



# Woodbits Newsletter

## Issue 150

November 2018

## Welcome

### Next Club Chairman

Tony Taylor has made it very clear that this will be his last year as Chairman. His main tasks are to chair 3 committee meetings each year and host most monthly meetings. Everything else the Chairman may do is at his or her personal initiative. The last 2 chairmen have had to migrate to Devon and Kent to escape. Let's not leave it till the 2019 AGM to hope a chairman miraculously emerges from the floor!



### 2018 Competition Subjects

Nov	Candle holder
Dec	Christmas Decoration

### Volunteers Required

We all know that feeling when we go somewhere for the first time. Sometimes we might be with an existing member, which is great, because they can show us where everything is. However, sometimes we just decide to go along and see what it's like. In these instances, we need a few members who can be available to guide such visitors through the evening. Volunteers to Peter Hoare please.

### Gentle reminder from the Treasurer

As you are probably aware, the annual subscription will shortly be due. Please see the bottom of the newsletter for more details.

### Events the Club will be attending

- Frogmore Mill on Dec. 2nd.

### Also in this Issue

- Pictures from the October meeting.
- Article: Richard Findley all day demo.
- Turner of the month.
- 2018 /19 Programme
- For Sale

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# Pictures from the October Meeting



Many of our demonstrations are concerned with the techniques of turning, but on this occasion we were shown how artistic decoration could transform our work to something quite exceptionally attractive. The techniques involved were pyrography combined with colouring.

Tic started by explaining that you do not have to be a skilled draughtsman to use pyrography, but we suspect that it helps. Ideally we should start with a fine grained wood without defects and the surface should be simply sanded to about 320 grit, avoiding finger marks. Various pyrography tools are available, ranging from a simple soldering iron type to those with a heat controlled nichrome loop. The latter is preferable as one can make a range of tips simply from nichrome wire or buy preformed tips. The former type can be fitted with "branding" tips of many different forms.

It was particularly interesting to see how to transfer an image to the wood. The outline was first traced then the reverse side of the tracing paper rubbed lightly with artists' charcoal. This side was then applied to the wood and the tracing repeated. To fit on curved surfaces, cuts were made in the tracing paper. The pyrography pen was held by both forefingers and thumbs with the little fingers resting on the work to steady the hands. Small repeated strokes with a light touch were most effective, with heat just below red. Tic showed us many different ways of achieving shaded effects. To make the larger scale pieces must demand much time and patience. However, it was clear that more simple, but attractive designs could be achieved quite quickly.

The final stage of decoration was to in-fill the areas with colour. This was done using dry water colour pencils followed by carefully brushing with water. The pyrographed lines must be unbroken to prevent leakage of colour. Completed work was generally sprayed with lacquer.

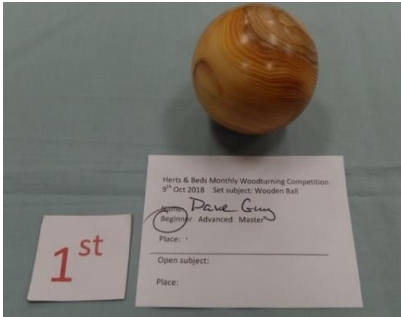
Tic had a display of her work, which was truly inspirational. Many of us will have been inspired to try her methods, which she had presented with such enthusiasm.

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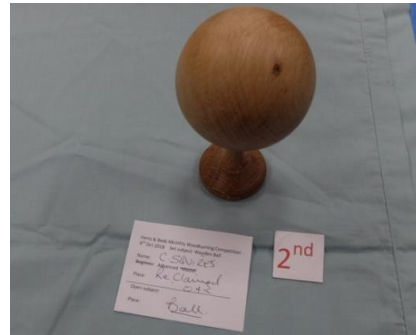
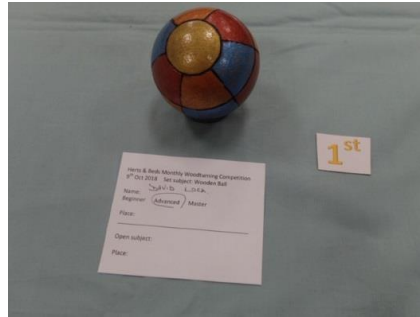
# Turner of the Month

The winners this month were: Dave Guy (beginners), David Lock (Advanced), Peter Hoare (Masters), and Chris Bentley (Open). Well done to everyone who entered!

