

DECEMBER 2023

Wednesday 3rd Jan. Turn-in (Plus Sharpening)

Monday 5th Feb. Anna-Marie Bennett

Monday 4th March. Martin Saban-Smith.

HWA FACEBOOK PAGE

Did you know we have a Facebook page '**Hampshire Woodturners Association**' and a members only fb group 'Hampshire Woodturners Association Members Area'. Follow the page and get event updates and interact with other members post items of interest, questions etc in the members group.

HWA MONTHLY RAFFLE

Thank you everyone that supports the raffle.

Our special thanks this month to **Prokrafts**, (Prokraft.co.uk). **English Woods** (Englishwoods.co.uk) and **Axminster** (Axminstertools.co.uk) and to our members who have donated project kits, blanks, and tools as club raffle prizes. These donations allow us to raise funds to support the clubs many activities.

Personal donations are always welcome blanks, unwanted tools etc can also be included as raffle prizes.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE AND QUIZ MEETING

The December meeting was the annual Christmas Club Challenge and our Quiz night get-together where HWA club members are invited, together with their friends and family to come to have a social gathering and bring along their woodturning creations and vote for their favourite item and get fed as well.

So, a huge thank you to all those club members who spent an extraordinary amount of time and effort producing and organising the Christmas quiz night. The evening went off very well and was attended by 27 members and 11 guests making the official total 38 attendees.

This year's competition was to produce two items exactly the same with a Christmas theme there was no specific limits other than the imagination of the members, and a good cross section of exhibits were produced.

The quiz was compèred by our Chairman Pete Broadbent, with questions prepared by members and the HWA committee.

There were several quiz themes that really tested the cranial abilities of the attendees, but the quiz was all good humoured and entertaining and sporting, with some light-hearted rivalry between neighbouring tables. Special thanks to the quiz master, score keeper and compère Pete Broadbent.

At half time there was a fantastic feast of festive fare organised by Team Broadbent (Helen and Laura), together with tea and coffee, and allowing time for the general gathering of attendees around the competition table with voting slips in hand, and money to buy the raffle tickets.

There were seven entries for the competition as can be seen below.

Many thanks to everyone that organised the event and to all of those that participated, it was a very good evening.

Many thanks as usual to **Pete Broadbent** for the photographs.

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 I encourage you sign up for his complete weekly newsletters here. www.chestnutproducts.co.uk

A question that came in this week asked if it was acceptable to apply Hard Wax Oil over a coat of Lemon Oil. Being oil-based, it was hoped that it would be fine. I'm not a huge fan of doing this; although it will probably be OK, not all oils are the same, and once they have dried, they can be fussy about what else sticks to them – even which other oils. So, where possible, it's best to avoid mixing them. In the case of Lemon Oil, it is very low build, so it's the least likely of them to cause a problem.

We were also asked about how to stop a water-based stain from bleeding when using a stencil – our correspondent describing the process as 'futile so far as the stain just follows the grain [which is] acting as tiny straws.'

A good solution here is to use our Spirit Stains; these are especially successful when applied with an airbrush or one of our Spray Diffusers, as the stain dries very quickly and doesn't have time to bleed across, which is what ruins the effect. At a push, the water-based stain could be applied on top of one of our sanding sealers, but this isn't ideal as it won't be able to soak into the wood and could be easily removed. A coat of a compatible aerosol lacquer over the top of it would help reduce this risk.

We're currently all systems go, getting ready for the Harrogate show next week! An extra attraction to look out for on our stand will be Nathanael Griffiths, who is doing so well in the Handmade TV show, who will be putting in a guest appearance as a demonstrator. I hope you'll come and say hello!

Let's deal with a few questions. First off, this week, we were asked if our Air Brush Cleaner will clean a gun after using a cellulose-based product – such as Cellulose Sanding Sealer or Melamine Lacquer. The answer here, sadly, is no. The cleaner is designed for use with acrylic based products, so we'd recommend cleaning the airbrush through with Cellulose Thinners, then giving it a quick flush through with the Air Brush Cleaner as this helps to look after the seals etc and keep them in good condition.

