

Christchurch Society of Woodturners

E- Newsletter

July 2021

Website Teasers

Geoff Beddoe found offcuts of six different woods to make this tasty biscuit barrel. How many can you name?
Answer on the website!



David Patrick made this crush grinder out of Laburnum. The website is peppered with another six examples.



Vic Russell has had this project on the go for a few weeks. His miniature turner has a secret function – you guessed it, see the website for further information!



Wood to Try

Paul Reeves: This month's wood is Laburnum. A beautiful wood to turn, it is the densest timber that grows naturally in the UK; the nearest thing we have to a Rosewood. Old trees with large diameter trunks invariably have splits and cracks through the centre so large sections 12" and above are a pretty rare find. The dark brown heartwood is in complete contrast to the creamy white sapwood and this can be used to great effect. The bark, flowers, seeds and wood contain the toxin Cytisine, a similar substance to Nicotine in as much as large quantities will kill you. Turning dry wood with a dust mask on should see you come to no harm though. It ages to a lovely rich dark brown with the sapwood remaining much the same colour as when first turned.



Nest of four Laburnum boxes

The stool legs in the photo were turned from branch wood about 4 years ago I think. It is ideal for smaller decorative pieces or elements of a larger project. The nesting boxes still fit

perfectly with that lovely air cushion slide when you drop one into another so I can vouch for the long-term dimensional stability when turned dry. Natural edge bowls always look spectacular when turned semi dry with the contrast of the green bark, creamy sapwood and chocolate heart. It sands and buffs to a long-lasting high shine and is a very friendly wood for chasing threads into.



Leylandii top / Laburnum legs



Screw-top Laburnum ring box, Snakewood caddies, African Blackwood insert on lid and base

If anyone wants to try a bit there is still a large pile under a sheet in my garden that Rick Patrick collected from a very large specimen in Twyford a few years ago, for the use of club members. Give me a call and come and help yourself.



On the internet

This month's suggestions from Vic Russell:

Making wood jaws.

<https://youtu.be/-UXTFCAaokU>

Need a steady rest? Some plans here. Best viewed in Reader View if your browser has the option.

<http://woodarchivist.com/3522-wood-lathe-steady-rest-plans/>

Carbide V HSS. Interesting article on the two types of turning tools. Once again, best read in Reader View as it removes all the adverts.

<https://turnawoodbowl.com/carbide-vs-traditional-hss-wood-turning-tools-high-speed-steel/>

It's not wood as we know it! Interesting concept ...

<https://3dprintingindustry.com/news/desktop-metal-redefines-woodworking-with-new-wood-3d-printing-technology-189752/>

Texturing tools compared.

<https://youtu.be/8I5XvG7Buqs>

Moroccan Artisan

Strolling through the souks of Marrakech about 10 years ago, Andy came across this remarkable man. Sitting in front of a workshop the size of a small garage, he was turning trinkets for tourists as a side-line. A very basic headstock was attached to a board, his left foot was used to hold the tailstock, his right hand turned the wood with a bow whilst his left hand rested the chisel between the toes of his right foot and turned the captive ring necklace below in just a few minutes. We obviously offered to buy it and asked, 'How much?' - to which he cleverly replied, 'Whatever you think its worth'. He knew we would apply our European values to the price, thus making it a very nice little earner for him - and in truth only a couple of quid for us. He then very quickly turned a second item for the other lady in the group and doubled his money!



Eye Up Chuck 2

Vic Russell has noted that holding small pieces of wood on the lathe can sometimes be a problem. Even if you do have suitable jaws for your scroll chuck it can be a bit unnerving getting your hands close to those spinning jaws. If you plan to do a lot of small stuff it may be worth thinking about getting a collet chuck. The best ones screw directly to your lathe spindle like any other chuck, but these are not available in all mounts and can be expensive. A cheaper alternative is a collet chuck with a Morse taper to fit your spindle. You will need to use a draw bar though to ensure it doesn't come out of the spindle unintentionally.