## Beginners

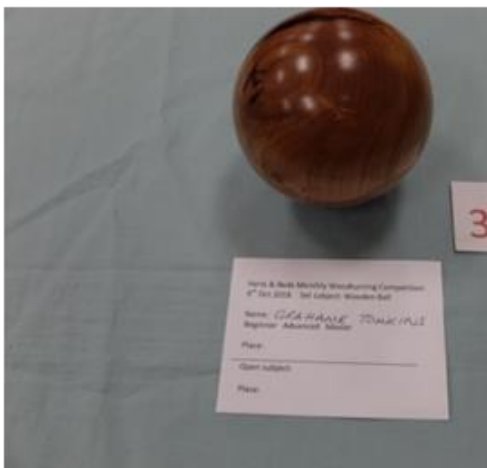
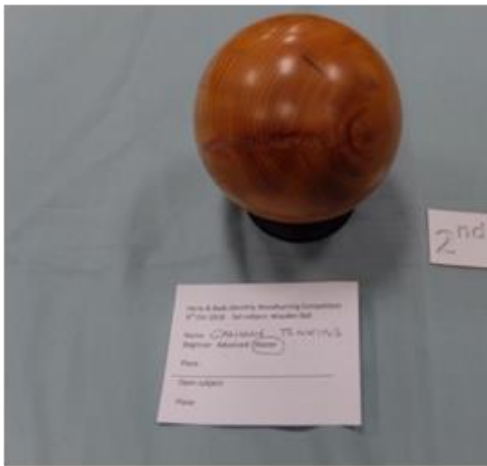


## Advanced



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# Masters



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# Herts & Beds Woodturners - Committee Meeting 6th November 2018-10-31

## Chairman's Report

Members of the club have taken part in several craft events since our last meeting. In June there was the Art on the Common show at Harpenden with a display organised by Adrian Peter. Next in October came our regular appearance at Box Moor Festival. Happily, the Saturday on which we attended was fine, and three of us demonstrated and made some sales. The following weekend was the "Apple Festival" at Ayletts Garden Centre. This is a very well organised and attended event and our demonstrations and display attracted a lot of attention. This is a particularly good venue for sales. Also in October was the AWGB Seminar held at Yarnfield Park in Staffordshire. Several members were present and we contributed to the instant gallery. The event was very well organised and there were excellent demonstrations. The one event which remains for this year will be the Frogmore Craft Fair on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I have also had a stand on two occasions at Thame Town Hall. These monthly events, organised by Mynt Image, are very good opportunities for sales. I have also attended the open days at Axminster in High Wycombe and at Toolpost in Didcot. These are both free events with very good demonstrations and of course opportunities to spend some money.

We have now been using the new overhead camera and large TV screen for several meetings and for the all-day demo. It certainly gives a very clear image. The chief problem is that the stand is not quite high enough to give everyone a clear view. We are working on this.

Generally, the club has had excellent demonstrations and competition entries have been increasing and of good quality. Also, efforts have been made to recruit new members and to provide training sessions. The areas in which we might make further progress are in organising new events and collaborating with other clubs.

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# Richard Findley all day demo Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October

by A. Taylor

All was set up and Richard Findley was ready to start by 9.45 at the Northall Village Hall. Richard explained that he had started in joinery with his father on leaving school and gradually moved into woodturning, making this his full-time work and setting up "The Turner's Workshop" in 2006. He was recognized as a professional turner in 2010 and works on all sorts of commissions. These predominantly involve spindle turning, though he has been progressively broadening his scope. Many of us know him through his numerous attractive articles in Woodturning Magazine, especially his series - Diary of a Professional Turner. Today he started with making a round-bottomed bowl from a seasoned Ash blank about 4 inches thick and 6 inches diameter.

The blank was mounted on a screw chuck and trued up with a bowl gouge. Richard mostly uses a half inch gouge with modestly swept back grind. He sharpens on a nominal 8 inch white wheel without a jig, but just using a rest set to about 60 degrees. This angle he finds has the widest use and only needs supplementing with a 70 degree grind for the bottom of a deep bowl. The relative merits of a tenon or a mortice were discussed and Richard usually opts for a tenon, because this leaves one free to shape the bottom of the bowl more completely. If



Figure1: Richard at work.

the tenon is properly formed of a diameter to match the chuck jaws and with the correct dovetail, it only need be some 4 mm deep. A dimple was made at the centre of the tenon, for use in reverse mounting later. The outside was shaped with a pull cut followed by shear scraping with the lower edge of the bowl gouge. If there are any traces of torn grain these can be eliminated by applying sanding sealer and then repeating a very light shear scrape. The outside was then power sanded from 120 through 320 grit, being careful to wipe out traces of each grit before going on to the next.

