



Woodworms

Issue 103 Woodworms

Welcome back.

It's been a little while since issue 102. James has now passed over the reins as editor to myself. You will find the descriptions of the monthly meeting(s) a bit on the slim side as I get to know all the faces.

Any feedback will be appreciated.

To keep things fun; I apologise in advance for any jokes I attempt that you have heard before as I am never sure if they woodwork.

Ken Rivers : Editor

Editors Note

I would like to thank James Sharpe for his guidance with the production of this letter and to Kez Halliday for providing the images.

Also thanks to Graham Legg, Geoff Dalton, James Sharpe and Ben Klein for the enclosed articles.



Community Outreach Programme

At the 2023 Club AGM, a decision was taken to support "Sailability" as our chosen charity for 2024. There were two beautiful items of work unsold at the time of our AGM, which were subsequently sold at "Sailability." Each item raised £100. It was agreed that since the items were from the 2023 calendar year, our second chosen charity ("Go Beyond") should receive £100 from these sales. (For information, the items sold were donated by Bob Neil and Tony Reindorp.)

At the close of 2023, both charities had received in excess of £1500 each. Thank you to everyone who contributed a gift, gave up their time, or supported our sales table at Open Day. Well done everyone!

The start of 2024 has seen us continue to be very busy at Stanton Vale SEND school on Tuesday mornings. We work with some wonderful young people, helping to develop their self esteem, confidence and woodturning skills. Kes Halliday has joined our team, and has added enormous value to our work, by teaching pyrography to any students who are not working on a lathe. The standard of work (and teaching) is quite stunning.

Our students have made a lot of pens, (most of which seem to go home!), bud vases, and at the moment they are all making bowls. Derek and David have also made flying saucers as well! We start each lesson with "Show and tell." This often brings a good laugh when we show our mistakes! Kes mind you, tends to stun us all with one of her amazing creations.

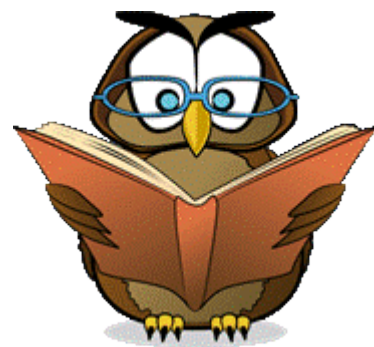
We continue to teach at the school up to Easter, and then we have a break until the Autumn. Meanwhile we are about to visit the Wirksworth Heritage Centre on 16th March for our annual Easter woodturning teaching session. For this work our Club charity fund receives £10 per participant per session.

My thanks go to Kes, Julia, Brian, David, Derek and Colin for their unstinting support and effort. All of these club members are volunteers and receive no remuneration for their time or travel costs. Each taught session at Stanton Vale raises £45 towards our charity fund.

Graham Legg (Safeguarding Officer)

Woody's Quiz - an easy one for the first edition
(courtesy of James Sharpe)

1. Which wood was almost exclusively used by Thomas Chippendale for his furniture?
2. The name of which wood is also the Spanish word for "Raft"?
3. Cricket bats are traditionally made from which wood?
4. The Wright brothers chose to make the straighter parts of their airplane from which wood as it was very light, but extremely strong?
5. MDF is engineered wood boards, what does the acronym MDF stand for?
6. What is the most famous object said to have been constructed from gopher wood?
7. Golf clubs called "woods" had a club head made from which hardwood that's also the name of a British housebuilding company?
8. Which country is named after a type of wood?
9. The black keys of a piano were traditionally made of what wood?
10. English longbows were traditionally made of wood from which tree?
11. Is the wood of a coniferous tree hard or soft?
12. Which wood is traditionally used in Aboriginal communities to make didgeridoos?



Answers at the end of the news letter

February 2024 Meeting

As the adage goes “A picture is worth a thousand words” will have to suffice for this month as I get to grips with who does what (Ken Rivers)

Carving



Carole Snell giving advice.



Lathes demonstration and tutoring



David Reynolds demonstration. (right)

Geoff Dalton (below) selects the next chisel for the practice turning

Graham Legg (Below)



Scroll Saw



Richard Dallas keeps an eye on a new member during some scroll sawing





Pyrography





Meanwhile.....Graham Cope explaining to the new member that the trinkets on this table (Examples of this months invited work) are quite easy to knock up!

Members Competition



1st Place (left) : Graham Cope :
Olive wood bowl.