Picture 1 shows an ER32 collet chuck with a number 2 Morse taper fitted to the lathe. In addition to the chuck, you will need a few collets and a spanner to tighten the nut. These can all be purchased for quite a reasonable price on a well-known auction site. The chucks are around £15 and the collets can be obtained for a few pounds each. The spring collets have a range of 1mm, so a 20mm collet can in theory close down to 19mm but it's best to get as near to the open size as you can when preparing your workpiece. I turn stuff down between centres to do this.

Picture 2 shows the chuck, draw bar, spanner and a few collets. Note: ER collet chucks are available in several different sizes. Probably the most useful size is the ER32 as this takes collets from 3mm up to 20mm. You can in addition get 'oversize' collets up to 1" but these tend to be more expensive.



Introducing

Ian McClure was presented with a Ferm wood lathe by his wife when he retired to complement his interests in carving, fretwork and toy making – all from his small but beautifully organised workshop. Shortly afterwards he was cursing a piece of oak which had flown off the lathe into his chest and face shield. Luckily, as a former paramedic, he had seen many diy accidents leading to him at least wearing the correct safety kit! Suitably chastened, he attended a course at Axminster and joined the club about six years ago. He very much appreciates the friendliness and advice of fellow club members who helped him develop his skills - to the point where he now lists a Betts skew chisel as his favourite. Ian has been inspired by the various demonstrations over the years and does his bit by helping on the book stall or in the shop. His first car was a '61 Ford Thames 307E van which he remembers with great affection as he did loads of work on it before it became a staple of his early married life for trips and house renovations. Favourite food – outdoor / buffet style. Ian also enjoys walking, jogging, gardening and is an avid reader. Have a look at his range of skills and artefacts.....



Relax, just a few things needed to carve



Relief carving in Parana Pine



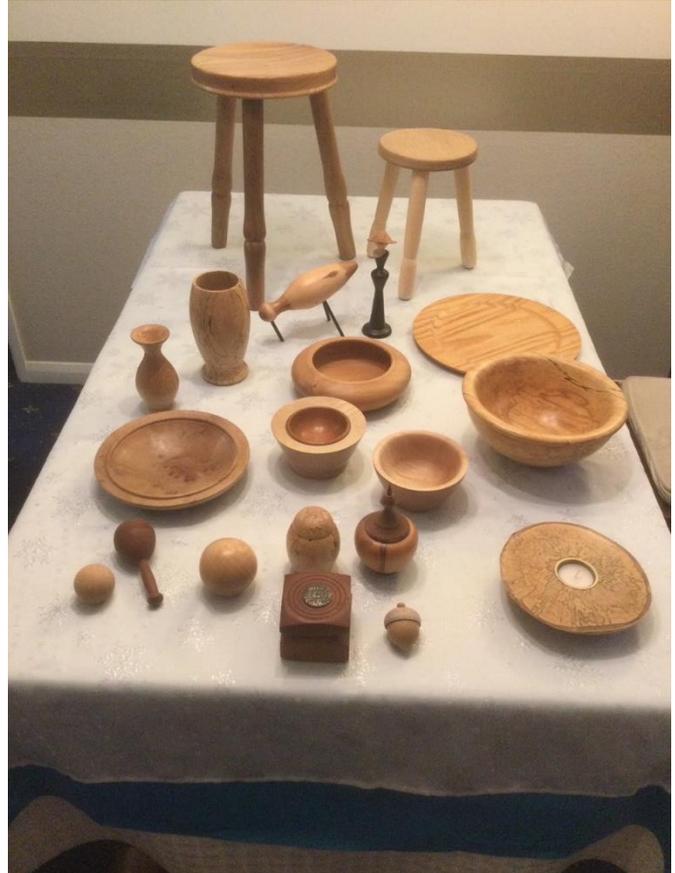
Pyrography - practise on plywood



Fret-sawn / pyrography nativity



Toy making



Assortment of turned work

Question

Why does a woodturner's fruit always turn out pear-shaped?

If you know any jokes you think wood work, please send them in!

Just a thought

A chip on the shoulder is a sign of wood higher up

And finally



Contributions to this e-newsletter are very welcome as are suggestions and comment. I am particularly interested in the stories of projects which members have taken on.

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