Woodworms

Issue 130 Woodworms

With the excitement of this years “Wacky Races” competition building, Derek opened today’s session letting everyone know that the carvers were on their own today as their mentor, Peter Branson was unavailable. We were not sure whether he was wasn’t feeling too well or had failed to show, as he had not completed his race car on time!

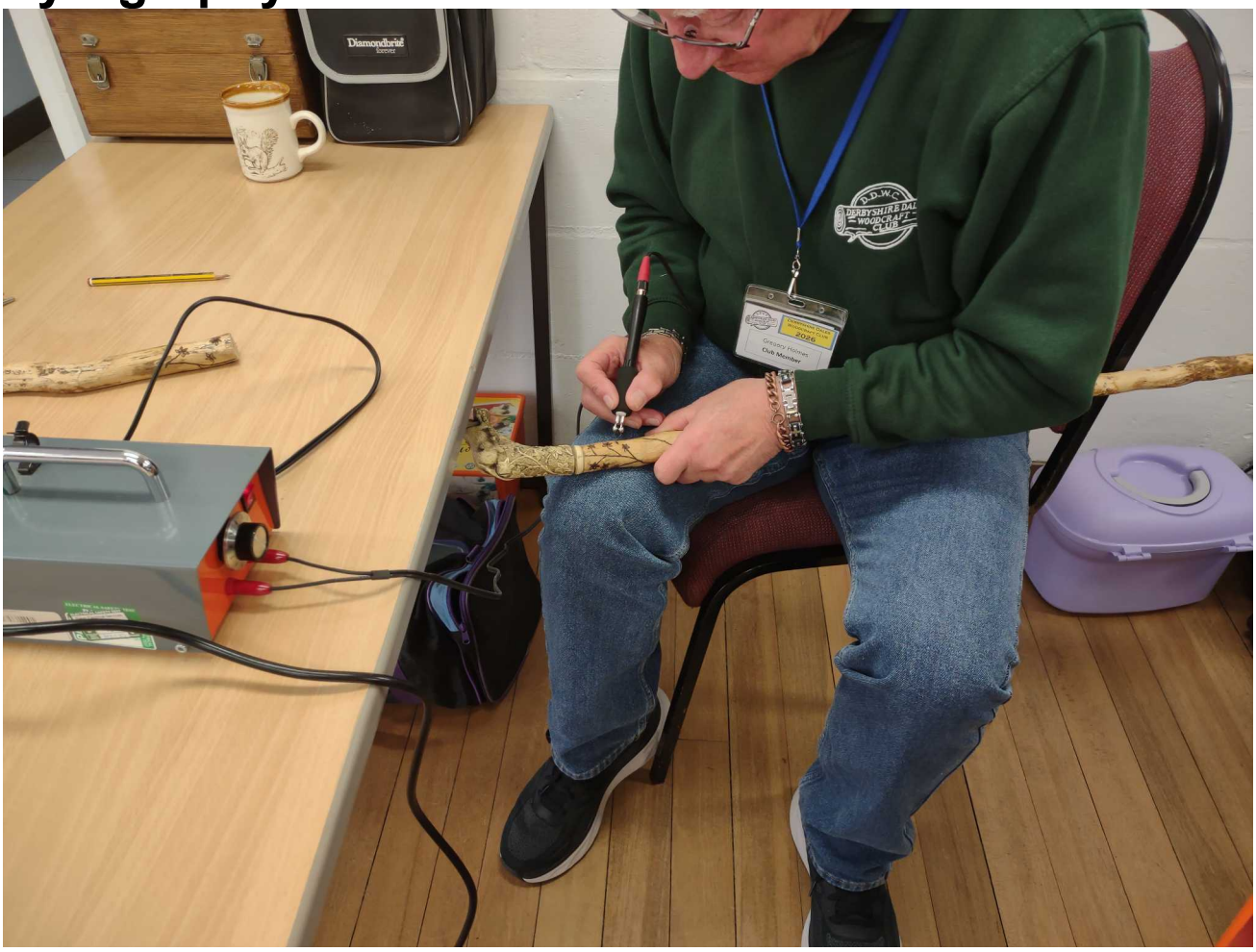
A quick mention of the Chestnut Products Weekend in August and the Harrogate show in November was followed by showing the video of our members in action at the recent SEND event at Brakenfield school.

