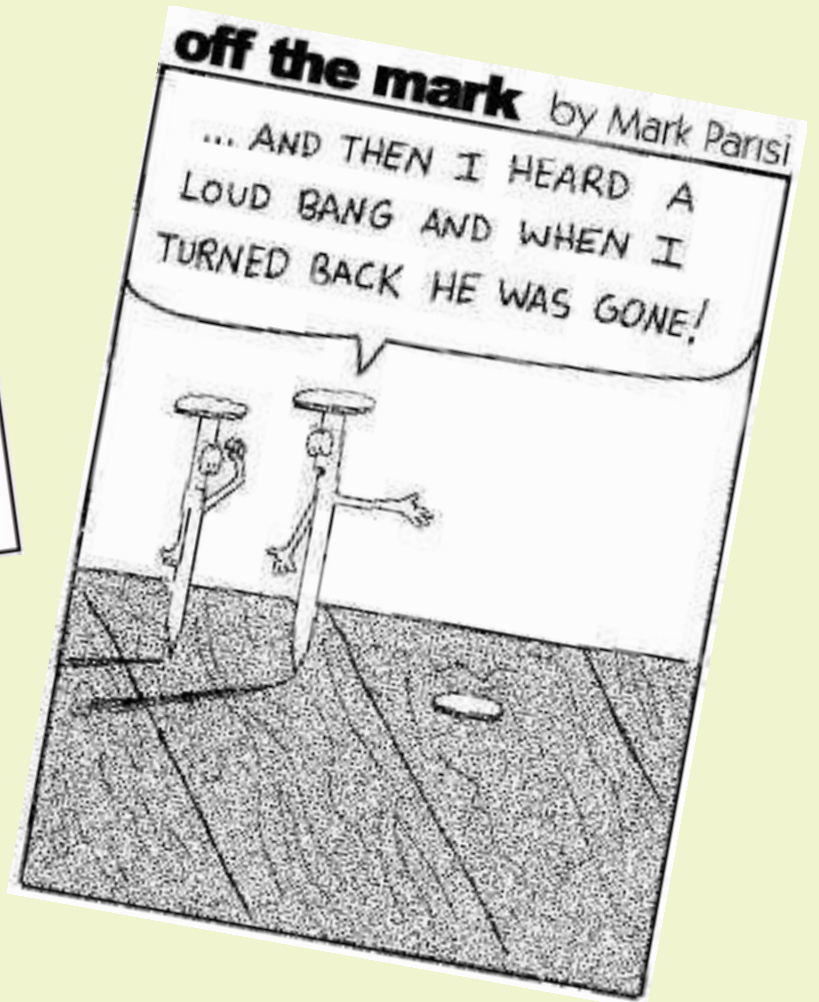




YOUR TURN

Spring 2021



Don't forget!
AGM is at 19:30 on Wednesday 7th April 2021



YOUR TURN

HAMPSHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Spring Issue – March 2021

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Note from the Editor

Virtual Gallery

COMING EVENTS:

Wed 7th April – Virtual AGM (19.30hrs)

Mon 19th April – Cindy Drozda (Finials)

Mon 3th May – Virtual Gallery

Mon 17th May – Colwyn Way (Zoom Demo)

Mon 7th June – Virtual Gallery

COMMITTEE:

Dave Gibbard - Chairman

Pete Broadbent - Vice Chairman

Bob Hope - Secretary

Keith Barnes - Membership

Alan Baker - Novices

Richard Bray - Outreach

Dave Simpson - Editor

Tom James - Library

Mike Dutton – Treasurer

Email: enquiries@hants-woodturners-hwa.co.uk

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME TO OUR SPRING ISSUE

It is 2 years since I delivered my previous report at the 2019 AGM. We were getting ready for the 2020 AGM a year ago, when the Covid 19 pandemic intervened. We tried to maintain our monthly routine by holding 'virtual' galleries with members sending pictures of their work to **Phil Bristow** to be displayed on the website. We also held 2 Challenges, the Spring one "Something Egggy" and The Winter one "Something Seasonal". Phil even worked out a method for members to vote for their favourites via the website. These online galleries and Challenges have enabled **Keith Barnes** to keep the **Len Osborne Trophy** going. This is awarded to the member with the most gallery entries. **Alan Baker** is this year's winner. Another thing that kept going is the quarterly newsletter "Your Turn" and the interim monthly reports ably produced by Editor **Dave Simpson**.

And now I come to what in my view has been the outstanding contribution of the year, the programme of remote demonstrations arranged by Secretary **Bob Hope**. They started with an experiment arranged by **Tom James** and has now grown to include demonstrators from UK and abroad. Bob is being awarded **Club Member of the Year Trophy** in recognition of this work.

In the summer, with a growing programme of Zoom demos planned, we invited members to extend their annual membership at half the normal subscription rate. It was most encouraging that almost everybody paid up to re-join. **Alan Sturgess** was made a Life Member for his long years of work as our previous treasurer, and as the new Treasurer, **Mike Dutton** introduced a number of innovations including a new account with internet banking facilities which has made life easier. Unfortunately, Mike has given notice that he will be standing down. I am delighted to tell you that **Richard Nicholls** is standing for election as the new Treasurer.

HWA has, for years, supported our local charity **Minstead Trust**, for people with learning disabilities and I would like to mention the generosity of **Pierre Baumann** and his family in this regard. Pierre was a long-standing member of HWA and one of our Minstead volunteers. Pierre died recently of an aneurism and his family invited donations to be made to Minstead Trust. Committee donated £100, which has been gratefully acknowledged by the Trust.

