

JANUARY 2024

Monday 5th Feb. Anna-Marie Bennett

Monday 4th March. Stewart Furini

Monday 1st April. AGM and Talk (TBC).

HWA FACEBOOK PAGE

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

HWA MONTHLY RAFFLE

Thank you everyone that supports the HWA monthly 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, any wood blanks, unwanted tools etc can also be included as raffle prizes.

JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting was attended by 19 members and 1 guest, which is a fairly average amount of members attending the first meeting of the new year, especially as our normal first Monday of the month fell on the New Year Bank Holiday, so the meeting was moved to Wednesday, which is problematic to many members. Many thanks to those of you who could make it, it was great to see you all.

Wishing a Happy New Year to those of you who couldn't attend.

The January meeting was a Club Turn-in with two lathes and a special Tool Sharpening Station. The idea being that club members were invited to try their hand

at lathe work, be guided in the best and safest methods of using the necessary tools, and also to be shown some of the various tool sharpening jigs that are commercially available and to have their tools sharpened if they remembered to bring them in.

The lathes were supervised by **Richard Bray** and **Mike Haselden**, with the Tool Sharpening Station manned by **Phil Hewitt**.

LATHE 1 .

Lathe 1 was ably supervised by **Richard Bray** who was going to demonstrate how to make a Cherry Bowl by using a pre-prepared Cherry blank.

Richard's blank was originally turned some time ago whilst it was still wet and had been stored in its semi-prepared state until the demonstration. During its natural drying process, it had shrunk and slightly distorted its general shape and at the spigot.



Richard's first task was to attach the blank to the lathe by using live centres, so that he could re-turn the distorted spigot to round and flatten the face so that it could safely fit into the chuck. When this was done, he removed the blank from the drive centres and attached it to the chuck on the lathe then for reasons of safety Richard engaged the tail stock and started to turn away the irregular edge of the distorted blank to form the bottom shape of the bowl, and the base. Great care must be taken when turning an irregular or unbalanced piece of stock, as there is a strong likelihood that it will vibrate and spin out of control, so always check that there is enough clearance for the tool rest, and also remember to start the lathe at a slow speed so that you can gradually turn away the uneven lumps. He then created the spigot so that he could easily turn the blank on the

chuck when he could work the other end when he was ready.



When Richard was happy with the shape of the bowl, he finished up by using a gouge with a very sharp bevel edge and making a fine

'finishing' cut to take any ridges out and leave it really smooth, ready for sanding, starting at 180 grit then up to 240 up to 300 grit.

Now that the spigot has been turned to true and its face has been flattened, it can safely be attached to the chuck and Richard could then create the inside of the bowl. Richard's intention was to hollow out the bowl and to mirror as closely as possible the same shape that he had just crested for the outside of the bowl. This creates symmetry and ensures that the finished work is pleasing to the eye. To do this he first made a small cut with his parting gouge close to the outside edge, this method "protects" the extreme outside edge from any tool slip by creating a 'trench' that will stop any accidental tool slippage, he then rough turned away the stock from the inside of the bowl.

Richard continued to rough turn away stock, ensuring that the inside shape still closely mirrored the already completed outside bowl shape. He did this by using both 'push' and 'pull' cuts with his gouge until he was happy with both the internal shape, and the depth of the bowl.



When he and several other members had had a go at shaping the bowl and were happy with the internal

shape, they re-checked to confirm that it was hollowed out to the correct depth. Richard selected his negative rake scraper then gently and carefully used it to completely smooth out the inside of the bowl and removed the 'pip' from the centre. Richard explained that by using the scraper as his final tool he reduces the amount of sanding that will otherwise be

needed to remove any unsightly tool marks or bumps, and it gives the bowl a lovely smooth finish.

He then demonstrated the use of his power sander on his bowl to show how it is used, and to give the bowl its final finishing touch and removed the bowl from the chuck, then inserted it into a set of 'button jaws' so that he could access the base and finish it to his satisfaction.

Throughout Richard's demonstration he was continually giving advice, hints, and tips to his audience. and he was also encouraging them to come up and try their hand at turning whilst under his expert tuition.