For this issue I would like to thank Andrew Gordon for the competition images, Graham Legg for ‘polishing’ an article, Brian Walker for the Zoom report and to all those members able to provide a little extra detail in describing their competition entries.

Ken Rivers: Editor

May 2026 Meeting

Pyrography



I left the last Bakewell Stick show with a hawthorn stick and Antler piece to make a thumb stick. Having watched a few YouTube videos it was time to consult the experts in case I has misheard any information.

I managed to disturb Greg Holmes who was deep into applying a pattern to his latest stick.

Greg confirmed that drilling out and replacing some of the insides of the antler horn with a hard wood will help the metal insert to sit a lot more securely.

Thanks also to Philip Jones for his comments.

I also managed to have a few words with Lisa Williams as she continued with her owl project. The rest of the pyrographers were eating cake so I did not disturb them!

Carving

The absence of Peter did not slow down the rest of the carvers. Always good to see mostly new members honing their skills.

Scroll Saw

Another full quota of those scroll sawing kept James Sharpe content.

There was no lack of concentration as it appeared that members projects had taken on a more advanced selection.

Wood Turning

Andrew Gordon (getting some tutoring practice in for the AWGB course) has new members lining up to learn a few new skills

Pauline Linnell (as part of her AWGB course) keeps an experienced eye on a new member.

Alex Back once again partners up with David Reynolds to work on his second bowl.

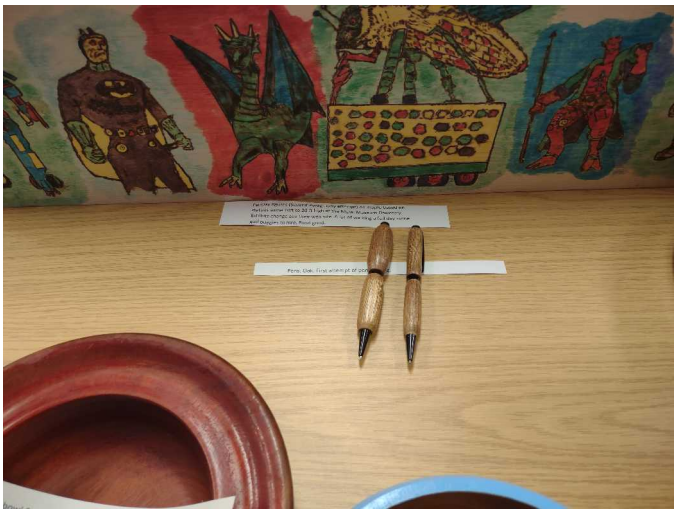
Meanwhile Graham Legg takes on Edward Back who is currently working on a tree.

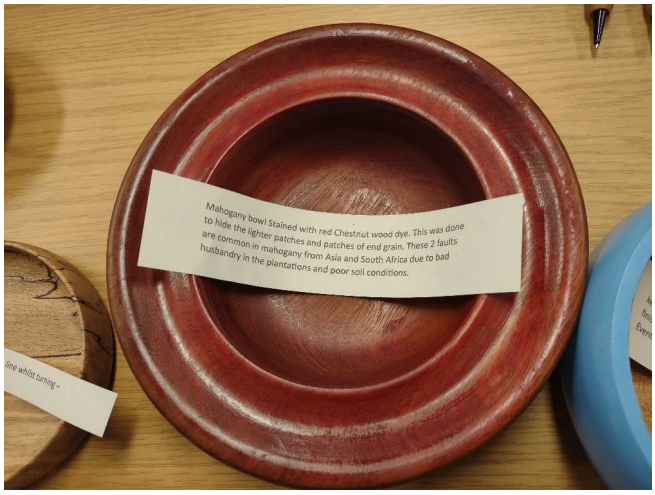
Members work on Display
Pauline Linnell & Mike Kelsall

Pauline (aka “The Lady Wood turner”) brought in some very high quality pieces with immense variety that demonstrate her skills.

My favourite is the small hollow bowl (left) with the inlaid carving.

Members work on Display: Mike Kelsall





All of Mike's items carried a very good description of the work and history behind each piece.

Members Competition

1st: Richard Dallas: Hong Kong Phooey": (Japanese Oak**)**

2nd Ken Rivers: "Mad Max" (Sapele)

Having recently re-watched a few Mad Max movies I was inspired to recreate a car based along those lines.