A heavy olive wood bowl; wet sanded from 180 grit up to 400 then dry sanded to the same, two coats of Yorkshire grit were applied then finished with two coats of Hampshire sheen.

2nd Place (right): Andrew Gordon : Layered plywood basket. Andrew started with a piece of good quality plywood. The pattern was generated on a computer. Masking tape was used to stick to the plywood and one stuck to the pattern and then glue them together. The scroll saw was used to cut out the various pieces and peel off the pattern from the wood followed by the tedious task of sanding all of the pieces. Once completed, the pieces were glued together by rotating each piece 180 degrees from the previous piece and finish off with a couple of coats of varnish. Two and a half hours of solid work.

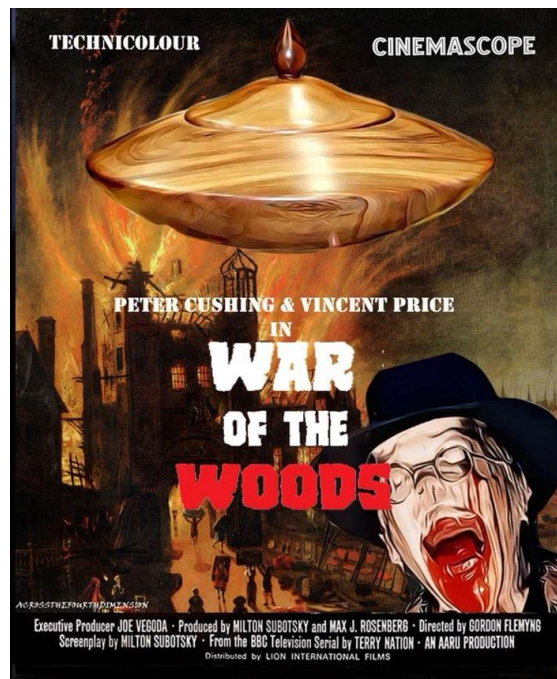


3rd Place (below): Alex Walker : Spalted sycamore



"WAR OF THE WOODS: Alex created this as something of a self-indulgence, namely a homage to B movies of the 50s and 60s. The vessel was a spalted piece of sycamore firewood. Turning was fairly easy although he experienced some difficulty with slight grain tear out on the base but after enough sanding, it was presentable at least. Following a coat of shellac, 3 coats of friction polish and 2 coats of lacquer, it was finished. Tung Oil was the first choice but refrained realising that the spalting effect would be diminished. After finishing the vessel itself; epoxy was used to attach the glass stem to give it more of a 19th century Victoriana element to it, another inspiration from the work of H.G. Wells.

Alex also designed and created the display poster. This features a mixture of hand drawn and digitally coloured elements compiled on Adobe Illustrator.



Also entered :

Pauline Linnel



Phil Halliday



Richard Dallas



Voting in Members' Open Class

1	Graham Cope	18
2	Andrew Gordon	13
3	Alex Walker	12
	Phil Halliday	11
	Richard Dallas	3
	Pauline Linnel	1

Masters Competition

1st Place (below) :**Peter Fantham** : Ash Bowl, sourced, with other blanks from a relatives garden.



2nd Place : (below) **David Reynolds** : Oak live edge bowl. Turned when very wet.

After turning this was finished with multiple coats of Chestnut Finishing Oil to help avoid splitting, initially it weighed 357g currently down to 279g.



3rd place : (left) **Derek Puplett** (Various woods)
The hollow form was created to have a small finial type stopper. Unfortunately, whilst fixing the collar with superglue, the stopper was popped in for a test fit and regrettably the superglue was not quite dry and the stopper remains permanently fixed in the hollow form! It is made from Spalted Beech, with a Yew collar and a purple heart final stopper.

Also entered
Colin Fishwick : Sycamore



Geoff Dalton (below) : Wine coaster made from mahogany and plywood. *(Detailed project instructions shown at the end of these competition notes.)*



Graham Legg : Silver Birch (below)



James Sharpe (left) : Scroll saw using Baltic Birch ply. James made this as a gift for a friend who is a cricket enthusiast and former player.



Voting in Masters' Open Class

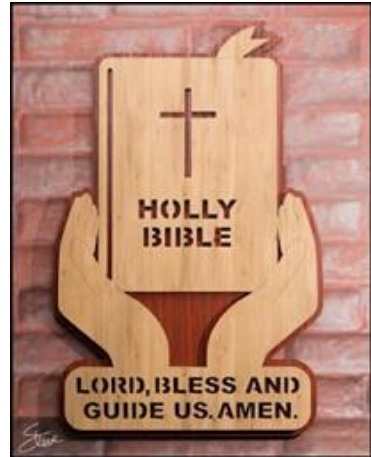
1	Peter Fantham	16
2	David Reynolds	15
3	Derek Puplett	10
	Colin Fishwick	5
	Geoff Dalton	3
	Graham Legg	1
	James Sharpe	1

Oooops!!

