

MAY 2025 HWA Newsletter



Monday 2nd June. Club turn in
Monday 7th July. David Ives
Monday 4th August. Club turn in

HWA FACEBOOK PAGE

Do you know we have 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 to everyone who supports the HWA monthly raffle.

Our special thanks this month to club members who have donated raffle prizes. These donations allow us to raise funds to support the club's many activities.

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As you are aware, Dave Simpson has been our Newsletter Editor for the past few years and wanted to step down, due to other commitments but as yet we have had no volunteers. The situation is now exacerbated by the fact that Dave has left the club.

The Newsletter has been valued over the time the club has existed; however, **without a willing volunteer** to take the notes and type up some brief notes, it will not exist. If you are interested but worried about the layout and editing, we can help with that but we need the first cut – please step forward and volunteer.

CLUB FEES

As mentioned at the AGM, fees are now due. The cost this year is £36. If you have already paid, great, if not, please pay using the details provided by the Chairman in his email, or pay cash at the next event.

OTHER EVENTS

There are two events that fall outside of the normal club nights. These have been organised by Richard Bray:

Les Thorne workshop day – 16th August 2025

This is the annual pilgrimage to the Holy Grail of Woodturning i.e. Les Thorne's workshop at Four Marks. As previous visits, there is no input from Les regarding teaching so will be looking for an equal split between experienced turners and novices. This is ideal for those new to turning and gives you the opportunity to work with a more experienced turner for the day. If you are interested, let Richard Bray know.

Full day demonstration – Greg Morton – 11 October 2025

Richard Bray has booked the professional woodturner Greg Morton for a full day live demo at last year's venue - the Fryern Community Centre at Chandlers Ford. This will take place on Saturday 11th October 2025 .

The anticipated cost to members of £20 to £25 per head depending on amount of people attending.

Again, these events are a great way to see a professional turner, but for a full day rather than a couple of hours for an evening. If you are interested, let Richard Bray know.

GREG LONG DEMONSTRATION

This month saw a demonstration from one of the HWA club members, Greg Long, this was his first demonstration to the club and his aim was to demonstrate Pen turning, a wooden pen and also a European acrylic pen. Greg said that he does everything on the lathe, eg no other pen making gadgets, and to make it more difficult, he was going to use a Skew chisel for the whole demonstration.

Greg started by mounting a pen blank between centres, the wood being Mahogany; It was part of an old window sill.



He started by saying that to get to this point you need to cut the blank to size, and although he has done this for tonight's demonstration, he showed the club the jig that he uses at home, this is home made for his bandsaw and allows him to cut a lot of blanks quickly; he generally makes pens in batches and hence cuts them all, shapes them and then assembles them all, rather than doing one pen from start to finish.



He used a PTFE centre that he has made into the headstock and a live centre in the tailstock, he adjusted the position of the wood to find the best position in terms of balance.

He then used a skew to bring the pen blank to the round. Although he was using a skew for the demonstration, he would normally use a spindle roughing gouge.



Greg then marked the length of the brass ferrules onto the wood, this will indicate the top and bottom part of the pen. He then put a mark across both halves of the pen, this is to ensure grain alignment when the pen is assembled later on.

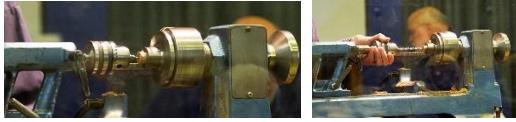


In the case of the mahogany, it was less important to align the grain however, for some woods the grain will need to be aligned.

Greg then parted the pen blank using a parting tool. With the end in the chuck he squared off the end prior to drilling.



The next part in the process was to drill a hole so that the brass ferrules can be glued in to the pen blank. Greg set-up to drill the hole using a Jacob's chuck in the tailstock and a set of pin jaws on the chuck to hold the pen blank. Before drilling the hole, he used a centre drill to start the hole and then a 7 mm twist drill to drill the hole. The speed of the lathe was \approx 500 RPM.

