

Christchurch Society of Woodturners

e - newsletter

June 2022

May Meeting

As a woodturner a 'stock in trade' item has to be a bowl; that you can produce a well-turned bowl is an expectation and always popular with friends and family. It is a skill / artefact on which you base more advanced, decorative and experimental work, so a revision of bowl turning technique was welcome. Thanks to Paul who guided us through the basics plus a number of subtleties re tool selection and use, to enable you to create a desired shape with the best possible finish. Much discussion was promoted in the hall as to members' own preferences and which snippets of advice they were going to take away from the demo. The demo bowl appears below together with other exemplars. Rick was making copious notes to put together a resume for the website. Bird-box next time!



Did you notice the position of the lathe, the new shade on the lathe light or the adjustment of the ambient lighting? All aiming to improve the quality of the presentation.





Nigel Batten collecting his Best Beginner trophy

Clive's open garden and woodturning stall
raised over £100 for Oakhaven Hospice



Display Table

Thank you for your contributions to the display tables this month



Julian Hellebrand – pivoting lid, scoop inside



Jerry Lewis – 'floating' bowl and chatter-decorated bowl



Alan Brooks – secretly hollowed form



Andy Ogilvie



Ian Wright



Copycats – Clive Potter and Rick Patrick



Phil Walker



Terry Rae – from Stoke?!



Vic Russell – pin case with brass thread insert



A table full of goodies for Sway



Internet

This month's suggestions from Vic:

Fancy a Viking Scorp or a Roman Drawknife?! Re-enactment woodworking tools

<https://www.daegradtools.com/re-enactment-woodworking-tools-1-c.asp>

Medieval and Renaissance Lathes

[https://bloodandsawdust.com/Blood and Sawdust/Lathes Part 1 About Medieval and Renaissance Lathes.html](https://bloodandsawdust.com/Blood%20and%20Sawdust/Lathes%20Part%201%20About%20Medieval%20and%20Renaissance%20Lathes.html)

A plywood bowl you probably haven't seen!?

https://youtu.be/XNC6HKPF_nc

Turning a special fountain pen!

<https://youtu.be/BsnlQNY8PtW>

Competition Results – Table A

I didn't mention the closeness of the scores on the night in case someone demanded a recount – 1st and 2nd place had 48 and 47 points respectively, and 3rd and 4th had 26 and 25 points. Congratulations to all for tackling a challenging task.



1st Andy Ogilvie



2nd Paul Reeves



3rd – Bob Randall



4th – Nick Jazwinski



Alan Brooks



John Bolt

Carbide Tipped Tools (VR)

It's rarely fair to generalise, but it often seems that an older and more experienced a turner is less likely to accept carbide tipped tools have a place in woodturning. This is a shame as many believe carbide is better in some instances.

Hollowing is one area where carbide is increasingly being chosen. The term 'hollowing' can obviously cover a huge range of different sizes and shapes. Many of you will have used a gouge on end-grain to fashion a goblet for example; carbide comes into its own in deeper hollowing, often through a restricted opening. HSS tools will need regular re-sharpening, especially if small. Carbide inserts are rotatable / disposable even if small, and as carbide is much harder than HSS, it maintains a useful cutting edge for very much longer, making it easier to work on difficult areas within a hollow form.

There are several different shapes of carbide inserts available to the woodturner. Round inserts are normally chosen for hollowing and can be flat or cup shaped. The flat inserts range in size from 9 to around 15mm and can be re-edged several times if required with a diamond hone. The cupped inserts are normally RCGT types appropriated from the metalworker's toolbox, designed to cut softer materials like alloys and plastics. They are generally available in sizes from 6 to 12mm but being cup shaped they cannot easily be resharpened.



It isn't overly difficult to make your own tools using carbide inserts but there are also plenty of tools available in a range of prices likely to fit most turner's budgets. Some tools are also available without a handle which may appeal if you already have, or like to make your own. By way of example, a couple of cranked carbide tools from Simon Hope are shown. Straight versions are also available.



From the Editor's Workshop

Whilst a disc of plywood and some non-slip matting or a few dabs of hot glue are often enough to secure a piece of work to finish off the bottom, the ease of use afforded by a large, adjustable chuck was too much to resist – and having searched the internet for plans / advice (there's plenty out there), I selected a 'Longworth' style, found some suitable plywood (MDF works well too) and ordered a set of buttons from Yandles (because I got 8 buttons including hardware for the price of 4 from elsewhere). If you are confident with a router and prepared to measure carefully then the project does not take long and is very satisfying. I excitedly shared my creation with a fellow member who nonchalantly said, 'Oh yeah, I made myself one of those about 10 years ago'. Am I the last one in the club to cotton on?!



Alternative reversing chucks can be bought / made in various materials – the two ‘Cole Jaws’ below fit onto a scroll chuck. They have shorter, denser buttons (than mine above) to hold the work which some consider more secure. Paul made the last example (24” ruler for scale) for very large work - it needs screwing together to suit the project and perhaps a few dabs of his favourite hot glue. Keep the speed down to start with, protect surfaces with tape or paper, take light cuts and maybe use the tailstock for support / security.



Introducing

With an initial nudge from a woodworking friend of a friend, Clive Potter has been turning, and a club member for 18 years and he has been treasurer for nearly as long. He had always liked making things from wood and he has a renovated cottage, several tables with intricate stretchers and rustic garden trugs to show his versatility. His working life was spent in six power stations as a mechanical engineer and shift-leader, mostly at Fawley before its closure and his early retirement. A re-skilling course at Plas y Brenin allowed him to become a guide for walking, mountaineering and skiing trips across the world, and led to personal ascents of Kilimanjaro and Mt Blanc. His interest in walking was encouraged by his wife-to-be not being allowed on the back of his Triumph Tiger Cub which was sold in favour of a 1937 Austin 7. (£65 and yes, he can remember the number plate). During a college rag-week he and his engineering peers set a world record for the



fastest trip from Bath to London in a motor-powered bathtub (and yes, he asked for the 999MPB number plate!). The bathtub was later driven by a Formula 1 racer at Brands Hatch. Clive's spacious, well-equipped workshop has a Wivamac DB802 lathe and an Axminster pen lathe, their skilful use having been nurtured by Paul Reeves' mentoring over the years. In between their community and charity activities, Clive and his wife recently celebrated their diamond wedding with a holiday in the west country. They have two sons and three grandchildren. Examples of Clive's skilful work are shown below.





I-phone trick

If you call up the calculator holding your iphone in the 'portrait' position, you get a basic calculator – but if you tilt it to the 'landscape' position it becomes a scientific calculator. Might give you a few tech savvy points with the youngsters in your life?!

Just a Thought

A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory

This month's Pick of the Pics



This is Pando, but it isn't a forest– it's all one tree. Each trunk of the Quaking Aspen is genetically identical and connected by a single root system that's at least 80,000 years old, which means it's one of the biggest and oldest living things on Earth.



This is the Baobab tree. Sometimes called the upside-down tree as when it loses its leaves the top of the tree looks like roots. One legend has it that a god threw unwanted trees down from the heavens and they landed head-first.

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 take a couple of photos, scribble down some background notes and I'll put it all together for the newsletter.

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