Although I will be belatedly standing down as Chairman, I hope to remain an active member of the Club and a Minstead volunteer. I wish my successor subject to election at the AGM **Pete Broadbent** well, and trust you will welcome him and give him the support that I have enjoyed. Thank you all.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Hello to you all, I hope that you are all well.

Have you noticed the two extra Demo dates (highlighted in yellow) on the Coming Events section above? HWA are sharing the Demonstration with Test Valley Turners, so you are all invited to watch.

Just a reminder to you all that next month sees HWA trying to retain some semblance of normality by having our AGM. We missed our 2020 meeting, so this year's one is long overdue.

Due to the timing of Easter this year our AGM will be held on Wednesday 7th April and due to COVID it will be a zoom meeting. A reminder and details for joining the meeting will be sent to you a few days beforehand.

You will already have received an email from Chairman **Dave Gibbard** (sent on 09/03/21) containing the agenda and other details including Committee nominations, Voting instructions, Treasurers Report. We all hope that as many members as possible attend the Zoom AGM, so that we get a good cross section of ideas and consensus of opinion.

Also please remember that I am still looking for some articles, hints, tips, or photos of things that you have made during lockdown.

Dave Simpson (Editor)

DECEMBER 2020

The December meeting was a Zoom meeting hosted by **Jeff Hornung** from Missouri in the USA. Jeff is both a woodturner and an artist who specialises in combining both of these hobbies into a craft. His demo was him turning a platter from Maple, and then decorating it with Chestnut products wood stain applied with an airbrush. The result was a dynamic and dramatic sunset 'mountain' scene.

The demo was attended by 27 members and some members had several family viewers with them, so there were about 30 viewers for the Demo, which gave an interesting and very well received insight into another professional woodturner's methods. Very many thanks to **Bob Hope** for arranging yet another highly successful Zoom meeting.

December is also the month of our HWA Social Evening, quiz, and the Christmas Challenge. Due to the current situation we unfortunately had to forego the Social Evening and the quiz, but we were able to continue with the Club Challenge which was to make "Something Seasonal". The title was deliberately

vague to encourage members to turn a seasonal item of their choice without being restricted to one subject.

The result was a very interesting and varied bag of Christmassy things. There were 14 entries in all, and a total of 20 photographs of your work, so thank you to everyone who managed to find time to compete in the challenge.

Voting for the favourite entry was open to all members, who had the opportunity of electronically choosing their favourite.

I must say that my wife Gail was so taken by the Robins that she asked me to make some, I shamefully have to admit to plagiarising them as best I could from the photos and I made four of my own, three of which have been sent to family members as presents. So, a huge thank you to whoever you are that made them, they are very cute, and I hope you do not mind!

PIERRE BAUMANN

We have had the very sad news that our good friend and HWA member **Pierre Baumann** passed away at Southampton General Hospital on Wednesday 9th December. Pierre was admitted into Southampton General for an aneurysm operation but succumbed to complications following the operation. Pierre was a very highly respected member of The Hampshire Wood Turners Association who was always positive and helpful, he was also an HWA volunteer at Minstead. He will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts and sympathies go out to Pierre's wife Caroline and their family.

JOHN BRESLAIN

We also have to pass on the very sad news that **John Breslain** passed away on the 28th of November 2020 aged 90 years. Here are some words from **Adrian Smith**.

John was a long-standing member of Hampshire Woodturners Association. He joined the club when it first started with meetings that were held in Winchester Prison when there were only a few members. As the membership numbers started to increase the HWA moved to the Log Cabin in Stockbridge Road Winchester, (that is when I joined) Since then the club has moved locations numerous times.

John was a very busy man who also belonged to numerous clubs including the Test Valley Turners, the Poultry Association, The Fuchsia Society, and he was a volunteer with the First Alresford Scout Troop where he also helped out with

the rebuilding of a new scout hut, that is where I first met John as I was a volunteer as well (as most parents often are) In his retirement John was also a member of the maintenance team on the Watercress Line. So, he managed to keep busy until just a couple of years ago.

John had moved into a care home for a couple of months before he passed away and I am sure that he enjoyed the company around him for the time he was there . RIP John. Our thoughts and sympathy's go to Johns family and friends.

Adrian Smith

We have all had such a topsy turvy year that has been full of bad news, as the previous two items shows, that we all need a boost and cheering up so hopefully we can have a lovely Christmas and New Year.

I would also like to say Happy Christmas to our Australian friends in Otway Turners who have also had a pretty rubbish year, with droughts, floods, wildfires, decimation of their wildlife, and Covid lockdowns. Stay safe over there.

On behalf of all of the Committee of the HWA I would like to wish you and your families a Very Happy Christmas and hope that you all stay safe. Hopefully, next year will see us being able to meet up, just like in the old days' and have a proper

Dave Simpson (Editor)

JANUARY 2021

The January meeting was a Zoom meeting on '**How to make a chess set**' hosted by **Mike Peace**.

Mike lives in Suwanee, Georgia USA with his wife Barbara. Before retirement, he worked at ADP as a payroll software project manager. After serving on active duty in the US Army, Mike continued as a reservist, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Mike has published articles in American Woodturner, More Woodturning, Woodturning Design, and Woodturning Fundamentals. He has a YouTube channel, [Mike Peace Woodturning](#), with almost 500 woodturning videos including a playlist on turning chessmen.

Mike enjoys every aspect of woodturning including demonstrating and teaching. He has demonstrated at the American Association of Woodturners symposia in 2016 and 2018, as well as Regional Symposia and at many clubs in the Southeast USA, and more recently Interactive Remote Demonstrations to clubs throughout the US. He has taught at the John C. Campbell Folk School.