Have you been following Nathanael Griffiths on 'Handmade' on Channel 4? Some of the creations on the show aren't to our taste, but we've been constantly impressed with Nathanael's work, and how he just gets on with it, without any drama. This week's 'Big Build Challenge' was to create a sculpture. Nathanael choose to make a Snowdon Beetle, and we were excited to see our Rainbow Waxes used to recreate the colours on it. This led to a question from a viewer who works with leather, asking if the waxes could be used to colour that.

These questions are always awkward to answer, as it is beyond our knowledge or experience of the product. Sometimes we'll know that things won't work – they might not be flexible enough, or have enough adhesion, and that's simpler. But in a case like this, the best answer we can give is 'probably'! Based on what we know about the waxes, we reckon it'll work, but knowing next to nothing about leather, some testing is strongly recommended.

(Look out for Nathanael at Harrogate, he'll be demonstrating on our stand during the weekend!)

Finally, for this week, a quick question about our Metallic Paints. You might already know that we've taken the difficult decision to discontinue them. We were asked if we still have

stock of them? I hate having to drop products, it's very annoying when you get used to – and enjoy – using something, and it suddenly disappears. That's why we announced this decision well in advance, to allow our customers to stock up if they wanted (at half-price!) and to be aware not to start a large project using it!

We still have stock of most of the colours, although we've run out of Gold (and Copper and White are running low), so we're unable to produce the sample sets now.

That's everything for this week. I'll be heading down for breakfast soon, and hope that maybe I'll see you over the weekend.

By the way, I'm planning another online Twixmas this year, and will be giving details soon. I'm looking for volunteers who might like to create some questions, just six, to use in certain rounds. If you'd like to help out, please let me know.

Anyway, I've been asked a number of times how I got into this profession, and it came up a couple of times at the show as well. So, working on the assumption that at least some people are interested (and if not, you can close this now and there will be a normal Newsletter next week!) I thought I'd tell the story, as it seems like a good time to do so...

Strangely, I can trace the origins to a pub in Sevenoaks, in Kent. I was there with a friend from school during in the early 80s. The conversation turned to cars, and we were bemoaning the amount of time we spent keeping them in good condition – adjusting the tappets, setting the points, cleaning the carburettor – all the stuff you just can't do on modern cars. We decided that when we changed jobs, we'd go for one with a company car, and get our weekends back!

As it turned out, a year or so later I was looking for a new job and decided to try to get one with a car. I applied for several, including in car showrooms, as a service technician (something I had experience of) and as a trainee sales representative for a local paint manufacturer. I think the paint company were the only one to interview me, but I'm pleased they did.

As well as paints, they also produced waxes, lacquers, polishes etc – it's similar technology.

During my training, I spent a lot of time working on the wood finishing side of the business and found it fascinating. This included working alongside the chemists, quality control experts, and the technical support department, which I really enjoyed and provided me with the knowledge I still rely on to this day.

After about seven years with that company, I saw there was a need to make their products available to a wider audience, specifically hobby woodworkers. It wasn't a direction the company wanted to go in, so I decided to have a go at it myself.

Chestnut Products started with me driving around the south-east of England, swapping my company car for a mini metro van, and selling our products from the back of that.

Fast-forward thirty odd years, and we're still a small company, but now with a handful of (frankly, brilliant) employees, and we send our products around the world as well as to the UK.

I've tried to keep that brief, I didn't want to bore you, but as mentioned, enough people have asked me that I thought I'd answer it here.

I'd love to know how many people end up in the job they expected to be in when they left school. I certainly never expected to be doing this, but I'm pleased I got that interview all those years ago, I've enjoyed every minute of it.

(Sadly, I lost contact with my friend Richard, so I don't know if he got a job with a company car!).

Another question recently asked about our NyWeb pads; rattles with captive rings had been made, and a method of smoothing the inside of the rings was needed; can NyWeb be supplied in coarser grits?

We don't, but I have seen versions of NyWeb which are coarser, but they tend to lose their flexibility. That's not helpful, especially in this situation, as that is a lot of the reason for wanting to use them! My suggestion was the Net Abrasive or Cloth-backed Turners' Abrasive, cut into thin strips, which could be threaded through the rings and used to sand the insides. These are available in 80-400 grit options. (19-11)

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR GOUGES AND TOOLS IF YOU NEED THEM SHARPENING AT THE JANUARY MEETING

NOVEMBER GALLERY

