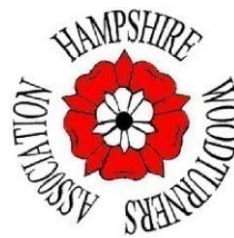


# APRIL 2025



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Wednesday** 7th May: Club Member Demo – Greg Long  
Monday 2nd June: Club Turn-in  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July: Professional Demo – David Ives (TBC)

## APRIL MEETING

### **ANNUAL MEETING**



The April meeting was taken up with our AGM hosted by our chairman Phil Hewitt, who read out his Chairmans Report and gave special thanks and bottles of wine to our 'tea boys' Phil, Roy and Les, and special thanks to

Steve and Alan for all their work on the camera and sound system.

There was also a big discussion on increasing the annual subscription for HWA.

We have spent a lot of money on our new camera system, the costs of getting quality Demonstrators for our enjoyment and education is increasing, especially with regard to their mileage travel costs, the price for the monthly hire of the hall from the new owners is due to increase in September, our insurance costs are also rising, and membership numbers are not as high as they were before Covid.

All these factors combine to reduce our cash reserves, so the decision was taken to increase our membership subscription from £30 per year (which it has been held at for many years) to a new subscription fee of £36 per year. This proposal was not taken lightly but will ensure that we as a club remain financially resilient and able to recruit top quality demonstrators and able to absorb future cost increases. This will also make pro-rata payments for members joining HWA throughout the year much easier to work out.

The proposal was put to the members present at the AGM and 22 voted for the proposal, 1 against and there were 2 abstentions, so the membership fee proposal to increase fees from £30 per year to £36 per year was passed and will come into effect this month.

The new subscription costs equate to £3 per HWA club evening, which is very good value for money...and the car parking is still FREE...

HWA membership subscription renewal is due from now so please can all subs be paid promptly.



The *Les Osborne Trophy* awarded for the member who placed most items on the display table over the last year went to **Gavin Roach**.



This year's *Clubman of the Year* was awarded to **Kevin Divall**, in recognition for his role as Club secretary and Raffle coordinator.

The *Novice of the Year* award was not made this year but remains available to the novice woodturner who is deemed to make the most progress in their work over the previous year.

### ***EASTER COMPETITION***

***The theme for the Easter Competition in April was: "A Natural Edged Bowl".***

After the AGM the voting for the best Natural Edged piece Competition Entry took place....



First Place: Kevin Divall.



Second Place: Brian Hannan.



Third Place: Mike Haselden.

## **BOATHOUSE 4 – completing the CMB – Brian Eyley**



After the AGM and the all-important tea break, the rest of the evening was taken up by a very interesting talk by our own **Brian Eyley** about his work in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard Boathouse No 4 working on the World War 1 replica Thorneycroft 40ft Coastal Motorboat (CMB).

The high-speed boat was designed and developed in secret by Blanche Thorneycroft in 1916, it carried a forward-facing single torpedo that was released from the rear of the craft when it was within range and pointing in the right direction for its intended target. After launching the torpedo, the boat then turned and sped away, leaving the range clear for the torpedo to speed off towards its intended target.

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 1919 CMB 4 attacked and sunk the Russian Cruiser OLEG during the Bolshevik Revolution, for which its commander **Augustus Agar** was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Brian and the team of workers in Boathouse No 4 have spent several years and with the help of a National Lottery grant built from scratch a replica of this iconic boat.

Brian's talk was very interesting, very educational and a historically fascinating insight into how this class of boat was manufactured in 1919 and how it was faithfully reproduced in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Two years ago, Brian gave his first talk on the progress of CMB 4 where he stated that the craft was only half complete, now two years later the craft is not only complete but has successfully completed her sea trials and is now a fully working high speed replica of the original craft.

Brian had numerous photos of the craft in various stages of completion, showing how he and his team of boatbuilders and craftsmen replicated (as near as possible) the same methods that were used over 100 years ago in building this cutting-edge high-speed craft, and rediscovering woodworking skills that have long been forgotten.

The CMB had a speed of over 35 knots and was a very sleek and low built craft that was incredibly strong, she was built with laminated wood and had two skins of wooden planks for her hull.

She was designed to operate in coastal areas and be capable of high-speed transit over minefields in hostile waters to attack shipping. She weighs 5 tons, had a Thorneycroft



V12 petrol engine driving a single propeller, has a draught of only 2ft 9ins, she was armed with one 18inch torpedo, and had a crew of 3.

The boat that was built by Brian and the Boathouse team had to be fitted with a diesel engine, as current Health and Safety regulations will not allow petrol as a boat fuel. Other modifications that were forced on the construction team included a modern type of wood glue, a laminate 'skin' being fused to the outside of the hull (this was to better preserve the hull from deterioration, and reduce future maintenance costs) and a special bespoke set of access stairs so that passengers and visitors to the craft can easily and safely access and egress over the sloping deck without slipping or damaging the hull.

Brian also had the special task of creating the nosecone for the wooden replica 18in Torpedo that was to be installed in the replica craft. Brian 'won' this task as he was a woodturner and the proud owner of a wood lathe big enough to turn such a large piece of wood.

He showed us photos of how he created the wooden block framework that he later turned on his lathe to shape the sleek nosecone that was to be attached to the torpedo body, and the replica metal contact fuse that was to be fitted to the finished cone.

