

DECEMBER 2022

Wednesday 4th Jan 23:- Members night.

Monday 6th Feb 23:- Stuart Farini

Monday 6th Mar 23 - Martin Saban Smith

DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting was the usual combination of both the HWA's Christmas Quiz and the Christmas Competition.

This year's Christmas Challenge was to make something "Christmassy that moves" so it was almost a blank canvass for us to create something seasonal for the competition table, unfortunately there were only six entries this year which was a bit disappointing.

You can see the entries at the end of the newsletter.

For the December meeting there were a total 26 members which was a fairly good turn-out. We appreciate that this is a busy time of year for members, but it will always be better if more could attend and share the enjoyment of the evening and join in the fun, merriment, and have some great food.

The Christmas raffle was hosted by **Richard Bray** and his glamorous assistant **Mario Demontis**, who both successfully extorted monies from us in exchange for tickets in the raffle.

The evening's entertainment was again hosted by Chairman **Pete Broadbent** who started off the proceedings with the quiz, which consisted of eight subjects, each of which had ten questions that were chosen by the members.

At the half time break we stopped to feast on the rather splendid spread of food that had been prepared by Pete, his wife **Helen**, daughter **Laura**, and son-in-law **Aaron**, what a fine spread it was. A huge thank you to them all.

We also had the opportunity to check on the competition entries and to cast our three votes for our choices of First, Second and Third prizes, and have another chance to exchange more money with **Richard** and **Mario** for raffle tickets, in the hope of winning one of the large selection of prizes.

The second half of the evening saw us being tested with the last of the quiz questions, and being force-fed the last of the food, followed by the raffle.

I think that its very fair to say that the evening was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone that attended.

The Christmas Challenge and HWA quiz night was a fitting finale to what has been a very good and interesting year at the club.

We have had some very good demo's by professional turners, and also some of our own very talented members.

Our heartfelt thanks to you all, and to all the committee members who give up their time and efforts to ensure that the HWA continues to be the success that it deserves to be.

We wish a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year to one and all.

YOUTUBE CHANNELS

A reminder that both **Tom James** and **Steve Howell** have both got **YouTube** channels that showcase their woodturning, give hints and tips and demonstrations on different woodturning methods. Please take a look and subscribe to their channels.

Tom James: [The Welsh Woodman](#)

Steve Howell: [The Hampshire Woodturner](#)

TERRY'S TOP TIPS

*This is where we give you extracts from Terry Smart's really useful **Chestnut Products** weekly newsletter. You can explore their range of supplies and sign up for the complete weekly newsletters here. www.chestnutproducts.co.uk*

Quite a lot of our customers, it seems, make wooden jewellery of one type or another: pendants, rings, that sort of stuff. We get asked which finish can be used on them. Various criteria are mentioned but being acceptable for skin contact is one that comes up a lot, as is the ability to resist sweat and the like - in general, the finish needs to be hard-wearing and water-resistant.

Most finishes should be safe for skin contact once dry, unless the wearer has some particular sensitivity to certain compounds. There's no test that we know of that would declare the finish as hypoallergenic, but we figure that if a product is tested as 'toy-safe' then it should be fine for skin contact. As a rule, we suggest our Acrylic Gloss Lacquer for this sort of use; it's toy-safe, dries to a solid film, and is very hard wearing, making it able to stand up to a lot of abuse. I'm sure there are some exceptions, where it wouldn't be suitable, but we haven't heard of any yet.

Another question recently was about finishing veneer. Normally, the veneer is glued to a board, and pretty much any finish can be used - it's still wood. But in this case, the veneer was being used as wings on angels, so I imagined that some flexibility would be needed. Sadly, the wings wouldn't flap, but they might still move slightly, so a stiff lacquer wouldn't be a good choice as it could crack. An oil or a wax would be a good choice here, as both have a lot of give in them and would move with the veneer. Of the two, I think that a wax would be best as this offers the greater degree of flexibility and will stay in place even better than the oil, in this situation.

In normal use it takes a lot to crack a lacquer, they are very hard-wearing, but sometimes this can be a disadvantage, and a more flexible coating is better.

Maintenance is another topic that comes up from time to time, and I think I've covered it in previous Newsletters. It still bears another visit though...