More information on his woodturning can be found on his website at <http://mikepeacewoodturning.com/>

Mike's demo was attended by 27 HWA members who were shown how he makes his chess pieces by using a 'Story Board' which is a scale silhouette of the particular Chess piece he wants to turn.

Mike starts by making a mandrel with a face that is the same diameter as the base of his chosen chess piece, and it needs a spigot that will be used to hold each piece, this has a screw threaded into the centre so that it can securely grip each of blanks. This spigot needs to be a large enough diameter to accept a one penny piece.

He cuts each blank to the exact length of the particular chess piece that he is going to turn then puts it in his pin-jaws and bores a hole in the tailstock end with a Forstner bit that is the same size as a one penny piece. He drills a hole deep enough to take 4 coins then removes the Forstner bit and drills a deeper hole with a drill bit that suits the screw in the mandrel.

He then takes the blank from the pin-jaws and pushes the spigot of the of the mandrel into the Forstner bit hole and secures it by tightening the screw.

Mike then puts the mandrel and wooden blank in the chuck and offers up the Story Board. He pencil marked where he wants the cuts to be and turns the blank to the required shape. He recommends making the pieces in batches, for example all the Pawns, then Rooks, Bishops etc so that you get in the routine and skilled at each piece.

Each individual piece is made to the shape of its own 'story-board' and he uses the same routine.

The Knights require a different technique as they are in two parts. Mike turns the base as usual but also makes a small spigot on the top. He then makes or carves a separate horses head from a flat piece of stock He draws the shape on to the wood then cuts it out with a scroll saw or carves it with other tools. The head is then glued to the spigot on the base.

The castellations on the Queen's crown can be made by scoring with a file or wood carving tools.

The cross on the King's crown can be any shape you like but a Maltese Cross is the more usual. This is made by turning a small disc on the top of the crown and then 'flattening' it with a file or knife.

Mike tends to make all 32 pieces from the same type of wood and stain one set with a contrasting colour, he then applies a coat of lacquer and buffs them all to a high polish.

Each piece is 'weighted' at the bottom with 4 pennies that drop into the pre-drilled hole that fits snugly onto the mandrel. When completed Mike makes felt discs to glue onto the bottom of each piece.

Mike has learned that hard woods make better chess pieces, as the close grain tends to hold the coves and beads better. For this demo he used Bradford Pear Wood to make all the pieces.

Mike did not make a chess board as part of his demo but showed us several options. They can be made with squares of dyed wood glued onto ¼ inch plywood in the traditional checker pattern, or the squares could be marked or patterned with a pyrography tool.

A few points to note, that the king is always the largest Chess piece, and that the base of the King should not be greater than 70% of the size of the squares. This ensures that there is always good separation between the pieces during play.

Pictures of various chess piece design can be found on 'Chessbazzar' and 'Chessking' on the internet, Mike copies and prints the images then uses these as his 'Story Board'.

Thanks to Mike for a very interesting and informative demo, , and also very many thanks to **Bob Hope** for arranging another successful Zoom meeting.

FEBRUARY 2021

February's meeting was a virtual Gallery with another 19 entries of your lock down shed work. The photos show that the quality of the items that are being produced by the HWA membership is very good and some are particularly arty. Well done and please keep up the good work.

The photo gallery can be seen at the end of the newsletter.

I hope that you are all looking after yourselves and keeping safe and well.

Notice of 2021 AGM of Hampshire Woodturners Association

Your Committee hereby give notice of the Association's Annual General Meeting to be held via a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 7th April 2021 starting at 7.30 pm.

The invitation and the link to the Zoom meeting will be issued by Email the day before the meeting.

The documents to be considered at the meeting will be circulated in advance by Email (and also by post to the small number of members without an Email address).

All Members will be invited to indicate their votes for or against each item in advance of the meeting by Email or post. There will be another chance to do so at the meeting for those attending.

These documents will comprise:-

Minutes of previous AGM (2019).

And to be circulated early in March:

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Nominations for election of Officers and Committee.

Full details of this AGM notification and the voting slips were sent to all HWA members on 02/02/21 via email, but further updates and reminders will be sent closer to the date.

So please give some consideration to any queries that you may have, or suggestions that you can offer that will help your club to flourish over the coming months until we can look forward to actually meeting up as a group again.

In the meantime, another month has gone by, and it is now almost a year since we last met at The Railway Institute in a social capacity. And what a long year it has been, as a result many of us will have been very busy in the workshop.

I for one, have spent a lot of time on the lathe on the run-up to Christmas, and beyond, making Christmas presents and orders that I have received through my **Etsy** website.

Etsy, for those of you who may not know is a website where you can view or order almost anything 'hobby' based. By putting in various key search words you can find almost anything to buy or sell. I have had my Ginge's Woodshed site for several years now and have sold hundreds of my woodturning items to customers from countries all over the world including Australia, Europe, and USA.

I always use my local post office and send my items via Royal Mail and I always get proof of postage if I am posting within the UK and opt for Signed and Tracked if the package is going abroad.

Over the years I must have sent dozens and dozens of items and never had any issue at all with postage.

In December I had an order for two hand-turned pens from a gent in Santa Monica USA. He paid the £63.95 including postage, they were a gift to a friend of his.

I made the pens and posted them on 6th December, Tracked and signed at the local post office as usual, but I had that 'sixth sense' that something was going to go wrong...

On 15 December I had a message from Mr Santa Monica, saying that he could see that the package had been sent, but he had no Tracking data on it. I checked it up and could see that the package was in a Royal Mail depot in Wales.