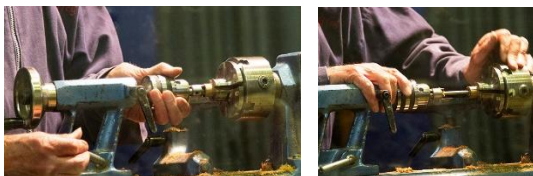


He kept withdrawing the drill to ensure the waste was removed from the drill flutes; not doing this means that the drill might overheat and bind. He then drilled a hole in the other half of the pen blank.

In the case for this pen, the ferrule diameter and length of the brass ferrule are the same for both halves but noting that in some pen kits the ferrules are a different length and diameter and hence need a different drill size.

With the holes drilled, the next part was to glue in the brass ferrules into the pen blank halves. In order to get a good gluing surface, he scratched the surface of the ferrule with abrasive paper. He then used 'Araldite Clear' to glue the ferrule into the pen blank; he did say you can use CA Glue as well. As the ferrule was inserted using a home-made tool, he turned it to spread the glue to get an even spread.

At this stage, the brass ferrule is inserted but the wood is longer than the brass ferrule. With one of the pen blanks inserted in the pen jaws, he used a drill 'mill' inserted into the jacob's chuck. You can buy these as a kit to fit different sizes of brass ferrule, and you mount the mill onto the most appropriate shaft for your ferrule size.



He then removed the excess wood until he has reached the brass ferrule; he repeated this for each end of the pen blanks.

Greg then set up the lathe with a mandrel to hold the pen blanks for shaping, at the tailstock end he had a live centre. To get the diameter of the pen blank correct at each end, each pen has a set of 'bushes', one bush going at each end of the pen blank. You can shape the blank however you wish eg curved or straight, but the ends must match the size of the bush; this will match the size of the pen parts when assembled.



Greg then assembled both pen blank halves onto the mandrel with the appropriate bushes for that pen style. He mentioned that he had assembled them with the grain aligned in accordance with the marks.

Greg then sharpened his skew chisel with a diamond hone and then began to shape each half of the pen blank, occasionally using it in scraper mode once it was getting near to the right size.



One of the club members asked Greg why he wore gloves and essentially, he said that he has dermatitis as a result of irritation from some woods over the years; to stop it getting worse, he wears gloves. Although he used a skew chisel, he said he would normally use a spindle gouge.

The finish was a bit rough and so he increased the lathe speed but joked that he would start sanding at 40 grit.

Once at the right size, he sanded the pen blanks going from 180 grit through to 600. He also sanded along the grain with the lathe off.



Part 2

After the break, Greg removed the blanks and bushes and reassembled the blanks on the mandrel with PTFE spacers instead of the bushes. This was to prevent getting finish on the bushes and potentially altering their size.



He put a towel over the bed ways to protect them from any finish.



He used sanding sealer and then cut this back with 1200 grit paper. He then used Melamine lacquer, applying 4-5 coats to get a good finish; he said that it can take time to fully set.

He then used an old tin of Simonz car wax polish, saying this was carnauba wax based. Greg did say you can use a buffing wheel to buff it up and he said some people use CA Glue as an alternative finish.

When it came to assembling the pen, Greg puts all the parts into a plastic tray.



He uses the Lathe to press the pieces together and had some plastic parts that he inserted into the headstock and the tailstock, shaped with the right morse taper.



Greg then pressed the various parts of the pen together to get the finished article.



Acrylic pen

Greg then said he would make a European style pen, using two pre-prepared blanks, with the ferrules already inserted and trimmed to the right length. This pen still needed drilling with a 7 mm drill bit but the ferrule lengths were different for this pen style.



This pen style requires a tenon planed at one end of the pen blank to fit a ferrule from the kit.

With the blank in pen jaws, he then produced the tenon for the ferrule using a parting/beading tool.

Greg assembled the acrylic pen blanks on the lathe with the correct bushes. He then used the skew chisel in planning and scraper mode to get the correct diameter.



