

MAY 2023

Monday 5th June: Turn-in night

Monday 3rd July: Tom James

Monday 7th August: Turn-in night/Fruit in Bowl Competition

The May meeting was a very interesting and informative demo by **Terry Smart** of **Chestnut Products** who came to give us all a first-hand insight into the woodturning and finishing products that he has created to assist both the professional and amateur woodturners.

The meeting was attended by 22 members with another 3 new members joining, giving a total of 25 in total, which is a good attendance for the time of year.

HWA SUBSCRIPTIONS

Most members have already paid their annual subscriptions, but for those who may have forgotten to pay, here is a gentle reminder to please pay your membership fees to the Hampshire Woodturners Association.

*The easiest way is via Bank Transfer to the bank details shown below, or by cash to **Keith Barnes** at the next meeting. The club subscription costs remains the same as in previous years at £30. As such, we would be grateful if you would pay your subscription as soon as possible, the preferred method is '**Bank Transfer**' to the Bank details are below:*

Bank: HSBC UK

Sort Code: 40-42-18

Account number: 24026462

Account Name: Hampshire Woodturners Association

Please ensure you put a reference to your name in the transfer so that we know who it is from.

On receipt of your membership monies, you will be handed a Membership card which will not only prove that you are a paid-up member but will also entitle you to 5% off at Axminster Tools and other offers.

Please can members pay their subs promptly to help reduce the amount of 'chasing up' that is required. Thanks in advance.

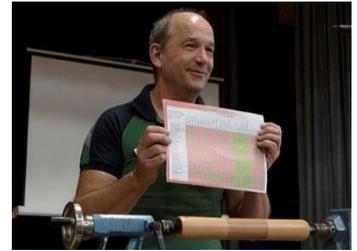
TERRY'S DEMO

Terry started his demo by introducing himself and giving a brief resume of his working life and his involvement with one of the biggest names in the 'Coatings Industry', during which time he saw a need to make quality finishing products available to the serious amateur.

Now, over 25 years later Terry and his Chestnut Products hold the enviable position of being a major supplier to both the hobby and professional woodworkers in the UK, Europe and Worldwide.

Terry's advice to the woodworker / woodturner before starting a task is to think about whether the finished product needs to be Water Resistant, Child Safe. Food Safe, Glossy, Matt, Satin, Coloured or Hard Wearing, as this will dictate the type of product you will need to select in order to complete the piece.

In order to ensure that the Chestnut products you intend to use are compatible with each other Terry has produced his 'Compatibility Chart', which not only shows which products are available, but also in which order to use them for best results.



Copy and paste this link to see the compatibility Chart.

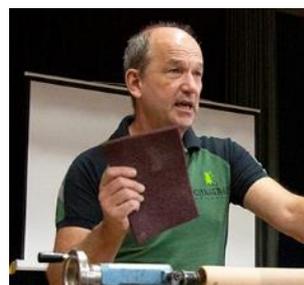
<https://chestnutproducts.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chestnut-Products-Compatibility-Chart-Coloured.pdf>

All of the Chestnut Products will work on all types of timber, but Oily timbers will need an oil-based finish, and Exotic woods will always need extra care in choosing the right finish.

Terry also produces **ABRANET** Abrasive pads in a variety of grits. These are long lasting and non-cloggy. They can be used multiple times and can be "cleaned" by blowing or knocking out the dust that has been collected between the mesh. 80 grit can be used on workpieces with the lathe stopped and by rubbing the pad with the grain to remove any peaks or troughs on the work, the smaller grits are best used with the lathe running at medium speed.



NYWEB PADS are also 'long lasting' and non-cloggy. They come in a variety of colours to denote the grit that they replicate, Green = 400 grit, Red = 600 grit, Orange = 1000 grit, and White is for fine burnishing. Their correct colour sequencing can best be remembered by the acronym GROW.





Both the Abranet and the Nyweb pads are best used on the lower surface of the workpiece, so that your hand does not obstruct your view.