This did not make sense, as I assumed that it would have gone to Heathrow for an onward flight to USA as usual, but I knew it was Christmas that Royal Mail were very busy, and also that COVID had reduced the number of flights, so I updated him as best I could.

On Christmas Eve I got another message from him saying that the package still had not arrived. When I went on the Tracking app I saw to my surprise that on 21st December the pens had arrived in the **Russian Federation** at Sharapovo in Moscow...!

There they stayed until 29th December, when they got moved to Khimki in Moscow, and then several days later they appeared in Domodedovo airport in Russia.

On 5th January I had another message from Mr Santa Monica saying that he still had not received the pens and that he wanted a full refund, as they were meant as a gift for Hanukkah which had long gone.

By this stage I had resigned myself to the fact that the pens had either been 'lost in transit' or, that **Mr Putin** rather fancied a hand-turned pen from Ginge's Woodshed, made from good Old English Oak. So, I gave Mr Santa-Monica of the USA his full refund, and whilst apologising profusely for Royal Mail's decision to send my pens Eastwards from Wales on a Russian Aeroflot plane as opposed to Westwards on a British Airways plane, I also said "if they turn up in Santa Monica you can just keep them".

Well, it was Christmas, and I can (occasionally) be a rather nice chap!

Quite surprisingly I never heard from my customer again!

On 31st January I decided to have another look at the tracking data and saw to my absolute surprise that **Mr Putin** was obviously already the proud owner of two hand-turned pens made from good Old English Oak, and that he had now forwarded my ones to Mr Santa Monica in the USA.

What was even more surprising was that I never heard from either **Mr Putin** (to say that he did not want my pens), OR from Mr Santa Monica to say 'Thank you' for the prompt refund or to let me know that he had in fact already received and signed for the pens on 26th January.

So not only did Mr Santa Monica get two freebie pens, but I was also £63.95 out of pocket, as I cannot claim from Royal Mail because the package was not 'lost'.

The lesson here is never issue a full refund until you have gone through the complaint's procedure with Royal Mail, but be advised that this could take months, so you have to decide if you would rather 'put it down to experience and take it on the chin' or delay refunding a customer for what you are sure is a lost cause. But whatever you do, always listen to that 'sixth sense', as it is seldom wrong!

On 21st February I eventually got a message from Mr Santa Monica saying "Yes, they did arrive, and they are very nice. Thanks". He did not even give me any positive feedback or a review.!

Are some people ungrateful, or are we all just 'wired' differently?

Dave Simpson

Our previous Editor, HWA member and friend **Andi Saunders** has a request for some help, he needs a couple of bowls turned if anyone is available. He has supplied a picture of the log that he has come across.

Any volunteers...? Possibly a job for you **Tom James**?



We are still needing input from the membership to contribute towards the Newsletters and Your Turn. Please submit your project details so that we can all share them.

Please stay safe and look after yourselves.

MARCH 2021

The March meeting was yet another Zoom Demo organised by **Bob Hope**. He had arranged for **Sue Harker**, to demonstrate how she makes her Segmented Bowls. There were 37 HWA members participating.

Sue Harker is a professional Registered Wood Turner with over 20 years of experience who specialises in all kinds of woodturning.

She teaches Woodturning and offers Demonstrations, takes commissions and also makes products for woodturners, she also produces items for sale through her web site (www.facebook.com/harkerwoodcrafts). She has a comprehensive Facebook account where her handiwork can be seen and purchased.

Sue gave a very interesting Demonstration covering her method of making Segmented Bowls, during which she also showcased her various homemade jigs that she has crafted.

These jigs enable her to cut very accurate angles on her chosen segmented pieces of timber, and also ensures that they are 'set' in the right position for gluing, so that they are evenly spaced and correctly positioned in relation to its adjacent segment.

She gave several very useful tips for anybody wishing to make a segmented bowl including 'apply glue only to the 'edges' of the upper segments, leaving a gap of glue. This ensures that the glue will not overflow on to the visible gap and spoil the holes. If glue does 'squeeze' out, wipe it away with a pipe cleaner. Keeping the Lathe at a moderate speed helps reduce centrifugal stress on the glued segments. When starting to 'hollow-out', be sure to use pull-cuts. This helps to reduce tear out and snagging, as the segments will not be aligned, and some will randomly jut out. Wetting the wood with water raises the 'end-grain fluff' which can then be sanded smoother. Clean up any 'defects' between the segments with a small flat file. When sanded to her satisfaction Sue uses Hard Wax Oil. The glue that Sue recommends is TITEBOND Quick and Thick glue.

HWA SHOP

You may remember that at the start of Coronavirus lockdown our shopkeeper **Pete Willcocks** generously offered to supply things from stock to any member to collect from his home in Lordswood, Southampton.

If you need resupplying with Woodturning goods, please remember to contact Pete. His contact details are pete.willcocks@ntlworld.com Phone - 023 8039 5335.

EASTER COMPETITION

We have decided that there will be no Easter Competition this year, due to the fact that we actually 'forgot', I know it's hard to believe, but it's true ! (it has been a long year).

Please accept our humble apologies, but just so that you do not feel left out and forgotten, how abouts you turn your own 'Thing' and send photos to **Phil Bristow** so that we can have a May Bumper Virtual Gallery, a veritable smorgasbord of home-turned wooden wonders !

WHAT I HAVE BEEN DOING DURING LOCK DOWN

(Continued from Winter Your Turn)

In my last write up I had been trying to make a bowl out of boards. My inspiration was **Michael Mode** an American turner who has spent many years perfecting his skills. I jumped in the deep end and tried to make bowls with horizontal, vertical, and wedged stripes, like the one below.

