

Christchurch Society of Woodturners

E- Newsletter

September 2021

September meeting is ON!

Thursday 16th September 2021 – Mudeford Wood Community Centre – 7.30pm

Existing and new members welcome.

- Welcome back
- Best of lockdown turning display / informal competition
- Demonstration by Paul Reeves - 'Treen' (any small, functional household object)
- Presentation of outstanding trophies

Membership is free for the remaining 6 months of this club year but you will be asked to sign in so that you are officially a member and to confirm your contact details. Subscriptions will become due in April 2022.

Please enter the centre via the front door, although you may be asked to leave via a fire exit. The centre is recommending that you wear a mask on entry and in the corridors but once in the meeting hall it is your choice. Chairs will be put out with 1m gaps to give everyone space and hand-gel will be available on the door. We will still have a 'tea break' at about 9pm to allow you to catch up with friends but to avoid the tea queue bottleneck, we will not be serving tea /coffee at the first meeting. Please feel free to bring your own refreshment and enough biscuits to share as you mingle!

The club shop will be open. Rick, ever the optimist, anticipates being busy and suggests you might like to email him with what you would like to pick up on the night or perhaps arrive with your name and order on a piece of paper so he can make up the order as you enjoy the demonstration or take in the lockdown turning display. Whilst the club has plans to acquire a card machine, for the moment it is cash only please.

A central part of the evening for everyone to contribute to is the 'Best of Lockdown' display table. Please bring one lockdown turned item and put it on a piece of paper with eg John Smith, Bowl in Yew. Please avoid crowding round the table and handle turnings as little as possible. If you feel the need to inspect a bottom, please make sure your hands are clean! (and that there is no residual gel which might affect the finish).

Make sure you bring something!

We are all looking forward to meeting up again and sharing turning stories and exploits.

Wood to Try

Something different this month. Look out for a freebie! There is satisfaction in rescuing offcuts from someone's woodburner or the tip. These examples are engineered oak – that is where genuine oak has been dried, planed and then glued back together to make a stable, non-warping / twisting construction material - kitchen worktops, staircase posts and rails etc. The process the wood has gone through is obvious in the finished article but gives a dimension of interest in addition to the natural grain evident. Apologies to those purists who may consider that the mighty oak has been demeaned by the stripping of its natural qualities!

Up-cycled offcuts - a kitchen worktop platter below and a newel post vase on the right



Internet

This month's offerings from Vic Russell:
Another Tool catalogue, Ashley Iles this time.

<https://www.ashleyilestoolstore.co.uk/ProductCatalogue/Catalogue.pdf>

Turning a Pythagoras Cup.

<https://youtu.be/nZiBo8rMaUo>

Is it too early for Snowmen?!

<https://blog.woodturnerscatalog.com/2012/12/turning-a-snowman-box/>

Make a Doughnut Chuck. Instructions you can download and keep.

<http://www.azwoodturners.org/pages/tips/DoughnutChuck.pdf>

Psychology of appraising work

Andy Ogilvie: As we return to meetings, so we return to display tables and competitions. We all learn from looking at each other's work - by sharing our turning efforts we give each other ideas and raise everyone's standard. Whether you are an aspiring technical expert, a hobbyist or something in between, you'll get drawn into appraising work – so here are a few thoughts on giving 'constructive feedback', and on how to evaluate work presented for competitions.

- Don't make it personal – if someone has made a few mistakes, it does not make them a useless, clumsy, incompetent idiot. Comment on the work, not the person.
- Be positive – try for a ratio of 3:1. Its good because (x3). Even better if (x1). Be honest; do not patronise with false praise. Judgements should be made in the context of a person's ability and experience.
- Assume and encourage self-assessment – we get better by evaluating our own efforts. You can help someone through that process by asking questions about the piece, techniques used and design ideas. With a less experienced peer you can also tease out areas where advice would be appreciated or lead to them progressing effectively as a turner. With a more experienced peer, don't be shy about picking their brains for your own benefit!
- Look at form and function as well as turning expertise – and refer to any competition brief that the work has been produced for. Technical ability plus functionality, ergonomics, dimensions / ratios, originality, aesthetics, quality of finish etc.
- Recognise hard work and effort – we all like a pat on the back and to feel we are progressing and working to the best of our ability.
- Don't be too harsh on yourself – beware of being over-critical of your own efforts. Make sure you look for positives before making a mental note of what to do differently next time.



If you have offered your work for appraisal, even if only to a mate, you should feel that you have been treated positively, honestly and fairly. As you pick up your work you should have something to smile about and maybe something to work on.

Have a go – can you think of 3 good points, 1 constructive criticism and a question to ask about this paper towel holder, produced by a beginner? (No need to send answers on a postcard!)



Stairgate Story

Nick Gosden has been working hard to keep the youngest members of his family safe whilst satisfying his personal challenge to make a pair of stairgates to match the existing staircase. He carefully selected the spindle blanks so that knots did not appear in awkward places and made himself a lathe steady (though he's not sure if it helped or not – something sturdier next time he says).



A positive first cut with a skew chisel, avoiding the knot, to set him going before precisely shaping each one to end up with a matching set. Nick admits the project required a steep learning curve, especially with the skew. A pre-formed rail fitted with a bolt let in where little eyes and fingers can't see or find it, some hinges and wall fixings and a great job finished – except he needed one for the top too! Happy Grandad / woodturner, safe little ones – result!



Introducing

At 15, Bill Gibson went to his local garage looking for work. 41 years later he was in the same place but as a master technician and workshop manager. A move to the New Forest led to him using his lifelong passion for motorcycles for a further 16 years work at the Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum. Quite enough work for any man but through this second job he was introduced to woodturning, and he now enjoys time in his converted summerhouse, insulated with shelves of bits, pieces and tools for various projects. He has an Axminster M900 lathe plus peripherals acquired through the club and a trusty 3/8" bowl gouge. His first car was a '57 Standard 10 van and he has fond memories of a Mk1 Cortina. As important, was his first bike – a Triumph Tiger Cub though he now has a Yamaha Tracer 700 to pursue his interest in motorcycle touring. He loves roast lamb with vegetables from his allotment (a lockdown lifesaver). Bill also enjoys badminton, cycling and does some voluntary conservation work in the forest between visiting grandchildren in Kent and Australia.



Old habits die hard – engineering tolerances for the lids on these boxes and piston inspired boxes, one complete with gudgeon pin. The wine bottle holder is a retirement present for an ex-colleague at Sammy Miller.



Wizardry in Wood

Graham Turner recommends the annual exhibition by the 'Worhipful Company of Woodturners' in London, 13-16 October 2021. Displays and demonstrations of turning, ornamental turning and pole-lathe turning by the very best, plus associated trade stalls. <http://www.turnersco.com/wizardry-in-wood-october-2021/>

Just a thought

If a man says he'll fix it, he will. There's no need to remind him every six months!

To cut out and stick on your lathe?



Would you hug this tree?



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

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