When using Chestnut Products

STAINS Terry suggests that its best to stop at 320 grit, if you are wanting a clear finish, he suggests that you stop at 1000



grit, but then remove as much of the sanding dust with a Chestnut **TAC CLOTH**. This is a cloth that has been impregnated with a resin that will 'pick up' the remaining dust from the surface and

therefore allow a much smoother and cleaner finish. After use the cloth should be placed in an 'airtight container' (such as a jam jar) to keep it fresh, this will ensure that the TAC CLOTH will be useable for several months. *Only use the TAC CLOTH after the last sanding, to remove all traces of dust.*

No matter how thorough you are there will always be peaks and troughs on the woodwork due to the structure of the timber,

so the wood will need sealing with a Sander Sealer. Chestnut **SANDER SEALER** is quick drying and is fully compatible with all other Chestnut products. The sealer forms a coating prior to using your chosen product for finishing. Remember to give the tin a good shake to fully mix all the ingredients, it can then be applied with a brush, a cloth, or a spray. If you are using a cloth to spread the Sander Sealer, Terry advises that it's best to use a Lint-free cloth such as Chestnut's



SAFETY CLOTH, as this stays 'wetter' far longer than other products such as kitchen roll.

Terry's top tip with regard to Sander Sealer is 'Always wipe the neck of the tin' or else the lid will stick, and it will be very difficult to remove it the next time you need to use it.



If you feel the wood after you have used the sander sealer, it will feel slightly rough, this is NOT due to the grain being raised, it is the Sanding 'agent' of the sealer sitting proud on the surface. This is removed by a gentle re-sanding of the piece using the last grit that you used OR use a Burnishing Cream.

When using Chestnut's **BURNISHING CREAM**, give the tin a good shake, it should come out as a dark pink creamy colour, then put a bit on to a Safety Cloth and rub it in. The cream is temperature dependant, so on cold days it will take longer to absorb. Using extra coats of Burnishing Cream will increase the gloss and the smoothness of the finish.



It will also take a **SATIN** finish of the **EBONISING LACQUER** up to a gloss finish.

Chestnut also produce a **SPRAY CAN GUN**. This

is basically a handle with a trigger and a clip that grips the neck of any of the spray cans that Chestnut sell. The gun offers the user much better control when using spray cans, and much more accurate spraying.



RAINBOW WAXES are available in ten different colours, all of which are slightly metallic, and are lightly applied on top of the Burnishing Cream and removed on the rotating lathe to rub them in. They can be 'thinned' or 'removed' by using Air brush cleaner.

Terry then went on to mention his **WoodWax 22**, this is a blend



of Bees wax and Carnauba wax, which is best used in solid form rather than hot or runny. It is used by rubbing it onto the piece until it begins to offer resistance, then turn

on the lathe and by using 'firm contact' rub with a safety cloth, remembering that Woodwax 22 is quick drying. Terry says that up to three coats can be used, anymore and the surface will become softer and will be not so hard-wearing.

Microcrystalline Wax is a slightly slower drying wax finish, with a higher melting point, this is best used sparingly (less is more) and leave for 5-10 minutes before buffing off.



Terry then brought up a Pen mandrel, the piece was prepped with the Abranet up to 120 grit, then wiped with the Tac Cloth to remove the dust and used Sander Sealer. When dry Terry smoothed it with Orange NYWEB and burnished it with the White Nyweb to bring up the shine of the Sander sealer, he

then applied Melamine Lacquer, then buffed it again with Orange Nyweb and a final burnishing with White Nyweb.

Terry stated that you only need to apply ONE coat of Sanding Sealer, and you DO NOT THIN IT DOWN.

Terry again stipulated that there is generally no reason to thin the Sander Sealer down, as this reduces its effectiveness.

One of the few occasions where it is recommended to thin it down is to help 'stabilise' Spalted type wood, where the grain has started to crumble. In this instance a 10% solution diluted with Cellulose thinners is advisable.

Chestnut Product's **FRICTION POLISH** is in liquid form and the bottle requires a good shake before use. It is a quick drying cream, so its use is not recommended on work pieces over 6 inches in diameter. It is Shellack based liquid, so you need to rub it quickly to allow the Shellack to work. The Friction Polish has an advertised shelf life of one year, but it should last much longer.