Once at the right size, he replaced the bushes with the PTFE bushes in preparation for sanding.



He then used a 'wet' sanding technique, wetting the abrasive paper and then went through the grits to 1200; he used a paper towel to remove the slurry prior to using the next grit.

He then switched to a set of abrasive pads, using the same technique but going from 1500 grit to 12000 grit.



Once done he used a burning cream to finish off; this resulted in a highly polished finish.



HWA showed their appreciation for a great demonstration.

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

Chestnut Newsletter – 4 April

This Week's Readers' Picture



We were contacted by Espen Enerhaug, a hobby woodturner from Norway, late last year.

Having used our Lemon Oil, he wanted to try some new products and asked for some advice, which we, of course, happily supplied.

A while later, he sent us this picture, saying it was "his first attempt on the nutcracker. Base is laburnum finished with chestnut friction polish, the rest is made of cherry, first applied chestnut cellulose sanding sealer, then some acrylic hobby paint and last I put a coat of chestnut acrylic gloss lacquer. Seems to hold on fine:) thanks for the good advice:) your products were very nice to use, the acrylic paint not so easy to get an even surface of".

It's time for another 'behind-the-scenes' Newsletter. Partly because I can't remember any original questions this week, but also because we're in April now, which reminded me of an April Fools' joke I played many years ago...

We wrote (by which I mean 'printed and sent by post'!) to all our stockists, telling them of an issue with Friction Polish. I said that we'd been reported to Trading Standards by a busybody who complained that it didn't, in fact, contain any friction! (This was around the time that 'ice cream' was being criticised for not containing ice or cream, which I alluded to in order to add credibility).

We explained there was nothing wrong with the product itself, but that we had to change its name, and needed to send them replacement labels for the bottles they had in stock.

Could they, we asked, have a quick count and let me know how many labels to send out?

We received various replies, including some indignant essays on how ridiculous this ruling was and how we should fight such crazy bureaucracy. Others simply gave a count of how many labels were needed and asking how quickly we could send them out.

Not everyone fell for it—one response mentioned that they'd checked our End Seal and found that didn't contain any Ends or Seals either!

Of course, the problem with catching people out like this, is that you have to then let them in on the joke. We didn't want anyone taking the product off the shelf!

Some had fallen in by the time we rang them, and were quite sheepish about it. The best, though, was a large company (I won't name them). When I rang, I was put through to the buying department and another contact there answered the phone.

I asked to speak to my main contact.

'Oh', said the voice at the other end. 'You're calling about the April Fools thing?'

'Yes' I said. 'But...you mean you knew and didn't tell him?'

'Where would be the fun in that?' came the reply!

I can't take all the credit for this bit of mischief. The idea came from an encounter at a woodturning show when a visitor genuinely took me to task for our Friction Polish not containing friction!

At first, I thought he was asking if it contained an abrasive of some kind, but no, he really meant 'friction'!

My protestations that friction isn't a tangible thing, that the friction created in use helps it work, and that it's a common term for such things fell on deaf ears.

That definitely wasn't a good day!

YOUR SAY



As the weather improves, it's easy to forget how cold it was just a few weeks ago. Is now the time to think about how to protect your finishes for when winter returns?

Here's a suggestion from our good friend George Foweraker, who says he keeps "all my finishes in a cabinet with a small pipe heater in the bottom. It uses very little power so I leave it on throughout the winter".

Thanks, George, and I hope you are recovering well from your recent op.

Ramblings from the Factory Floor – Chestnut Newsletter - 24 April 2025

This Week's Readers' Picture



This weeks picture has been kindly shared by Bill Giles from West Sussex Woodturners. Inspired by a presentation Terry did for them. This hollow form is made from Sycamore stained with Mid Oak stain. The finish is Microcrystalline Wax over

Cellulose Sanding Sealer. A great finish I am sure you will agree.

It's always dangerous when Terry goes away and leaves me in charge of a newsletter - who knows what I may talk about or secrets I might share! Sorry to disappoint this time, but no products I can/will tantalise you with on this occasion. As usual, I am not answering questions this week, but just giving a little insight as to what has been going on at base over the last few weeks.