I was hoping the weight of the sapele would work to my advantage. I did have to slice a bit off the bottom of the car in order to keep it below the 10cm height

restriction. I am still not paying enough attention to detail and my shafts were misaligned so my wheels were a bit off. Maybe next time. **[KR]**

3rd Andrew Gordon: "Heavy" (Oak and Rose**)**

Working within the rules I aimed to make the heaviest car whilst still being in keeping with the Wacky Races theme.
I chose a piece of oak, being the densest wood I had of the right size. The basic shape was cut on a band saw. The top of the car was then cut off, the window features added and the top then glued back onto the chassis. Holes for the axles were drilled through and bushes (the centre pieces from pen kits) were glued in place.
Wheels in rosewood were turned, axles (dowel rod) glued on and put through the bushes. The dowel rod axles were sanded and waxed where they would touch the bushes to reduce the friction.
Finally pyrography was used to add a few features. [**AG**]

Also entered

Alan Lamb: Peter Rabbit: (Lime**)**

Jonathon Helliwell: CJ Spoon (?)

Thanks to Alan and Jonathon for their entries. Always good to see carving represented in the club competitions.

Graham Cope (Sapele & Plywood)

Car No 42 was made from Sapele and plywood. The wheels were made from a piece of pine and I used two pen inserts as axles.

What I learned from this exercise was the heavier the car the better it runs next time, maybe. **[GC]**

Competition Votes, places & Leader Board

1	Richard Dallas	23
2	Ken Rivers	5
3	Andrew Gordon	3
4	A Lamb	2
5	Johnathon Helliwell	2
5	Graham Cope	0

Andrew	Gordon	19
Ken	Rivers	17
Richard	Dallas	15
Richard	Latos	10
Graham	Cope	6
Hyacinth	Dixon	6
Colin	Fishwick	4
Kes	Halliday	4
Gregory	Holmes	4
Alan	Lamb	4
Philip	Jones	2
Michael	Kelsall	2
Carole	Snell	2
Alex	Walker	1
JONATHAN	Helliwell	1

Up for Auction

Two lovely pieces of Moroccan Thuya Burr were raffled off to members (Each being about 300mm *75 mm.) These were scooped up by Graham Legg and John Williams. I assume we will soon be seeing two wonderfully crafted bowls?

Thuya wood (pronounced two-ya) is from the Thuya tree (Tetraclinis articulata in Latin, and Araar in Moroccan). This biblical tree is a conifer from the cedar family, and is exclusively native to Morocco. This highly praised conifer grows only in the forests of the Atlas mountains east of Essaouira, the beautiful coastal town famous for its ancient and contemporary history, museums, art galleries, world music festival, and above all for its Thuya wood craftsmanship. Thuya trees reach maturity over many decades. Still the praised part of this tree is not the trunk, but the burl buried in the ground. The burl has a deeper color, a more concentrated aroma, and a fascinating grain. Today these burls are very scarce and hard to locate, extract, and transport. High demand over the centuries has greatly reduced the Thuya forests, and looking for underground burls is something like sifting through sand for grains of gold..

Ref from :https://www.cookwoods.com/collections/thuya-burl

Masters Competition

1st Simon Groom: "A Right Thomas" (Beech)

I made several small "Thomas" characters for my boys for their Brio train set when they were little. Sadly I can't find them!
I decided it was time make another bigger one. It was a fairly simple construction but took a surprising amount of time……then there was all the painting!
Carving Thomas' face was stressful as he could have ended up looking like Quasimodo with one slip of the knife! [**SG**]

2nd John Williams: Classic: (Sapele & Birch)
I turned the wheels on the lathe and used bamboo skewers for the axles.

I didn't expect it to do well in the race because it was quite light and was very relieved it made it to the finish line. [**JW**]

3rd Pauline Linnell: Penelope Pitstop (Sycamore)

The car, wheel arches and parasol were turned from a piece of sycamore before being painted in acrylics and sealed with a matt acrylic spray. [**PL**]

Also Entered

Derek Puplett: "The Shape Mark 2" (Lead wood**)**

Following last year's success, I decided to adopt the same principals as last year. I.E. Go for a lump of Lead wood, put 4 wheels on it and add a bit of shaping to assist the aerodynamics. Regrettably, it didn't quite work this year - only a third place, but still on the podium. No prizes for elegance, but the speed was almost there.