At the end of his demonstration Richard gave the less-experienced turners two blanks each, on the proviso that they tried their hand at turning a similar bowl from each one, and then bring them into the next club meeting so that he could see how they got on. This gives him the opportunity to not only gauge their woodturning progress, but also allow himself the opportunity to offer friendly constructive advice or alternative methods of turning.

After this demonstration Richard demonstrated how to make an apple.

LATHE 2 .

Lathe 2 was ably supervised by **Mike Haselden** who demonstrated how to make a small box with a finial out of a piece of Laburnum branch.

Mike wanted to create a box that was very pleasing to look at, and he wanted the grain of the box to be the same on both sides. In order to



do this, he needed to ensure that the piece was accurately positioned on the lathe so that stock would be removed evenly, and the grain pattern was mirrored as closely as possible on each side of the turned item. Mike explained that the easiest way to achieve this was to saw or plane a 'flat' surface on one of the long sides of the branch, and then to securely press the branch onto a jam chuck by use of a live centre in the tail stock.



Mike had already prepared his Jam-chuck, he had made it from a piece of sturdy MDF that he had

glued a strip of cork on to, and this was then turned to the desired diameter (he has several pre-prepared jam chuck of assorted diameters) this jam-chuck created a soft padded facing that a work piece could be squeezed against, ensuring that it would be firmly held when the lathe was running and allow the piece to be worked on.

With the piece now on the jam-chuck and the Laburnum's whitish heartwood visible due to the cut flat edges Mike took great care to centre



the blank on the jam-chuck so that stock would be removed from the piece equally from both sides, this ensures that the grain pattern remains similar on both sides. As it was attached via the jam-chuck Mike could ease the tail stock pressure and slightly adjust the position of the piece to ensure that he was removing stock from where he intended.

Mike started to remove stock from the piece and turned it to flat, but he also turned a slight downward curve into the piece to help remove any vibration. He then turned a 50mm chucking point with a slight indent to help the jaws of the chuck securely grip the piece.



Mike then turned away the edge of the blank to 'round it off' and then created a spigot so that he

could turn the piece in the chuck to work on the other end. He flattened the edge to give a starting point for the hollowing out of the bowl, when he was happy with the size of the hole for his bowl, he finished off with his negative rake scraper.

Mike then reversed the piece in the chuck and started to form the base of the bowl and reduce the thickness of the collar by using push-cuts.

There will be a slight 'bounce' on the tools as the spinning piece rotates from hard wood to soft wood, this bounce causes tiny unsightly ripples on the surface and will degrade the finished effect if they are not removed.

Mike took great care to remove the damaged wood by using slow and gentle cuts,



combined with a high lathe speed, when he was happy the the bounce marks had been removed, he refined the inside shape for the lip of the bowl. Mike then created a collar to the correct thickness.

The result of Mike's demonstration is a very attractive winged bowl whereby the grain of the wood is clearly symmetrical to both sides. Many thanks to both Mike and Richard for their demonstrations.

SHARPENING STATION.

Phil Hewitt had control of the Sharpening Station and was on hand to offer advice on the three types of sharpening system that he had on display on the table, including the TORMEK system, the CRUESON bench grinder system, and a Robert Sorby Pro Edge BELT SHARPENER.



He had also previously asked members to bring in any of their own tools that they needed honing, and he would either sharpen the tools on their behalf or oversee them as they had a

go at sharpening their own tools on each of the available systems so that they could have a better idea as to which system they might like to purchase for their own workshops. Phil was kept quite busy with a steady stream of people visiting his station and offering tools for sharpening.

There is lots of information available via the internet and on YOUTUBE with regard to the sharpening of

workshop tools, and Phil has suggested that members visit RONALD KANNE amongst others as he has easy to follow advice on best methods and best practice for sharpening tools of all kinds but especially Wood Turning tools.

Ronald also has a video which makes 'comparisons' between 4 types of Grinding Machines for Wood Turners, including,

Slow Speed Grinder and Wolverine Jigs, Tormek grinder and jigs, Small Wheel grinder with Tormek jig bars, Robert Sorby Pro-Edge Belt grinder, and giving the respective pros and cons for each one.

Phil also suggests looking out for the Manufacturers' Videos on YouTube to see how to use their products, especially the Tormek Systems and Jigs, Robert Sorby Pro-Edge and One Way Wolverine Jigs.