In most cases, the question relates to what to advise a customer who has purchased a wooden item. The best maintenance is to look after the item well enough that it doesn't need any extra work, but this isn't always possible.

Often, a buff with a soft cloth is enough to revive a slightly tired looking finish. If that doesn't do the job, the easiest and safest advice is to apply a good quality wax - by which I mean a paste wax such as WoodWax 22, not a silicon-loaded aerosol wax. There will be no compatibility problems, it's quick, and it's easy.

If an oil has been used, and there is opportunity, more of the same oil can be applied after a quick clean of the surface, to freshen up the piece. We'd always recommend using the same oil, as sometimes mixing them doesn't work. If in doubt about which oil was first used, go with the wax option.

Looking through my list of potential questions to feature in the Newsletter, I came across one from a while ago, asking how Cellulose Sanding Sealer can be used to make turning a piece of spalted beech easier.

Cellulose Sanding Sealer (or Melamine Lacquer) can be used as a wood hardener to bind the timber together, binding all the loose material together to make it more solid. This will allow it to cut better, giving a better finish off the chisel. For best results, thin the sealer up to 50% to allow it to soak in better. This is about the only time I suggest thinning the sealer.

Of course, this isn't fool proof, so proper precautions should still be taken in case the wood comes apart whilst the lathe is running.

Food Safe Finish continues to be a source of questions. We heard from someone today making lap-trays, trying to determine if it was safe to use on them. We feel the point is a little moot; we wouldn't consider the Food Safe Finish suitable for this application, as it wouldn't be hard-wearing enough. And we'd also question the need for the finish to be food safe. We'd expect anyone using the tray would be using it as a personal table and would still be using a plate or other form of crockery on it, rather than eating directly off the tray. In which case, either Melamine Lacquer or Hard Wax Oil would be a good choice for a finish.

A slightly strange question to end with this week, which sort of follows on from the item in the last Newsletter about maintenance. We were asked for the best way to clean some adhesive tape residue from a surface coated with Melamine Lacquer. Would Cellulose Thinners be suitable? It would probably remove the adhesive, but it would also attack the lacquer, as it is the solvent for it. Very often, the solvent for a finish will affect it even after it is dry, so it's best not to apply it to the surface (unless you want to remove it, of course!).

I suggested either white spirit, which should clean the sticky stuff away without attacking the lacquer, or, and here's a strange thing, our Lemon Oil is great at removing adhesive. I'm

not quite sure what it is in it that does the job, and I only discovered it when I spilt some on a labelled tin, but it certainly makes short work of it! Use it sparingly, just in case it attacks the finish, but it should be fine!

One of our regulars asked this week about using Burnishing Cream on a buffing wheel. He liked the effect of the cream, but it would be difficult to use it on the pieces being made. We wouldn't recommend using the Burnishing Cream with a wheel; the cream could be flicked around a bit when wet, but then dry off and not work properly. Using the Buffing Wheels in the way we suggest, with the compounds and waxes, would be a better option.

It did occur to me that it might be possible to apply the cream to the piece, let it dry, and then buff/burnish it, but some experimentation would be needed.

Another question this week asked about using 0000 Steel Wool to dull a lacquer. I've mentioned this before, and it's quite acceptable to use an abrasive to alter the gloss level of a finish. Obviously, make sure the finish is totally dry/hard before attempting this. But an extra thing to be aware of is that if the abrasive is too fine - and 0000 Steel Wool just might be - it can burnish the finish and make it even brighter! So, some experimentation might be called for, always bearing in mind that it's easier to make a glossy finish dull than it is to reverse the process. (Burnishing Cream can help reverse it but depending on the item it can be hard work!).

I think I've said before that I'm always happy to receive comments and feedback about the Newsletter, and I'm always surprised by what gets the most reaction. I mentioned last week that Lemon Oil is good at removing adhesive, either unwanted residue or just simply 'unsticking' stuff. I had a number of interesting emails about this, thank you. Whilst it's not actually a new question, I'm including the extra information as a sort of addendum to last week's Newsletter. One of the emails mentioned (and recommended) a product called 151 Sticker Removal. Good old WD40 was also mentioned as another way of removing sticky residue. So, if you find yourself needing to do this, these products have the Chestnuteer seal of approval! (09/12)



Dave Simpson (Editor)

Photos by Pete Broadbent

Christmas Challenge Gallery