Mark 1 from Last year

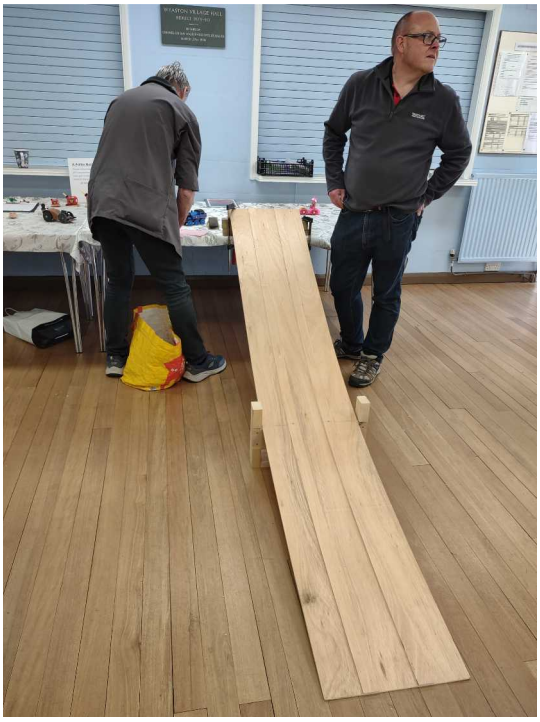
Competition Votes & places

1	Simon Groom	14
2	John Williams	10
3	Pauline Linnell	9
4	Derek Puplett	1

Leader Table

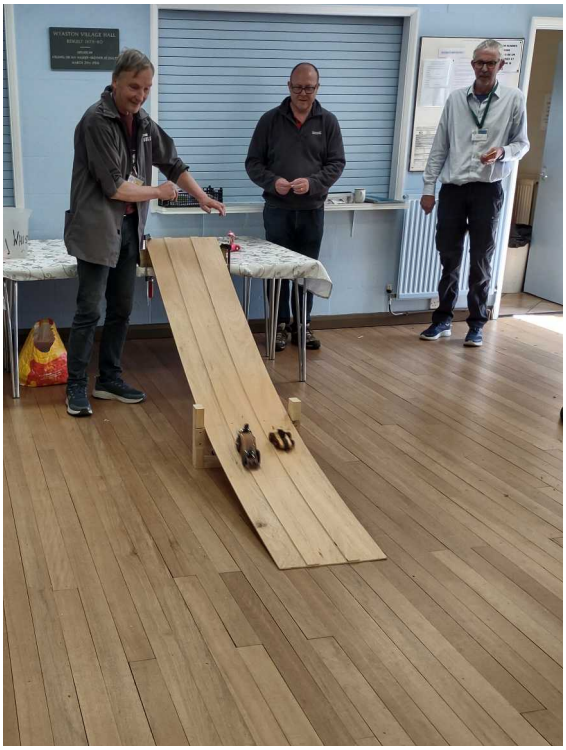
Pauline	Linnell	18
John	Williams	16
Simon	Groom	16
Graham	Legg	9
Peter	Branson	8
David	Waldron	5
Derek	Puplett	4
James	Sharpe	4

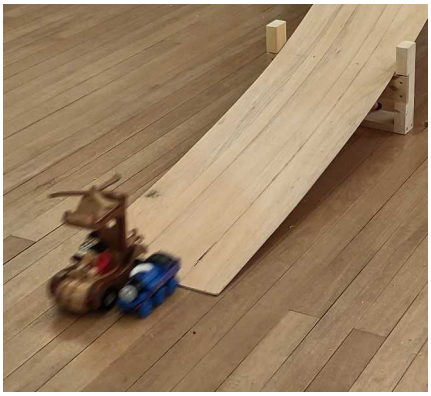
Wacky Race Day 2026



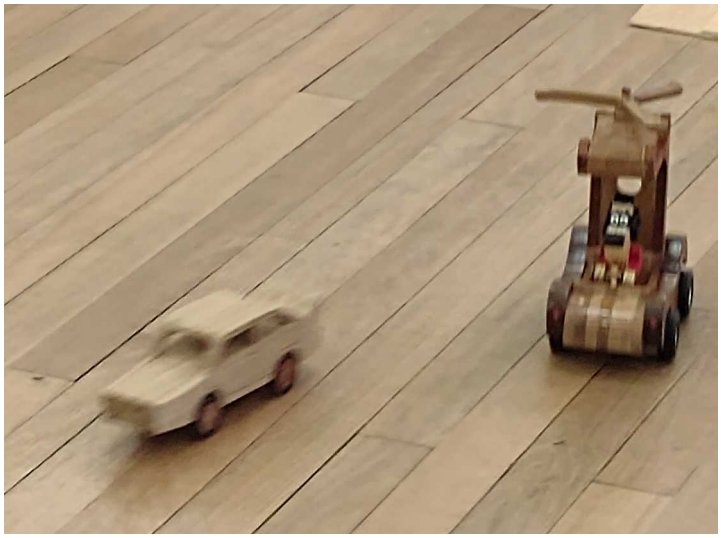
Race preparations underway.