In my previous work I managed to produce the pink loop



vertical stripes and put a horizontal flat ring between the rings. The next stage is to make the horizontal ring wedge shaped . I decided that I could produce the

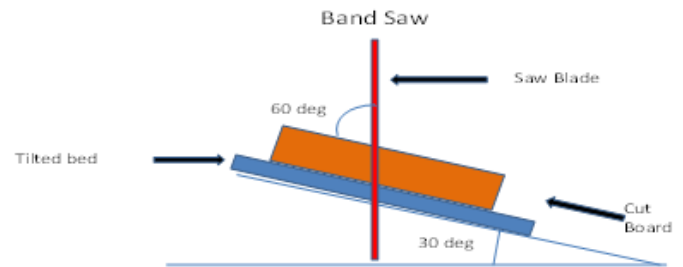
wedge by gluing a flat thin ring to the top of the board. Then as I glued each ring together on the lathe, I would offset the base in the chuck and turn the wedge. By fitting a small 2mm wedge in between the base of the bowl and the chuck, so offsetting the central axis and causing the top rim to tilt. When I faced up the rim a wedge shape was formed. It worked but I did not get the smooth transition from the light wood to the darker work I had hoped, due to tear out at the final transition point from light to dark. So, have I have decided to try and achieve the same effect with the thickneser next time.

My experimental bowl is in fact made from only half my cut rings. The bowl in the top picture has steeper sides and I tried to achieve this. It did not work, only half the rings

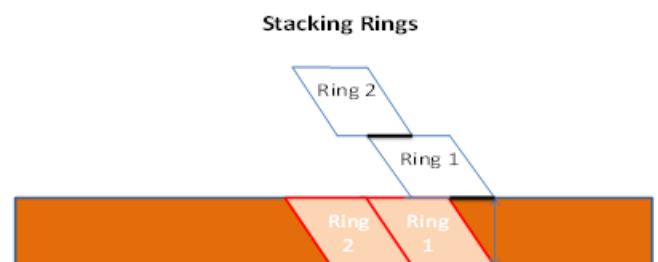


fitted together with a very thin joint. So thin that it developed into a hole at the base hence the glue ring and poor finish.

In my previous bowls I cut the boards at a 45deg angle. This time with the band saw bed at a 30deg slope giving a 60deg cut on the wood. I know it is back to front. The increased cut angle gives a taller board and more elegant shape.



When you set the band saw bed at 30deg , the cut you get is 60 deg. As you can see from the diagram above the blade remains vertical whilst the wood is tilted on the bed. I hope I am not boring you, but I made a mistake by just adjusting the band saw bed without checking the consequences. The result was the rings would not stack, and I could only use every other cut ring. So, it was back to the pencil and paper to solve the problem.



The bowl wall thickness i.e., the amount the rings overlap, is influenced by the thickness of the board, the angle the rings are cut at, and the gap between each ring you cut. So, from the sketch opposite you can see the effect they have on the overlap of each ring. I wanted an overlap of 10mm, allowing me to create a shape, and deal with any tear out that happens when cutting across different grain-orientated sections of wood. I drew up different combinations of wood thickness, ring gap and angle and compared the overlap. This was an interesting exercise, and I would advise you to do it as it has surprising results. I decided on a 60-degree cut angle with the gap between the rings the same as the board thickness.

I aim for a finished wall thickness of 5mm on my bowls. You have to be careful when going any thinner as the bowl may flex and give you problems when trying to make the final finishing cut. Also, it can disintegrate if your glue joints are not all perfect, which can be dangerous when turning. The glue that I use is TITEBOND 3 as it is workable for up to 10 minutes, dries clear and strong.

Now that I have made my mistakes and understand how to make different shape bowls out of boards, I shall attempt to copy some of the **Michael Mode** bowls.

Hope this helps you stop making some of the mistakes I have and want to try your hand at making bowls from boards. Look at the Pinterest web site if you need inspiration.

My Check list would be:

- Chose a design.
- Make a detailed drawing with all the measurements.
- Check the overlap of the rings.
- Make a cutting list of all the wood components.
- Cut them accurately and ensure all surfaces are flat and true.
- Assemble the boards and clamp them when gluing together.
- Mark top and bottom boards with horizontal and vertical alignment marks.
- Very carefully cut out the half rings on a band saw with a thin blade.
- Assemble the rings halves together ensuring the top and bottom surfaces are true.
- Glue the finished rings together taking great care the alignment is true over 360 deg.
- After assembling each ring in the lathe, trim the inside and outside so that they are roughly round.
- Shape the inside of the bowl with a light shear cut with the bowl gouge.
- Shape the outside of the bowl whilst supported on the rim of the bowl by the tail stock.
- Ensure you have no dust carry over before sealing and finishing.

Happy Chipping.

Alan Baker

HWA MEMBERSHIP

Since the last Your Turn we have two new members join us. **Scott Waugh** from Waterlooville, and **Don Donaldson**, a returning member from Salisbury.

We have also been approached by several other interested parties regarding membership to HWA in April. These people have been given guest membership until they can join us in April. We look forward to welcoming both Scott and Don, (and any other new joiners) when we eventually meet up again.

Unfortunately, we have also lost several members recently.

Keith Barnes

TERRY'S TOP TIPS

In this regular feature, Terry Smart from Chestnut Products shares some of the more interesting responses to questions to Chestnut's helpline.

