mid-brown in some trees, often called olive ash. It grows quite quickly with large trees very often having areas of rippled grain under the bigger branches and in the trunk if it has been exposed to regular winds.

This sometimes causes a few problems in the finishing department as the different grain direction in the ripple can tear if the tools are not kept razor sharp. Ash sands well and looks good with a matt oiled finish right through to a high gloss lacquer.

Although 'Ash Die Back', (proper name *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* - I will be asking you at the next meeting so remember it), is quite prevalent in some parts of the country there doesn't appear to be much in this area at the moment. Anyway, the tree that I am about to process will keep us all going for a number of years yet so don't worry! The trunk is 40" diameter with proportional superstructure so there should be quite a pile.

Watch this space – meanwhile, look below for some inspiration!



Wimborne Ash



White / brown Ash



Fancy handle



10" Spalted vase



20" Spalted Ash  
Most spectacular piece ever!



18" Ripple Ash



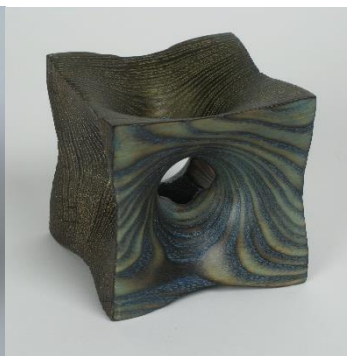
16" Olive Ash Crotch



7" Rippled Ash



18" Hemisphere, Green acrylic rim  
Green and white wax



Scorched Ash cube with  
gold and blue grain fill



18" Ripple Ash platter

## Internet

This month's offerings from Vic Russell:

Lathe speed, how fast are you really going?

<https://turnawoodbowl.com/safe-wood-lathe-speed-calculation/>

An interesting and simple hollowing tool. The D Way.

[https://youtu.be/5\\_FJv4i6Yis](https://youtu.be/5_FJv4i6Yis)

Not wood turning, but wood working. Still worth a look though.

<https://hookedonwood.online/Home/>

An American take on bowl gouges, do you have a favourite?

<https://www.craftyhangouts.com/best-bowl-gouge/>

## Expensive pencil!

Vic Russell: I admit, £7.87 is a lot to pay for a pencil. I was intrigued though when I first saw these. Sure, once in a blue moon I have needed to mark something in a tight spot, but that's what a chisel is for - carving down a pencil to fit! I tend to have lots of pencils because I can never find one otherwise and I tend to choose red or yellow ones so they're less likely to hide from me. Enough excuses, I like tools anyway, so I paid the money and bought one of these Hultafors Dry Markers to try. It's a pencil! No, there's more. As it comes in its own holder with a clip it's pretty handy and the holder also has a built-in sharpener. I also shelled out a few extra quid for the multi colour refills. You get four graphite, three red and three yellow "leads" which is pretty handy because the yellow ones are good for marking on dark woods. Not sure where I'd use the red ones though. The leads are about 2.8mm diameter if you need to know. That's it really; it's



just an expensive pencil with interchangeable leads. It's also a lot more difficult to lose than an ordinary pencil but I'm sure I'll manage it at some point. There are other makes aside from the Hultafors by the way. If you come out in a rash using anything other than Festool gear they sell something very similar in a fetching green colour at anything up to £20. Or you could use those little free pencils from that well known Scandinavian shop ... 😊



## Introducing

Alan Brooks is a regular contributor to the club website and competition and display tables. He and his wife are a crafty, creative couple and Alan has multiple sheds and a very well-equipped, dedicated workshop to pursue his woodturning. He has been turning for 15 years (a club member for 5/6 years) starting out with Axminster courses and advice from Geoff Knott, a then club member who some may remember. He has an Axminster Trade Series 1628 lathe with a swivel head and bed extension. He prefers a fingernail grind on his gouges and uses a wide selection of chisels. He enjoys a challenge, whether set by the club or by his



research in magazines or on the internet. 'Get out and play' seems to sum up his approach – see what happens!

Telecommunications infrastructure is his professional background having spent decades in the Royal Signals as an underground cable jointer and later as a training instructor in Telecom Systems – need any optic fibres joining?

Alan's first car was a '62 Mini 850, which used to jump out of second gear, but he prefers the sound of a V8 stock car, revealing his interest in motorsport. He recommends Poole quay for fresh shellfish.