All cars inspected before the race begins.

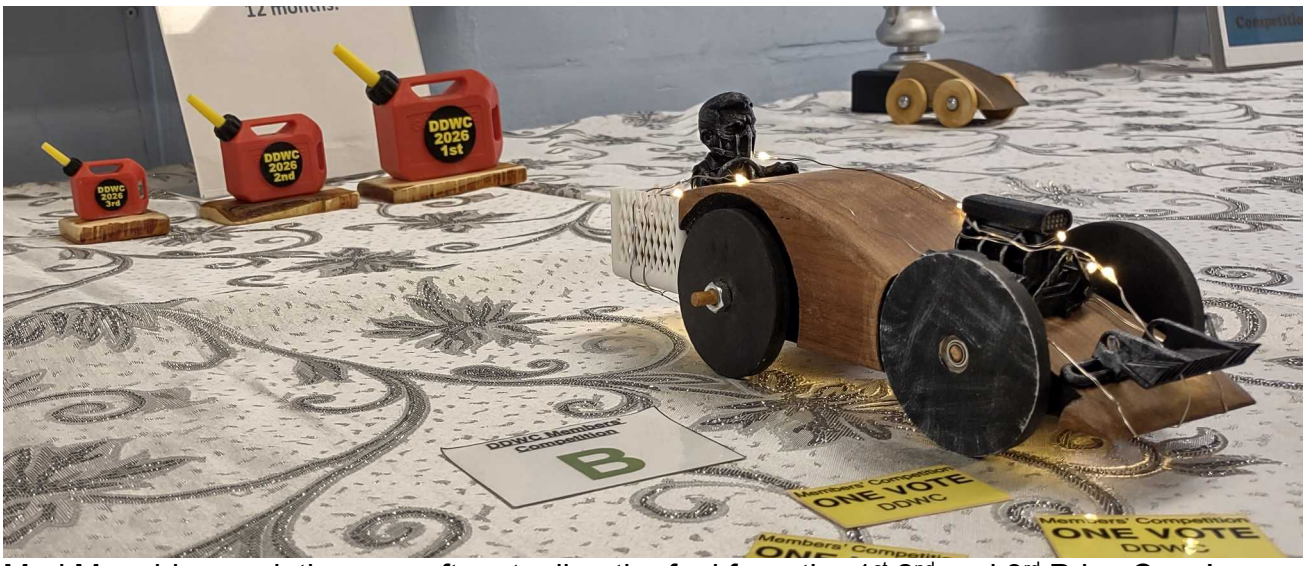




Cars moving so fast … just a blurry image



This years amendment to the rules was the introduction of an official finish line rather than last years "the first one to stop loses!"



Mad Max drives quietly away after stealing the fuel from the 1st 2nd and 3rd Prize Cans!

Derek will be surprised when he gets home and his prize can is empty.

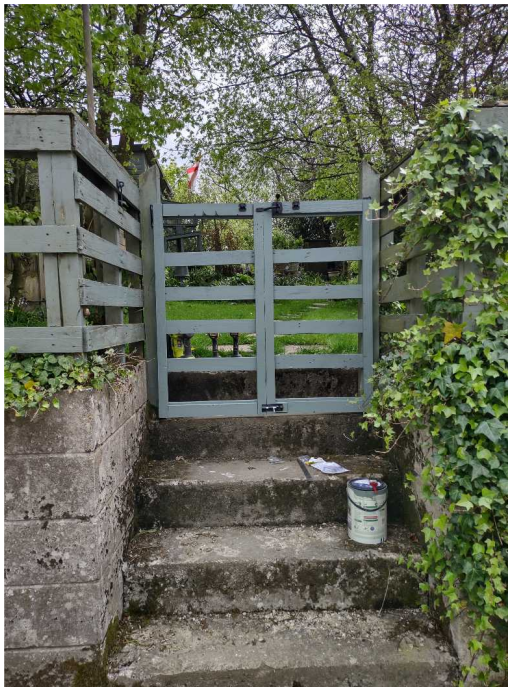
Places for the event
1st Andrew Gordon
2nd Richard Dallas (Stewards Enquiry?)
3rd Derek Puplett

Editor's corner

Whilst this months Wacky Race car took up some time, there was still a few minutes for a neighbours request for a mushroom for her garden.