A question about Food Safe Finish; Can we confirm that this will provide an effective sealing layer on the inside of a yew bowl, so that it can be used for food? Afraid not, sorry. The Food Safe Finish will maintain the safety of the wood, will protect it, and will not taint any food that is placed in it, but it will not improve the inherent safety/suitability of the timber. As yew is known to be poisonous it would be best to avoid this timber when making a bowl for food. To be honest, even if the Food Safe Finish were able to protect against the effects of the timber, the very real possibility of it being removed when being used or washed would also worry me.

A question about our Liming Brush. Our caller had seen it being used in our YouTube video and wondered why it does not scratch the surface of the wood. The metal 'bristle' on the brush is crimped and slightly springy. When used on a suitable open grained timber (Ash and Oak are ideal) it picks out the softer, open grained areas, making them slightly deeper. (Always work with the grain for the best results). This means that when Gilt Cream or Liming Wax is applied there is more room for it to go into, leading to a more decorated effect. The close-grained areas are much harder, and (unless you really overdo it!) are not affected by the springy bristles.

Another question about Liming Wax. The tin suggests that it is best to apply a clear wax on top of the Liming Wax -why? In a Liming wax, the wax part mainly acts as a carrier for the pigment. It will not really add much of a shine to the wood, so applying a wax on top will certainly increase the gloss and will give added depth to any background colour used (or even just the natural colour of the wood). Importantly, it will also offer some protection to the limed areas. Constant/regular handling can cause the bright white of the liming wax to become grubby and discolored, and in extreme cases it can even be dislodged. So, applying a clear wax on top (WoodWax 22 is ideal for this) will keep it looking good for much longer. An even higher degree of protection, should it be needed, can be achieved by applying a coat of Hard Wax Oil on top – but, for best practice, a lacquer should not be used.

A question about our Acrylic Lacquer. Does it 'act like a lacquer, in that the second coat will melt into the first'? This is borne of the fact that a cellulose lacquer will soften the very top part of the previous coat, which will give an even better adhesion. But not all lacquers do this, in fact I would say that

the majority do not. All lacquers are designed to stick to themselves in a coat-on-coat situation, and this is the situation with the Acrylic Lacquer. Properly applied, the end result is pretty much indistinguishable from one thick coat, albeit made up of several thin coats. (For the record, trying to apply one thick coat as a short cut is NOT recommended).

Someone else asked about general tips for cold workshop (in relation to finishes). Be careful with Acrylic Sanding Sealer, Acrylic Lacquer and End Seal. As water-based finishes, they do not like extreme cold, and if they freeze or even just get frost damage it is the kiss of death for them. Once affected, they do not return to their original state. Most of the other products in our range will not freeze, the solvents prevent that by having a low freezing point (meths, for example, is minus 97.6 degrees. The notable exception is Tung Oil which, being solvent free, will freeze to a hard jelly consistency. Allowed to thaw, though, it will return to its original state and will be fine.

Care needs to be taken regarding application too; with lacquers (and sealers) the real enemy is not the cold, Rather, it is the damp atmosphere that is associated with cold sheds and workshops. Lacquers are susceptible to damp conditions, the moisture will permeate into the material and cause it to 'bloom' – that is, have a white, cloudy effect in it. Sprayed lacquers are even more prone to this as they collect moisture even easier. There is no easy cure for this, other than heating, or wait for a warmer day.

A question that comes in from time to time is about the best way to finish oily woods – Olive, Rosewoods, Teak etc. Being oily already, the best thing to do is to use oil on top of them. Any of our oil finishes will be fine, this becomes a personal choice, whether you want to colour the wood at all, and what sort of finish you want – matt, satin, gloss etc. It is also possible (and acceptable) to apply a wax onto an oily timber (and over an oil finish too if you have already oiled it). As I often say, waxes are fairly universal and will stick to pretty much anything.

A question came in about 'when do stains need sealing?'. If we are talking about the need to put a coating over the stain, then the answer is 'always'. Staining wood only changes the colour, it does not offer any protection. A coating (wax, lacquer, oil etc.) over the top of the stain will help keep the stain fixed in and will protect the wood as well; you would not leave your creation without a topcoat, after all.

The topic of food safe finishes returns again this week, one day we will have a definitive answer on it. We are working on it but getting raw materials of the correct grade is very

difficult at the moment. Getting any raw materials is a struggle at the moment! Anyway, as you should know, our Microcrystalline Wax has been tested and approved for food contact. We were asked this week if it could be applied over Cellulose Sanding Sealer, and would it still be food safe? The honest answer is that we do not know. The best advice we can offer on this is to either apply the wax over Food Safe Finish, or just apply 2-3 coats of wax; the first couple of coats will act as a sealer, allowing a shine to come through in the final coat.

Applying Ebonising Lacquer to an open grained timber such as ash, and then putting Gilt Cream on top, is a popular and highly effective way to decorate an item. So much so that we even made a short YouTube video about it. But we were asked this week, what if a different background colour is wanted? It is pretty simple really; the same process can be used but substituting the Ebonising Lacquer for Spirit Stain. This works very well, but the best results are achieved by using a sealer or lacquer after the stain, before applying the Gilt Cream. The reason this works so well is that the sealer/lacquer fills the tiny pores of the timber, so that the Gilt Cream does not fill these as well; it only goes into the open grain areas and gives a more dramatic effect. Think of it like this; the Ebonising Lacquer colours and seals in one product, but the stains need to be used in conjunction with a sealer or lacquer to do the same thing.

Our next question concerns the gloss level of our lacquers. Our Acrylic Lacquer and Melamine Lacquer only come in a gloss finish, but on the label, we say that it is possible to matt the finish down, if required, using a fine abrasive.