As you are all well aware now, We have the great pleasure of having Nathanael on our workforce now, and his introduction to our team has brought new ideas and methods as to how we carry out our day-to-day work here at base. The factory floor has been completely re-laid and a new dispatch and packing area created. I feel that these changes have made the area for the preparation of stock, and area for order packing work in a more efficient way. He is also getting to grips with the preparation of foreign orders, and at some point in the not-too-distant future, will be doing the Dangerous Goods course, and Forklift training. His addition to our team has meant a slightly different role for me as I get him up to speed on the processes and rules we follow day to day (although sometimes I feel that he is overtaking me-perhaps I am just slowing a bit). European orders have been really busy since the start of the year, and the work that Terry undertook at the beginning of last year to get our products (hazardous and liquids) into the various European languages is now beginning to come on-line. There is something quite satisfying in packing and order destined for Spain with labels printed in Spanish or danish etc, and we are hopeful that this will lead to more orders from the continent.

Our Studio is now up and running also, which for me has meant learning how to use the Box of Tricks that manage the cameras and sound. Those of you who have experienced one of the live demos presented by either Terry or Nathanael will have seen that this is still, for me, very much a

work in progress. I will crack it one day, but me and tech have never been the best of buddies!

On a personal note, I have finally begun to develop a love of the lathe, and have started to produce one or two items and an awful lot of shavings and dust (that's what I am best at)!. Nothing as grand to be shared with you all, but it is fantastic that I now have a great teacher on hand to tell me where I am going wrong and giving plenty of encouragement to keep practicing. He has also rescued the grind on my gouges a couple of times, even though I have purchased a Tormek system!! I have also joined my local Woodturning Club - West Suffolk, and had the pleasure of seeing some great live demos. They are a lovely bunch of people and just rubber stamp how great the Woodturning community is. The scary thing is, I have become a searcher for any bit of wood that I can find and now have quite a stack in the garage- no room for the car any more - what am I like!

Worms, Caravans and Planes! – Chestnut Newsletter - 24 April 2025

This Week's Readers' Picture

This project is from Neil Benham.



Neil has managed to capture real detail in the smaller turnings, including a tiny captive ring goblet! (note the 50p piece for scale).

I love the use of the various woods on the larger piece to create the little bumps going around the outside.

How many species can you name?!

I had an interesting question last week... If you treat a piece of wood for woodworm, what finish

can be used on the finished project that won't be affected by any previous chemicals from the woodworm treatment.

As far as I can tell, It's very difficult to confirm a chemical woodworm treatment has been 100% effective, as the treatment won't necessarily make it to every hole in the wood where the bugs may be hiding. During my research I came across an interesting method where the wood is heated to 60° Celsius, then is held there for an extended period of time until the centre of the wood is up to temperature, killing any woodworm in the wood, as it can't survive at 60° (fun fact: this is the same process used to heat treat shipping pallets!). If you use this method, you have complete freedom with choice of finish, as there have been no chemicals used on the wood previously.

If you do decide to use a chemical treatment on the wood, before using any finish, it's best to leave the wood for a few weeks for as much of the woodworm killer to leave the wood as possible. You would then want to choose a finish that completely seals in the wood, like a lacquer, so there would be a very low chance of any remaining chemicals getting through the finish. I wouldn't recommend trying to achieve something that is food safe, as even though the finish itself might be food safe, any remaining chemicals in the wood could be harmful if they leach out through the finish.

I'd be interested to hear people's thoughts on this topic, as it isn't really something I've run into in the past.