Also started and finished work on my entry for June's no theme competition. Nice to get ahead for a change. Whilst on competitions I have also had to start the entry for July. Holiday time beckons and I will be missing the July meeting; hence my 1940's toy needs to get into production as its a bit fiddly.

Christine also commissioned me to make some more use of the farmhouse beams I had recently acquired. Rather than replace the mantle piece we went for a cover over it.



The pallet that has been serving as a garden gate for the past year was finally stripped down into it's component pieces and with the addition of some black gate furniture it was transformed into a proper gate.

Nice to hear that **Graham Cope** also has a few projects on the go. He was able to inform me that in the pipe line are, a toy for a future comp which he says is testing his skills, something concerning symmetry and a Sycamore bowl from a piece of wood that's he has had hanging around for a while. Many thanks Graham to hear that I am not the only one who manages to fit in a bit of woodwork in between meeting. Looking forward to reporting on your projects in future editions.

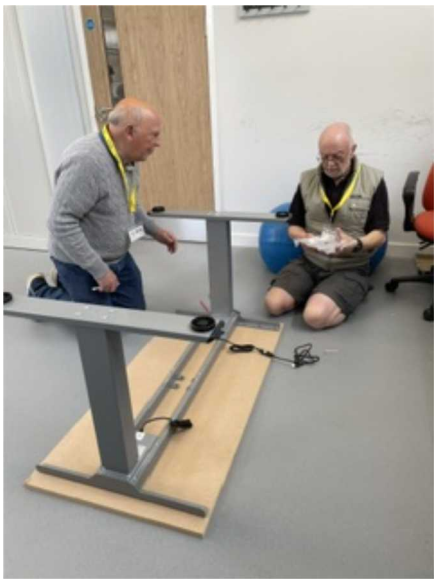
For those readers who manage to read this far and not just look at the pictures: pass on details of your other wood work projects so we can generate some interest amongst fellow members.

Thanks to Paul Turnock for sharing pictures of his long awaited new shed.

Look at all that raw virgin space, just crying out for a set of new benches. I was happy to be the first visitor in and christen it with a bit of sawdust shaken from my overalls.

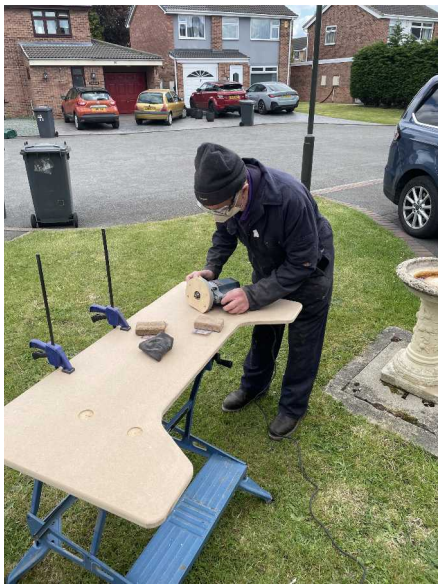
How many wood working veterans does it take to build a table?

Here we see our Chairperson and fellow breakfast enthusiast, David Reynolds, considering how to attach a work top to the new adjustable height table, donated to Brackenfield school (on loan) from the Worshipful Company of Turners).



“Did you measure this?”

“Are you sure this is the right way up?”



“How about we cut a bit out, I like the shape”

“Yes: Just checking measurements and practising my cuts”

Are you sure you know what you are doing”