I was asked for more guidance on this during the week, and my answer was to first apply the lacquer as per instructions. Once dry, give the surface a light cut back with an abrasive. If using a cloth or paper backed abrasive, I would probably go for a 240 or 320 grit, used gently. This will abrade the surface and knock back the shine, without leaving a rough surface. 0000 Steel Wool will do something similar, or our NyWeb pads (use the Green) will do it too.

Do not use too fine an abrasive, as this could burnish the lacquer further and increase the gloss. Pleasingly, I heard back from my correspondent to say that he had done this, using a 500-grit abrasive and was very happy with the outcome.

A question from a pen turner, worried about the sanding process cross contaminating his work on a segmented pen. The timbers being used were reasonably dense hardwoods, so not too many open pores to get contaminated. The main suggestion was that, assuming the blank has been constructed

before turning, have a practice run first on the un-turned surfaces to see if there is a problem. Sharp tools are a must, as they will reduce the need for sanding, and the abrasive should be new and sharp. The use of Tack Cloth, and good extraction, will help to avoid mechanically rubbing debris into the wood. I am pleased to say that I heard back from our correspondent, and the pen turned out beautifully. More segmented work to come.

I was asked if Acrylic Lacquer would be suitable for an outdoor wooden sign/plaque. I said probably not; depending on how exposed it was the finish could deteriorate very quickly. The better choice would be our Acrylic Gloss Lacquer, the aerosol one, as the resins used in that are very hard wearing and able to stand up to much harsher treatment. A clean-up and recoat would probably still be required in the medium term, but it will stay looking good a lot longer.

I was asked what the best finish for coasters is to give the maximum protection. When answering questions like this I am always careful to point out that no finish is indestructible, and with enough abuse, any of them will show signs of damage. There are several finishes that will give a high degree of protection. The Hard Wax Oil, and Melamine Lacquer (brushing or aerosol version) are very good, but my favourite would be the Acrylic Gloss Lacquer. There is really not much in it, but this will give the most protection, being a very tough lacquer indeed. It is also slightly quicker to reach maximum durability, as it is a purely air-drying lacquer, whereas the Melamine Lacquer also chemically cures, which can take a couple of weeks to take full effect.

A question was asked how long to leave the finishes before using the Burnishing Cream? The general rule for this is to allow the coating to dry completely; it needs to be 'hard dry' so that the abrasive in the Burnishing Cream does not remove it accidentally. So, for oils it would be 2-3 days, for Friction Polish I leave it until the surface has cooled after application (usually just a couple of minutes) etc. Melamine Lacquer is a bit of an odd one. It can be burnished after about 20 minutes as the lacquer has air dried by then. But if you can leave it another 24 hours it will have started its curing process and will be just that bit harder yet and will polish up even better.

A question about an outdoor Jenga game. The requirement was that the finish should be suitable for exterior use and also allow the blocks to slide out easily. I suggested the Hard Wax Oil which is very water resistant. Provided the blocks are not left out in a torrential three-day downpour, they will be able to stand up to this and most other abuse it might suffer. A coat of Microcrystalline Wax could also be applied to help the

blocks slide. Maybe having a block of the Microcrystalline Wax Stick handy, to wipe over the surfaces every so often would be useful – although a rub over with a candle would probably work just as well. (07-03)

NOVICE CORNER

Nothing for the Novice Corner this quarter as **Alan Baker** has done such a sterling article on Part 2 of his 3D work of Making a Bowl out of Boards which was both interesting and educational. (see above article 'What have I been doing During Lockdown'). Very many thanks to Alan.

MINSTEAD TRUST



As many of you know we have supported Minstead Trust for several years by providing help and guidance to those of their students who are interested in woodturning. We generally go along on Monday and Thursday mornings and create a myriad of different objects - many of which are sold at the summer fete.

We are eagerly awaiting the chance to return to Minstead when Lockdown eases. We will keep you posted.

Dave Gibbard

TREASURERS REPORT

Although I have been Treasurer for over 2 years this is my first, and last, report. Subject to AGM ratification **Richard Nicholls** will take over as soon as Covid allows a handover.

The HWA HSBC Bank account now has 3 cardholders – the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, and perhaps best of all, members can now pay their subs by bank transfer.

The bulk of our expenditure this year was on Remote Demonstrators. From a financial viewpoint it means we do not incur travelling expenses for Demonstrators and can therefore spread our net further afield. In the 19/20 Financial year we spent a substantial sum on demonstrators and also nearly £500 on new equipment.

Although our Club finances remain strong, the balance has reduced over the last couple of years from nearly £5,000 to just over £3,000 – a combination of lower membership and higher spend. In order to stop this downward trend and to ensure we have sufficient funds to replace equipment as necessary, I have suggested we should increase our subscriptions to £30 for the year ahead. I will sign off by

saying 'Thank You' to you all. And I wish all the best to **Richard Nicholls** in his new role as Treasurer.

Mike Dutton (Treasurer)

WELSH WOODMAN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Just to remind you all that our very own **Tom James** has his YouTube channel which is full of interesting hints, tips, and projects. Especially as he now has a little helper, a beautiful Collie Puppy called Connie, so there is even more reason to subscribe to his channel at:-

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9ic2ktv0u6Nl_rj6BzFzDg

WORKSHOP WATCH



Woodturners are naturally nose-y and we can't help wondering what other 'turners' sheds or workshops are like, what equipment they have and how they are set-up. This is your space to show off your shed / workshop setups.