From time to time we all make a typing error etc. and don't detect it before emailing it to someone, but this one is a prizewinner!!

Those of you who subscribe to Steve Good's blog and receive a daily pattern in your inbox may already have seen this but for everyone else

Steve was rushing the pattern production as he wanted to get away to watch the Super Bowl, and this was the result!



Later in the day a correction (below) dropped into my inbox with the excuse/explanation that Holly was his dog's name!!!



A Wine Coaster Project - by Geoff Dalton



If you have not tried turning plywood before, this is a simple(ish) project to get you started.

It is essential that you use good quality birch ply. You will be disappointed with the patterns that emerge from standard quality plywood. I used 12mm ply for this job. The piece is in two parts, the base and the top. I salvaged the wood from an old mahogany chest of drawers.

The wood you use is not important, although something without a too prominent grain pattern will be better so as not to detract from the effects that will come out from the turned plywood.



The mahogany was about 20mm and the blank I used for the base was 5" (approx 13cm). The dimensions for the whole project do not need to be too precise. The blank for the top section is slightly smaller only due to the fact that I had to cut around screw holes in the original piece of furniture.

I screwed a 2" faceplate to the first blank.



Here I have levelled off the blank and turned the bead on the foot. I have cut a recess to fit the jaws of my chuck and cut a few grooves with the point of my skew chisel which is all that is needed for the decoration of the base. No sanding is necessary at this stage.

I took the piece off the lathe and used a compass and a ruler to mark out the arcs of twelve equal segments around the rim.

Putting the base section back on the lathe, I used a parting tool to start to cut the rebate that will house the plywood "tiles". The depth and the squareness of this rebate is important. To get the depth right, I took the work off the lathe several times to check that a tile touched the inside of the bead in line with the pencil marks which made the centre of the tile lie two or three millimeters inside the bead.



I cut each tile from a 15mm strip I had sawn from along the grain of the plywood. This dimension might need to vary to make sure that the height of the tiles stands proud of the top of the base. Making the tiles is very much trial and error. The length of each tile needs to match the pencil marks. The angle of the bevel has to be exactly right too. There may be other ways of doing this but I used my disc sander and made several attempts to get the angle right by adjusting the disc sander guide. This is a dusty business. As I am sure that breathing plywood dust is not to be recommended, I used a dust extractor and got well masked up. I used Mitre Fast to glue the tiles in place. If you have not used this product before, be warned that the adhesion is almost instant. It is well worth trying a “dry run” with each tile before you apply the adhesive because

after about ten seconds, there is absolutely no chance of making any adjustment.



In this picture, all the tiles have been glued into place and the fun part of turning the plywood tiles to round has begun. I used a spindle gouge and the point of a skew chisel to get inside the bead where the gouge would not reach. Keep stopping the lathe to watch the patterns emerge and stop when you like the look of things. There is no need to sand at this stage. I used a parting tool to level the tops of the tiles.

Before I removed the faceplate, I rotated the work to sand and finish the bottom of the base. I used my 2” faceplate again and turned the top section and checked that it made good contact with the rest of the work. You will see from this picture that the plywood patterns are better defined than in the picture above. I did this before I glued the top section on.



Almost there. I blended the top section into the plywood base with a spindle gouge and started to cut out the recess with a bowl gouge, finishing off with a square section box cutter. I did the final sanding (again avoiding the dust as much as possible) and finished the job with a coat of cellulose sanding sealer. I polished the outside using my buffing kit and polished the inside with wax polish as the lathe was still turning.



Looks okay with a bottle of wine in it!

Christmas Scrollsawing



A few years ago, I spotted an item in Steve Good's catalogue that I thought would be a useful Christmas project. It was a pattern for a 'Snowman Napkin Ring' which I felt would be used at least once a year and not vanish into the depths of the feared bottom drawer!

Recently I was showing them to a neighbour who expressed an interest and immediately asked if I could make her some. I agreed to this and asked how many were required and was a little taken aback when she replied "Eight please"!