Members ZOOM Meeting May 22 2026

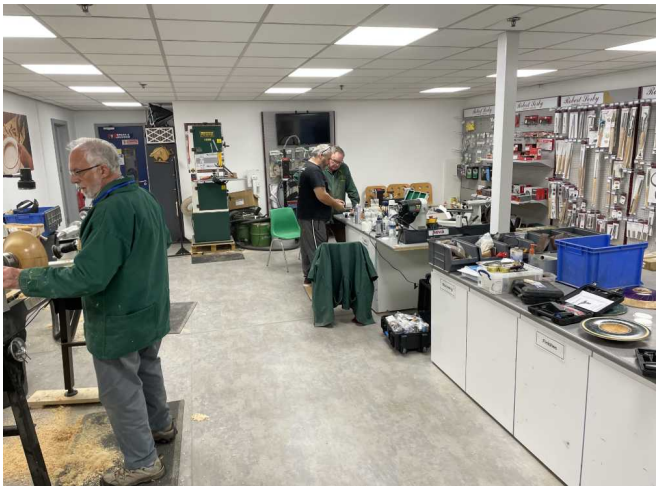
Being on holiday; I missed the Zoom meeting, which must have pleased everyone as they are all smiling. So thanks to Brian for the image and the few notes below

A very quiet chat hour as the screen shot shows.
We talked about use of face shields for club hands on days and the SEND activity, all of us were in favour.
There was recognition of the need to support DDWC open day and setting up four lathes for the day. The significant effort this requires was acknowledged and led on to chatting about storage at Wyaston and how we might move forward with that.
Certainly having at least the 355 lathe stored there was unanimous.
Pauline updated us on the progress of our Tutors in training and how they were busy applying for assessment.
Surprise surprise none of us volunteered to do Skew demo at club however Brian reported he has a name in the frame…..
We talked about the motor driven rise and fall table that the Worshipful Company of Turners have provided for the SEND activity and how one might be good for us at hands on days. There was good support for such a purchase as it accommodates our short and tall members better than workmates do.
Some general chats about Rutlands Chuck packages and Richard Findley's tool bar maintenance routine brought us to a timely close.

Zoom Meeting Schedule for 2026
19th June 18th September 16th October 20th November 18th December.

A day out with Mick Hanbury

As an AWGB member, you are entitled to apply for any number of courses, FOC, organised by the AWGB. A few months ago I applied to attend a “Colouring and Enhancement” course, ran by Mick Hanbury, and was successful in my application.



A few days ago I drove up to Sheffield to the Spear & Jackson / Robert Sorby training centre, to spend a day with Mick - probably the Nation’s leading expert on colouring wood.

In total there were three participants, so Mick was able to give very close guidance and expert tuition.

We were all asked to prepare two large bowls / platters to take to the day, ready for colouring (see photos).

Mick gave a very detailed and technical overview of how to use the acrylic Jo Sonya paints, including the standard colours, metallic colours and various other products.

Each participant mounted their work and had a go at covering the surface in the exact way that Mick had explained. He constantly emphasised that you must use the same procedure each time:-

Sand your work up to 180 grit, using an oil and bees wax mix. This will begin to embed into the grain quickly.

Turn the lathe down to 150rpm (or when you cannot feel any moving wind on the back of your hand).

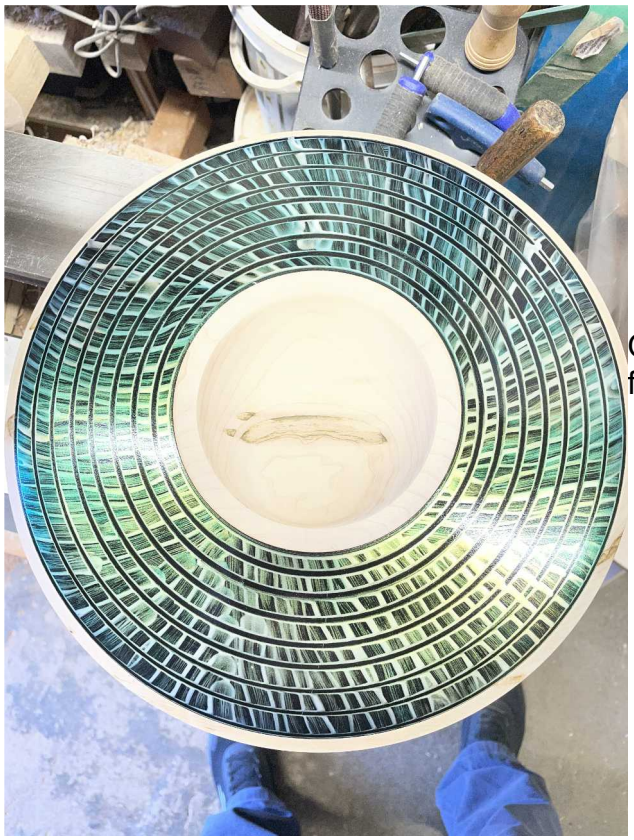
Spray two coats of Ebonising lacquer and let it dry, followed by two coats of clear lacquer.