Brian's talk was very well received by the HWA membership. Many thanks to Brian for his talk and as always, many thanks to **Pete Broadbent** for all his work in taking and producing all the photographs on behalf of the HWA.

*Further details on the project and the work being undertaken by Boathouse No 4 can be found by visiting Portsmouth Historic Dockyard website, and they are always looking for new volunteers to help with their projects.*



The curved central keel of the boat was made of laminated oak, and Brian was able to obtain an offcut of this after it was cut to length, and make a very unusual bowl where the laminations are clearly visible.

## Hampshire Woodturning Library

Books seem to be going out of fashion, but the Hampshire Woodturners Club has an extensive library of over 100 books and DVDs covering turning, finishes, wood

preparation and other woodworking topics. Many of these have been donated by ex-members, recently **Ivor Miller's** wife has donated several new and exciting titles.

I have found the books a fantastic source for ideas and learning new techniques, and you may not be aware a couple of these books were written by ex HWA members, **Hillary Bowman** (Wood turned Jewellery) and **Chris West** Salt and Pepper Mills.

The library is available at every meeting, so please come and have a look, if you wish to borrow any please record the details on the list by the library, and we ask is for a small donation to keep the library fresh.

**Kevin**

## NEW PEN TURNING SHOP

Just a reminder from last month that **Turnershop** are a small company distributing top quality woodturning Pen kits at a reasonable cost. They have numerous specialised products which are exclusive to themselves.

They are a non-profit company and sales help to finance their chosen charities. You can find them on their website [www.turnershop.co.uk](http://www.turnershop.co.uk)

## HWA FACEBOOK PAGE

Did you know we had a Facebook page '**Hampshire Woodturners Association**' and a member only Facebook 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.

## 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 time to look at and subscribe to their channels.

**Tom James:** [The Welsh Woodman](#) and **Steve Howell:** [The Hampshire Woodturner](#)

## TERRY'S TOP TIPS – from the Chestnut Products newsletters

First off the blocks this week is a question about applying Hard Wax Oil over Spirit Stain. Specifically: can it be ragged on? These two products don't share a common solvent, so this should be OK. However, the ragging action could be a little aggressive. If too much pressure is used, or the cloth is too wet, it's possible the stain could still run. The best course of action would be to apply a light brush coat of oil first. After that, it should be fine to rag on further coats—although a light touch is still the best approach.

Another reader contacted us about a repair on his kitchen worktop. It had been done professionally using a Dremel, a hard filler, and some “clever acrylic hand paintwork to match the pattern and colour to look like the original.” Once finished, a protective spray had been applied. The question was whether a couple of coats of Melamine Gloss Lacquer spray would be a good idea to enhance protection and wear resistance. I thought not, since we don't know what type of spray was originally used. One of our Acrylic Sprays would be a better choice, as it's far less likely to react with the existing coating. My only small concern was that the worktop surface might not allow the spray to adhere fully—but a light coat shouldn't be a problem.

Finally for this week, an email from someone repairing a Fender guitar neck: what can he mix our Spirit Stains with to create a tinted shader coat of finish? The Spirit Stains are very adaptable and ideal for this. They mix with many of our products, including Cellulose Sanding Sealer, Melamine Lacquer, Hard Wax Oil, and—to a lesser extent—Acrylic Sanding Sealer and Acrylic Lacquer. A sprayable finish was preferred, so Melamine Lacquer would probably be the best choice in this case. I hope the guitar turns out great!

A common question I get asked when demonstrating on the lathe is what speed I recommend working at. I usually have the lathe running at around 1100rpm. I'm comfortable with it at that speed, and I'm able to do pretty much everything I want to. But it's very much a personal choice, there's no real right or wrong answer. The speed will depend very much on the size and shape of the item spinning, and, once again, personal choice. There's no need to run the lathe at top speed when polishing, and it can even be detrimental to the finish. I'd suggest starting at around 1100rpm and seeing if it suits you. You can always adjust it if it's not doing what you want it to.

What might seem like a relatively basic question came up during my demo, but it's only basic if you know the answer! It's always worth remembering that a turning newbie could be uncertain about some of the terms and jargon we take for granted. The example here was about abrasives. The questioner was pretty sure he already knew the answer, but wanted to double-check...

Does a higher abrasive number mean a finer grade? You might already know that 'yes' is the answer to this one, but do you know why? The grading (80,120,180 etc.) refers to the

size of the grit, and the P prefix (which can only be used by members of the Federation of European Producers of Abrasives (FEPA)) denotes an even distribution of it.

If you've seen/endured one of my demonstrations, you'll know that I often use Burnishing Cream during it. It's a great 'get-out-of-jail-free' product, ideal if you haven't quite got the shine you want. Its fine abrasive will cut a surface back and burnish it to a higher gloss. It can be used on lots of products, and I was asked to list them. This can be found on the Compatibility Chart, of course, but the main products it is used on are the Sanding Sealers, Lacquers, Finishing Oil, Hard Wax Oil, Wipe-On Poly, Friction Polish. Always be careful what you apply afterwards; wax and Friction Polish are best, as these won't mind if a little of the Burnishing Cream has been left on the surface.