On Wednesday, we had a phone call from a customer who has a solid Oak table that he was refinishing to go in his caravan. He had used Cellulose Sanding Sealer and Acrylic Gloss Lacquer, but the finish was dull in patches and didn't look like it should have. After asking a few questions, I found out that he had applied 3 coats of sanding sealer before the lacquer. This is more than likely what was causing the problem, as sanding sealer is designed to only have one coat. If multiple coats

of a sealer are used, it can be very slightly soft and when a top coat is applied (especially a lacquer) it can cause issues like the finish cracking or going dull. Although it isn't ideal, the best option in this case would be to sand the table back to the bare wood and use something like our Hard Wax Oil, which will be easy to apply and give lots of protection.

We had a bit of a surprise this week when we received an email from our shipping company letting us know that one of our parcels has arrived at Heathrow and is ready to go on a plane! This is very rare for us, as it is normally astronomically expensive to ship hazardous goods by air (which most of our products are). Upon further inspection, this parcel was going to one of our European stockists and contained no hazardous products, meaning the shipping company had taken it upon themselves to send the parcel via air!

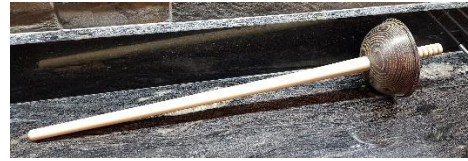
Mel's Turning Adventures!



We would normally show a reader's picture here, but after last week's newsletter, I thought this would be a great opportunity to show a technique that Mel has been trying on one of her bowls! This project isn't finished yet, but I've seen it in person, and it looks even better than it does in the pic. This one has been done with acrylic paint (as Mel is also a very talented painter) but she is already looking at using our Iridescent Paints to try the same technique. Once the bowl is finished, I'm sure she'll be back to show you the finished result! Extremely impressive for someone who is very new to turning if you ask me!

Sharers, Burrs and Names – Chestnut Newsletter - 24 April 2025

This Week's Readers' Picture



This week's picture comes from one of our regulars, Ash Howard, with this child's toy sword, finished in Chestnut Products and featuring a beautifully limed guard (I thought it was the hilt until I looked it up!). Have at thee!

Here's an interesting question that came in before my holiday. A customer was working on a design for a sharer board made from British oak. The boards could have hot butter, melted cheese and salsa spilled on them. Did we have any suggestions for a finish on them?

The food itself would be in bowls, so the finish needs to be food resistant, not food safe. We reckon the best bet on this would be the Hard Wax Oil; very tough, easy to apply and will stand up to a lot of abuse.

Importantly, it's not indestructible, and the foodstuffs mentioned are unknowns, so we suggested extensive testing before going ahead with a production run.

We were not assured this would happen, but that the results would be shared. I'll keep you posted!

Still dipping deep into my postbag, we were asked what to do about buffing a finish on a burr. The Buffing Wheel system would be liable to leave fibres behind, as they would catch in the roughness of the burr (and this could potentially be dangerous as well).

This sounds like a job for our Polishing Brushes. These are really designed for polishing waxes, but they double up very nicely for use buffing other finishes too. The fibres on them seem quite hard, but they're just the right side of flexible to adapt

to the shape of the item being buffed, and the right side of firm enough to actually burnish the surface.

Like the Buffing System, these are a bit of an investment as they're not cheap, but they last a very long time and are a very useful tool to have in your workshop.

Finally, a question about the Newsletter itself. Much as I'd like to say I personalise every Newsletter individually, putting your name in the first line, I'm sure you already realise it's a mail merge program.

So why, someone asked, does their Newsletter start 'Hi [Reader's Surname]' rather than addressing them by their first name?

This is because the nametag was set up incorrectly, which happens more often than you'd think. (It might be because the First Name and Surname fields have been transposed on our website. Oops!)

If we're not using your correct name, or the wrong version of it (are you 'Ben' and not 'Benjamin?'), just let me know, and we'll get this changed for

you.

Having suffered many times with people getting my name wrong, I'd hate to think I was getting yours wrong!

YOUR SAY

Ash Howard's toy sword gets a second mention this week...



The sword was made for his cousin's granddaughter, who lives in Perth, Australia.

Despite being well wrapped and protected, it was sad to see that the lovely guard didn't survive the journey. Such a shame.

MAY GALLERY