The original rings I made were fine for a paper napkin (above) but too small for posh people who have linen napkins, so I agreed to enlarge them to an appropriate size. It didn't stop there though! She has a disabled son who she felt would find the ring too small to handle and so I had to enlarge one to his needs, the size being based on a ring he already uses. So off I went, enlarged Steve Good's pattern and produced seven medium and one large size pattern.

What wood to use was the next issue! Quite by chance a few days later fellow member Philip Jones brought a small plank of an unknown wood (all we know is that it is S. African), to the club on offer to any takers - I was lucky this time! When I got it home I cut it into roughly 15cm. squares and then used the band saw to reduce it down to 20mm thickness. and away we went!

Using a #1SPR Pegas blade I struggled a little and quickly changed to a #3SPR which cut a little better though at times it felt as if I was cutting concrete!

When completed each ring was sanded, given a coat of sanding sealer and two coats of Chestnut Lacquer making them ready for the "client". Just hope she doesn't want any more in the same wood!

The finished items are shown (right). As I said previously, I don't know the species of wood which is a shame as it's very attractive with a number of colour variations in a small area.

It was quite a satisfying project as to date, its the hardest wood I've worked with and as a bonus I didn't break a single blade!



by *James Sharpe*

Bird Boxes : By Ben Klein

As an update to the article on Ben in last April (2023) newsletter : Ben continues on his quest.

When I am not turning wood, I volunteer for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as a Junior Ranger. We do a lots of different activities including attending country shows and making bird boxes with the public. When our bird box kit supplier let us down, I said I'd take home the wood and cut the roof's that we'd run out of time to do in our prep session.

It all started from there! To date, I've made over two hundred bird box, bat box and swift box kits and some fully made bird boxes. I continue to supply kits to the Wildlife Trust but have also provided kits to other community projects, businesses and GP surgeries as part of their "green plan". My biggest contract to date has been with a Swift Conservation Charity - I've just finished an order for 96 boxes. It been a great way for me to work with wood, earn some money, and learn about running a business. I've sourced supplies, kept accounts, written invoices, and had to liaise with professionals- all good skills for future life. I plan to take a break from the bird boxes over the next few months whilst I concentrate on my GCSEs.



Bens' kits in the making

All wrapped up and ready to go



More Wood on the Way!!!!

At the February meeting John Williams had a clear out of the wood that was for sale to members so the following week he and Lisa having finished their Saturday Kitchen (!!)

headed off to Coalville (LE67 5UP) to sample the fare at St. Joseph's Tea Rooms and investigate the sale of timber displayed by Rowan Woodland Products.



Rowan Woodland Products regularly hold sales in the grounds of St. Joseph's which is convenient for all as there is ample space and good food on the doorstep should you need a few calories plus of course, St. Joseph's benefits from a donation in lieu of rent by RWP.

Kevin and Ellen Grimley had hoped for over 20 years to found a space for those in need of a place of hospitality, care and compassion.

This became a reality in 2008 when they and four generations of family moved to a large house called St. Joseph's. They started by sharing a few scones from a wheelbarrow at the bottom of their drive and offering hospitality to the people in the area from their home.

Two years later they moved to an adjoining building called Abbey Grange to establish a Tearoom and Community Centre.

Currently the Centre cares and provides hospitality, a listening ear and training for vulnerable people via partnerships with Derby, North Staffs and Burton YMCA's.

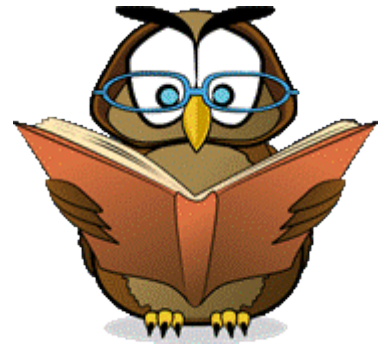
The Centre also supports various local charities and organisations who benefit from a refuge and a place of acceptance and compassion.



By *James Sharpe*

Answers to Woody's Quiz

1. Balsa
2. Willow
3. Spruce, Red Spruce
4. Medium-density Fibreboard
5. Noah's Ark
6. Persimmon
7. Brazil
8. Ebony
9. Yew Tree (*Taxus baccata*)
10. Soft
11. Eucalyptus



NEXT ISSUE COPY DEADLINE

27 March 2024

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DATA PROTECTION

Your personal details are held on computer for the use of DDWC. We only use this information to run the organisation. If you would like to know what information we hold and how we use it, please contact the Secretary.

Woodworms - newsletter of Derbyshire Dales Woodcraft Club.

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