First coat of ebonising laquer first bowl

Then you can start playing with the coloured paints and make any type of effect. You can see what I chose to make in the photos - a shield effect bowl with a patterned surface. When dry, cover with clear lacquer, at least two coats.

My second attempt was not so good, so I might start again ?!

I will be more than happy to run a work shop on what I learned, at a club hands on day, if there is any interest?



Overall I had a great day, with a leading professional, thanks to being an AWGB member.

Graham Legg

Upcoming Woodworking events

2026 Chestnut Products Weekender: 29-30 August 2026
The Dome Event Centre, Bawtry Road, Doncaster DN44 7PD

https://chestnutproducts.co.uk/woodturning-weekender/

On the **12th September** the Cheshire guild of wood workers have SIMON HOPE at their club for an all day demonstration of his talents on a lathe.

They have also arranged for the Tiny Turner **Emma Cook** to be in attendance with her Paints and Things shop. Also we are arranging for a local timber supplier to be with us so anyone needing new tools, accessories or timber blanks for projects should be well catered for.

Tickets are on a first come first served basis available at an early bird price of **£20** until 31/7/2026 they will then be £25.

This does though include complimentary refreshments during the day together with a **free buffet lunch**. Free car parking will also be available.

Doors will be open from 9.30am.

Those wishing to purchase tickets please contact us by
e-mail cheshire.guild.of.woodturners@gmail.com

2026 Festival of Woodturning

Crowne Plaza Hotel in Stratford upon Avon on 10th and 11th October 2026.

https://awgb.co.uk/festival-2026/

DDWC Programme 2026

Competition themes

June	- No Theme
July	- Toy Day - Year 1940
August	- No Theme
September	- Scrap wood challenge (Richard Dallas: Please read the guidelines!)
October	- Symmetry
November	- Remembrance
December	- Christmas Around the World

Demonstrations for 2026 :

July we have an Involuted turning demonstration from Margaret Garrard (https://www.margaretgarrard.co.uk/)

September we have a Turning Demonstration with Gary Rance
https://www.garyrance.co.uk/

November we have a Carving Demonstration with Michelle Bolton
(https://www.mbwoodcarver.co.uk/)
https://www.facebook.com/MichelleBoltonWoodcarver/

Competition Rules for the Challenges/ Collaborations 2026

Scrap wood Challenge- September 2026

● The entry must use a minimum of 3 different pieces of wood.
● *(Carvers and pyrographers; That means be really creative or glue scraps together).*
● Each single piece of wood used can be no bigger than A5 size
● *148 * 210 mm: that's 5.8 * 8.3 inches*
● If a single piece is big enough to make an item such as a bowl, then it can't be regarded as scrap.
● The **exception** to this, is if you are making something from a pallet. Pallets are officially regarded as scrap wood. Longer than A5 sized lengths from a pallet, ripped, planed and sanded to provide sections of wood that can be used as it or glued / laminated to create boards of larger pieces.
● In order prevent a plethora of miniature items being presented as entries, the entry must **not** be that small that it would fit inside a 3" * 3" box (76*76mm).

Christmas Around the World- December 2026

Each member creates an ornament inspired by a different country's holiday traditions.
● Must be made primarily from wood.
● Any woodcraft discipline allowed (mixing is encouraged).
● Piece must relate clearly to a cultural winter/Christmas tradition.
● Provide a short note (a paragraph or two) about the country/tradition that inspired it.

Eg: In Hawaii, Santa Claus doesn't ride a sleigh with reindeer. Instead, he often arrives on an outrigger canoe, sometimes accompanied by hula dancers and musicians. The boat is usually pulled by dolphins

NEXT ISSUE COPY DEADLINE
28 June 2026

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Club Positions	
Chair	Derek Puplett
Vice-Chair(s)	Kez Halliday Brian Walker Graham Legg
Secretary	Peter Branson
Treasurer	Graham Burke
Librarian	Val Branson
Demo. Co-ordinator	Philip Halliday
Safeguarding Officer	Graham Legg
Competitions Co-ordinators	Andrew Gordon Dan Beard
Tool Co-ordinators	Brian Walker Val Branson
Members Representatives	Colin Fishwick Sheldon Davies Dan Beard
Woodworms Editor	Ken Rivers

https://www.facebook.com/derbyshiredaleswoodcraft

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