All Oils (irrespective as to who produces them) also have a similar advertised shelf life (they tend to thicken or go 'jelly-like' with age and the workshop



temperature variations) but the shelf-life can be extended by using Chestnut's **AIR PURGE SYSTEM**, this is a spray can containing air and other components, making it heavier than air, that is sprayed onto the surface of the oils and creams before the lids are replaced. The spray replaces the natural air and creates a layer that retards the drying effect. The photo depicts Terry showing two jars of oil of similar age, the one treated with the AIR PURGE SYSTEM is still 'as new' whereas the other one is much thicker and probably unusable.

The **BUFFING WHEEL SET** is designed to work between 1100-1500rpm. It comprises of three 6-inch wheels in A.B and C grades, firmly held on a central spindle. It is ideal for buffing small items, and after loading the wheels with different compounds or wax, allows you to move from one wheel to the next in quick succession.



Chestnut Products also has a very good **YouTube** channel where all of the products are available to view for you to get the best from the excellent tips and advice.

Hampshire Woodturners Association thank Terry for a very interesting and informative demonstration of his products and wish him and his company all the best.

Many thanks to Chairman **Pete Broadbent** for the usual excellent selection of photographs.

SHOLING FAYRE

This year, Richard Bray, Mike Haselden, Mario Demontis and Greg Long attended the Sholing Fayre on 13 May 23. This was a great opportunity to expose the public to woodturning skills and to the HWA club, and of course, to selling a few turned items. The Chairman, and family, appeared like last year, to heckle the turners! It was also an opportunity to 'try' the new club flyer and see if it persuades others to join the club. Thanks to all for their efforts on the day!



AXMINTER BASINGSTOKE CLOSING

At the recent committee meeting it was announced that the Axminster store at Basingstoke will be closing down, due to spiralling costs, on 21 June. They are having a closing down sale, with 20% off in-stock items, but only in-store.

Dave Simpson

YOUTUBE CHANNELS

A reminder that **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

We get a number of questions about our End Seal - that's the emulsified paraffin wax we supply to seal the ends of timber to slow the drying process, thus (mostly) preventing it from cracking.

We were asked this week about the coverage rate for it, which is not an easy question to answer. The nature of the product, and the way it's used, makes it impossible to give a totally accurate answer, but we'd reckon somewhere in the region of 3-4 square metres per litre, per coat. A couple of coats are usually recommended.

We've also been asked if the dried film is water-resistant, and it is, so if the timber is stored outside and the ends get wet, it won't wash off.

Another question asked how to tell which oil had been used on a piece. Our correspondent wanted to refinish an item but couldn't remember which oil he'd originally used on it. Sadly, there's no easy answer to this one. We don't recommend mixing oils on a piece, but chances are if the original coats were applied a long time ago, they will be completely cured, and it shouldn't matter if a different oil is used. As always, a test area is recommended, perhaps on an item that could be sacrificed (or at least cut back and refinished if needed).

The safest bet is to use a wax, this will almost certainly work, but if it has to be an oil, it's best to be a little cautious.

The last question I'm including this week is a bit cheeky, but hopefully it'll still be useful, especially to any new readers out there. We were asked some questions about how to use the Buffing Wheel Kit, from someone thinking about buying one. That's tough to answer if you don't have a kit to hand, as it's sometimes hard to visualise a written description. Fortunately, there's an easy answer to this, as we have a video on our

YouTube channel about it. It's part of our Finishing School series, which, if you haven't already seen them, is worth having a look at. Probably not all in one go, though.

Another question about spraying our products - how much should they be thinned down to allow them to be sprayed through an air gun? The answer here depends on which product. The Spirit Stain is thin enough to spray straight from the bottle, no thinners are required unless you want to alter the colour.

Most of the other products, though, such as sealers and lacquers, will require the addition of about 10% thinners to allow them to be applied by spray. The type of spraying system, and cap and nozzle size, can have an effect as well, but in most cases 10% should be enough, and will certainly be a good place to start.