With the work reversed and mounted in the four jaw chuck the face was trued up in preparation for hollowing. To make a start it is helpful to define the wall thickness by making a cut with a parting tool or with a skew used as a scraper. Hollowing then proceeded step by step to bring the wall thickness to about 6 mm. A little more weight can be left at the bottom to give stability. Richard was very much in favour of using a caliper of the type made by Simon Hope to check the thickness. Most of the hollowing was done with the half inch 60 degree gouge, but the 70 degree tool was much better for working across the bottom. The best cut is obtained by keeping the handle low. The inside was finished by power sanding, carefully wiping out between grits. A final buffing with kitchen paper is useful to reveal any surface defects.

To finish rounding the underside of the bowl it was mounted with the rim pressed against an MDF disc by a revolving centre in the previously marked dimple. It was then possible to continue the bowl's curve into the bottom leaving only a small peg. This was then cut off and the final traces removed by hand sanding.

After lunch the second project was a small lidded box with a decorative pewter inlay in the lid. A piece of end grain Iroko about 2.5 inches square and 4 inches long was used and a box formed in the usual way. The additional feature was to cut a shallow mortice in the lid to receive the pewter inlay. To prepare the inlay a wooden mold was cut from a piece of dry wood so that when it was filled with pewter a disc was formed with a stem for mounting in the chuck. Richard explained that lead-free pewter must be used. Since the melting point is quite low it can be melted in an ordinary pan over a camping gas ring. It is wise to wear a face mask and gloves. The casting takes some hours to fully cool so work continued on one prepared earlier. This was mounted in a chuck and carefully turned and thinned to exactly fit the mortice in the lid. To get a mirror finish, the disc was first sanded to 600 grit then burnished with burnishing cream and finally buffed. It could then be parted off and glued into the lid with cyanoacrylate or epoxy. The result was a very neat box with that extra feature to make it attractive.

Richard's demonstrations were very well prepared and presented and much appreciated by the club members. We were all left with new ideas and stimulated to go and try them out. Sincere thanks were expressed to Grahame Tomkins for his dedicated work in setting up the event.

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# 2018/19 Programme

Nov 2018	Stuart King
Dec 2018	Xmas Social
Jan 2019	Gary Rance
Feb 2019	Paul Howard
Mar 2019	Emma Cook
Apr 2019	AGM
May 2019	Steve Giles
Jun 2019	Club Night
Jul 2019	Mark Sanger
Aug 2019	Les Thorne
Sep 2019	Club Night
Oct 2019	Carlyn Lindsay
Nov 2019	Andy Coates
Dec 2019	Xmas meeting

## Loan Equipment

There is one of the smaller club lathes available for loan with a set of tools and chuck for anyone who is not yet set up but wants to turn while sorting out their equipment. Please contact Bruce Edhouse or Alan Lewis if interested:



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# Annual Subscription 2019

As you are probably aware, your annual subscription will shortly be due. There are two elements; firstly the club subscription of £16.00 and secondly the AWGB membership, which is £18.00.

If you would like to continue as a member, will you please pay by one of the following methods: electronic bank transfer (preferred, see below) or by cheque (next preferred, see below) or cash, for either **£16.00** (if you pay your AWGB membership some other way, e.g. via another club or direct to the AWGB) or the full **£34.00** at either the November or December meeting (December is the membership year-end) or at least by the January meeting. If you are unable to attend either the November, December or January meetings and wish to send me a cheque by post, please let me know (please see e-mail address at the bottom of this News Letter) and I will supply the address.

#### Electronic Bank Transfer:

Sort Code: 30-92-77 Account Number: 01458241 Account Name: Herts & Beds Woodturners

PLEASE ensure you put your name on the transfer, when you set up the payment details. Described something like "Your reference" (otherwise I won't know who is paying!). An e-mail to me would also help a lot.

#### Cheques:

Please make cheques payable to "**Herts & Beds Woodturners**".

If you renew your AWGB membership via the Club, please make sure you collect your 2019 card.

If, for some reason, you do not intend to renew your club membership, will you please let Peter know by email:

[treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.org](mailto:treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.org)

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