Welcome to the Welsh Woodman workshop. I was lucky enough to take over the garage as a workshop when we first moved in. It has taken a lot of hard work to get it functioning as a workshop as the building was so poorly built. I have had to replace the leaking roof, add insulation, fit security doors (with help from Richard Bray), install electrics, add wood burner for heating, dig out and relay a solid floor with over 9 tons of concrete just to name a few. I have recently added some rubber matting to the floor, which has made it nicer than the concrete to stand on all day and easier to brush up the shavings.



turning lathe I use for my bowls, hollow-forms, and sculptural work. I really enjoy

Now that I have finally got the workshop to a place that I am happy with, I can spend more time efficiently working on projects. With my woodturning work I use two lathes. The big green VB36 master bowl



using the lathe especially for turning larger pieces. It is a product of typical old fashioned British engineering, built like a tank and over-engineered. Some of its features are quite quirky and took a little getting used to begin with. For my spindle work I use a Poolewood Euro 1500 (*the lathe is currently out of action as it needs a new inverter and speed controller- if anyone could advise someone with specialties in this area, I would really appreciate it*) Underneath the lathe I have a chest of draws where I keep my sandpaper, finishing cloths etc. I have covered it with the rubber matting has helped kept the dust off until I can get it fixed.

Talking of dust, I have a wall mounted **Cam Vac dust extractor**



that I use during my sanding processes which helps with the fine dust. I have become much more aware of the hazards of dust whilst working, so to limit the hazard by having

dedicated M class dust extraction on all my machines and tools and an air filtration unit fitted to the ceiling that can be run on a timer after finishing for the day.

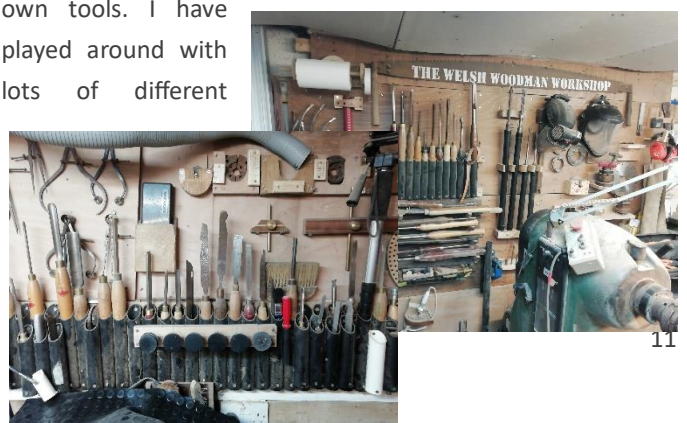
To sharpen my woodturning tools, I use a basic **6-inch Clark grinder** fitted with a CBN wheel, I use this to sharpen all my tools, and a fine white wheel I use



to reshape profiles or sharpen really blunt tools. I could not recommend using CBN wheels for sharpening enough, I have had the same wheel for over 3 years now and it is still going strong. I have made my own sharpening jig with attachment for sharpening my tools, making sure I can achieve an accurate repeatable grind. I have made a video on making and using this system on my YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Db4JPSb8LqU>

Although I only use about 6-8 turning tools regularly in my Woodturning work. I really enjoy collecting and making my own tools. I have played around with lots of different



storage solutions for woodturning tools as you can see from the photos. I have found 40mm PVC pipe with a 45-degree cut on the top secured to the wall with 2 screws is the cheapest and easiest way to hold the tools. I have also made other dedicated holders with built-in rare-earth magnets and shelf style storage slots that work well to. I have created another tool board to help store the attachments for the lathe, I like having a place where everything lives, as this keeps the shop tidy and easy to find things (if they go back where they should that is).

As well as woodturning I enjoy all other aspects of woodworking. I have made a mitre station with built in dust extraction to help me with my furniture projects. The fence I have added helps me to get accurate repeatable cuts. Underneath the mitre station I have lots of room for timber storage and seasoned bowl blanks hidden behind the Welsh flags. I like to keep my unseasoned wood in my log stores as this reduces the amount of moisture introduced into the shop. With my furniture projects I like to buy the wood ahead of time and let it acclimate to the workshop before making. I have made a curved cut out in the mitre station to move the pillar drill forward, which is handy for drilling pen blanks.



FINAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As mentioned on page 1 and 2, HWA will from time to time share some on-line Demonstrations with Test Valley Turners. We obviously have a shared interest in our hobby, and it makes sense to share our resources and join together for our mutual benefit. This is another way of keeping in touch and helps to keep our clubs active. So, keep your eye out these extra Demo's.

Many thanks to those of you who have contributed articles and items for 'Your Turn' over the last year, it really gives an added interest to see other club member's work.

I am always looking for new contributors, so please pass on your 'hints, tips and project details with a few photos to showcase what you've achieved.

I would also appreciate some more volunteers to show off their Workshop layout with photos and a brief explanation of their tools and equipment and your tool 'wish list'.

Do not be shy, we like to pry !

Best regards to you and your families, please stay safe.

Hope to see you all soon.

Dave Simpson (Editor)



I have made a drill bit cabinet with a hole gauge underneath each drill bit to quickly find the right size needed as well as organising bits. Inside the cabinet there are built in holders for specialist drill bits and drill packs that are handy to grab and go.

I have a German style workbench with a side vice where I do most of my carving and joinery projects. I have made a tool board behind the bench to make all the tools I use regularly easy to access. I like to use a mixture of hand and power tools in my work, especially antique tools when I can. I love using old planes, which I have started to collect and restore. I managed to get some wall mounted hardware organisers from the random good section in Aldi which have come in real handy. As wall space is a premium, I had to think of some clever storage solutions to increase the space this book style tool boards has worked well.



DECEMBER GALLERY



JANUARY GALLERY



FEBRUARY GALLERY



MARCH GALLERY