Someone queried whether our Spirit Stain contains shellac - one website says that it does. This used to be the case, the shellac acted as a binder to keep the pigment held in solution. Different methods mean that this is no longer necessary, as the product has evolved in the last forty years; sometimes to improve the product, or to try to maintain the price level, or, more often than not, because a certain raw material has been discontinued, and a suitable replacement has had to be found. Most of the changes have been minimal, though, and we're confident that the products are still as good as they've ever been!

Finally, for this week... some time ago I mentioned strange uses for our products, which prompted regular correspondent Rowland P to get in touch with his experience...

A small workshop accident required a plaster to control the blood. By the end of the day, the plaster needed changing, but removing left behind the inevitable sticky residue. Scrubbing the area was likely to re-open the wound, so a fresh plaster was applied over the residue, and over the next couple of days this was repeated several times.

Rowland returned to the workshop and was applying our Microcrystalline Wax to a bowl. He says 'This was applied as usual with NyWeb orange pad. After about a minute the stubborn Elastoplast started to fall off leaving pristine fingers behind with hardly a trace of goo. Brilliant. If the NHS ever get to hear about this, just think what it will do to your sales figures! Chestnut Microcrystalline Wax is now an addition to my first aid kit!'

We hesitate to make any such claims or recommendations ourselves, but we know we certainly have one convert!

(Rowland added that his injury is coming along well now, which is good news)

I had an email during the week with the subject line 'Disaster!', so I knew it wasn't going to be good! It was a regular reader, who had applied our Acrylic Gloss Lacquer over a painted design. All was well, a second coat was applied, but between coats the piece had been moved outside...and a piece of the newspaper protecting the spraying platform was blown onto the wet lacquer by the wind! To make it worse, the lacquer had dried with the paper still stuck to it. What could be done to save the piece, without damaging the painted design beneath the lacquer??

My suggestion was to use a very fine abrasive, wetted with water for extra lubrication, and gently sand the area back. Hopefully, this would remove the unwanted paper without cutting through the lacquer, thus avoiding damage to the paintwork. This was done, and it did the trick. The piece was saved, and we had a happy customer!

Whilst it's always useful to have a Plan B, the A Plan should always be to avoid the possibility of something like this happening. If possible, always protect your drying work from dust, flies, errant newspaper, and any other contaminants determined to spoil your work!

Another email this week asked for my opinion on something often heard on YouTube, as well as other places. Are all finishes really food safe once they have dried/cured? Frankly, my opinion on that probably isn't printable, but suffice to say I think it's misleading, unhelpful, and potentially dangerous.

It would be great if it truly were the case, but it isn't. The argument is that once the solvents have evaporated, there's nothing left that can be harmful. But this shows a lack of understanding of the materials used in making finishes, and also how they might be affected by the oils and acids in foodstuffs.

The best way I can think of to dispel this myth is this: we test many of our products to the EN71-3 regulations for toys, to ensure that the dried film doesn't contain anything that could injure a child if licked or chewed etc. Seventeen different elements (all of which could be used in coatings), are tested for. (A full list is here if you're curious).

If all coatings were food safe, there would be no need for this test, or for nursery paints and associated items. After all, if it was safe for food contact, how could it be dangerous for a

child? Many coatings are toy safe, but many more aren't, simply because they don't need to be.

I believe that the existence of this test requirement can be used to prove that not all finishes are food safe once dried.

After two fairly in-depth - and lengthy - answers, here's a simpler one to finish off with. I was contacted by someone who had made a bird box. All was fine, until it developed a crack, which had been turned into a feature by adding a band of red-stained wood. The problem was, the existing wood had been coated with Finishing Oil, and the maker wanted to keep the vibrant red of the stain (Finishing Oil would darken it slightly). The best option for the red band was our Acrylic Gloss Lacquer, but this could cause problems if overspray went onto the oil. (In time, the lacquer could delaminate from the oil and start to look tatty). Simple solution? Masking tape! Make sure the oil is completely dry, and mask it off.

I've mentioned bird boxes before, saying that the RSPB advice was to leave them pretty much untreated, on the inside at least.



MAY GALLERY