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\(19-11\)](http://www.chestnutproducts.co.uk(19-11))

Last week I included a question about smoothing the insides of captive rings, which culled a few responses and different ideas, which I'm pleased to pass on, in the hope they will be useful to others.

Ash tells me: *I find wrapping abrasive around the inner shaft on a stationary lathe is best. Keep the*

work still, but manually rotate the rings over the abrasive covered shaft to clean up the inner surface. Swap to a finer grade(s) to finish off nice & smoothly.

John says: I've always used a strip of 120-grit sandpaper rolled around the stem and stuck down with double-sided tape. With the lathe spinning, the ring almost sands itself, needing just a finger touch to disrupt its regular orbit and even out the effect. By angling the ring, the inside 'corners' can also be smoothed. Watch the direction in which you wrap the abrasive – in the wrong direction, it'll try to unwrap itself.

Like I said earlier, it's wonderful when we all work together and help each other!

Another question came in about using our Spirit Stain, asking the best way to get an even colour. This can be a challenge over larger areas, although in this case it was a small area that was difficult to get to. The answer is to be a bit more generous with the stain. It is very quick drying, so if you don't have enough on the cloth or brush you won't be able to cover the whole area, and the resulting overlap caused by a new application can be visible. Apply more stain in the first place, to the point that it's almost puddling on the surface. Then, with a clean cloth, wipe it down to remove the excess. This will leave an even colour. A second coat might be required to achieve the required depth of colour, just apply it in the same way.

We've had a couple of occasions recently where website customers have placed orders, and have accidentally ordered the wrong thing, or missed something off their order. If we are told quickly enough, we can usually make adjustments, but we do try to get orders out as quickly as possible, so this isn't always possible. When we first started doing mail order, we used to check orders. If someone ordered, for example, an incompatible lacquer and sealer combo, we'd check with them. If they'd ordered two 500ml bottles of the same product, we'd ask if they'd prefer a 1 Ltr bottle. Or, if they'd ordered some buffing wheels, we'd check that they had the appropriate mandrels. (I included that for Tim in Cornwall, thanks for the kind comments about the Newsletter). We quickly learned not to do this. There were always good reasons for the way orders had been placed, so we stopped checking.

So, if you're placing an order online, and you're not sure, please drop us an email, or give us a call, so that we can make sure you've got everything you need. We do like to help where we can.

Welcome to the last Newsletter of the year. Thank you for reading them, I hope you've picked up a few nuggets of advice on the way. As it's nearly Christmas, I wonder if I could ask a small favour? I've realized over the year how much importance is placed on reviews these days. (That's probably why some companies drive their customers mad asking for them.). We offer our online customers the choice to opt in to leave a review, but we only ask once, rather than send countless 'reminders'. But if you feel so inclined, you can always [leave us a review on Google](#), please.

My comments last week about how to store the Buffing Wheel Kit generated some correspondence, including an email from Martyn W with his take on it. He has three of the round plastic tubs that chocolates come in (Celebrations, Quality Street, etc). He keeps one wheel in each tub, stacks them inside each other, and puts a lid on the top one. This keeps the wheels clean and in the same place. As there might be a few such tubs around after Christmas, this could be a good time to mention this idea.

Another recent question asked about the best way to maintain a dining room table – you might be wondering the same if you've got guests coming and want to make sure everything is looking good. Maintenance on a finish needn't be hard work. As long as the existing finish is in good condition, there's not a lot that needs to be done. The simplest solution here is to use a quality wax, such as WoodWax 22 or Microcrystalline Wax. The latter has a very slight edge, as it will be more resistant, so if something gets spilt on the surface, it should clean up easily enough. After dinner (possibly well after dinner!), a quick buff with a soft cloth should bring it back to perfection, and, if needed, a little more wax can be applied to remove most stubborn marks.

Combining elements of the two questions above, this one came in via our [Conkers Facebook group](#). The C Wheel in the Buffing Kit is used for applying and buffing wax; can different waxes be used on the same wheel?

I'm not a fan of using WoodWax 22 with the Buffing Wheels (although I know that some people do), so I wouldn't advise that, but it's fine to use Carnauba Wax and the Microcrystalline Wax (stick or paste) with the same wheel. A good suggestion was made that, if unsure, a rough-cut scrap of wood held against the turning wheel will remove any unwanted wax.

JANUARY GALLERY