Examples of Alan's skilful work. The inner sleeve of the trinket box (left) pulls out and then splits to hold rings etc

## Sales and Wants

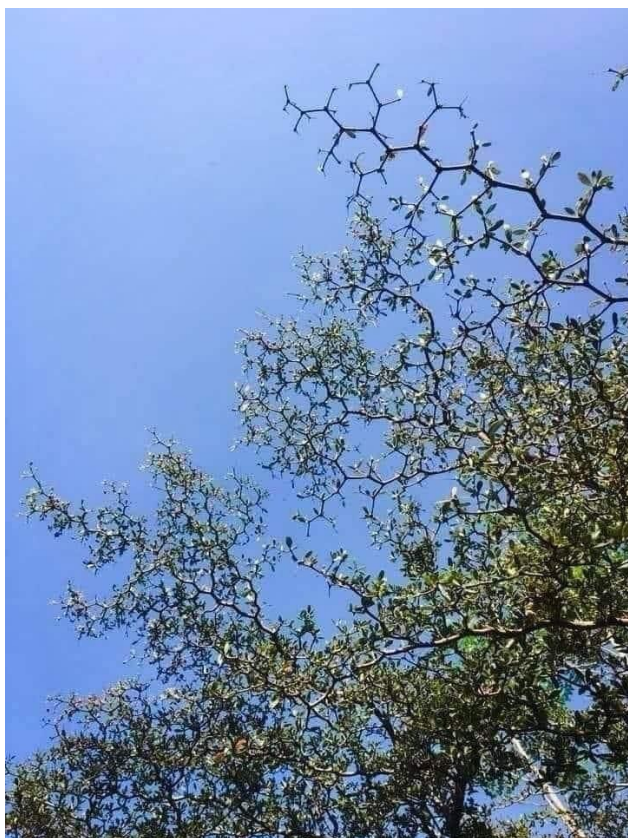
The club website has a specific section for items for sale or sought under the heading 'Marketplace'. Thread chasers, a Makita mitre saw, and a Jet Extractor and filter are still available at the time of writing, but the Jet mini lathe has been sold. Always worth a look when you visit the site!

## Just a thought

Curiosity is the ultimate power tool.

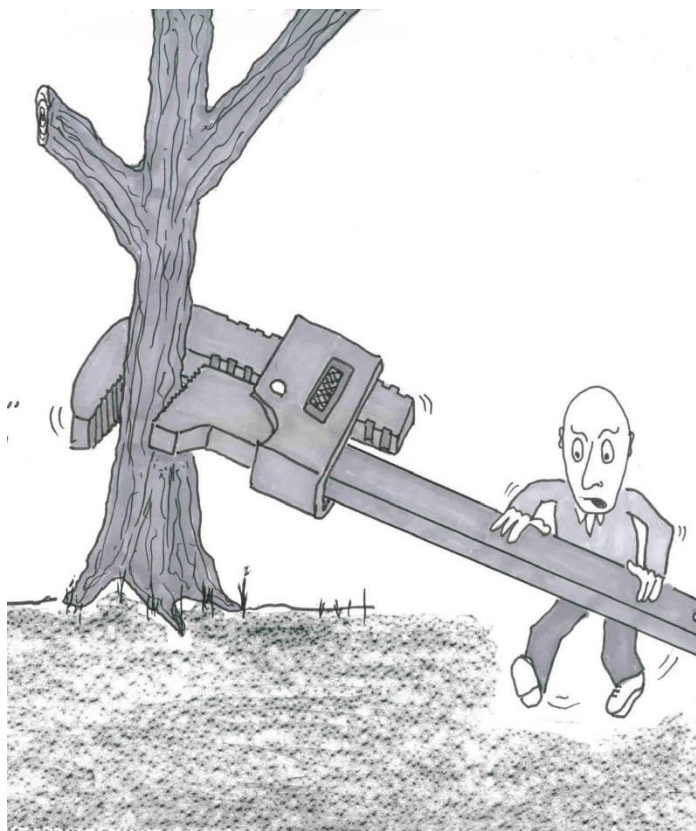
## Chemis-tree

Perhaps it turns hexagonal bowls?



## Woodturning

But not as we know it....



**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. Please send a few words and some photos and I'll do the rest!

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