



**Herts
&
Beds**
Woodturners

**WOODBITS
NEWSLETTER**

ISSUE 166

March 2020

WELCOME

A NEW EDITOR FOR WOODBITS

A big thanks to Allen Kaye for taking over this role.

Notice of 31st Annual General Meeting Meeting.

To be held on April 14th at 7.30 at the Adeyfield Community Centre, Hemel Hempstead.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Chairman's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of Inspector of Accounts
8. Motions
9. AOB

Motions and nominations must be submitted in writing, signed by proposer and seconder, and sent to the address below to arrive no later than March 29.

Officers:

Chairman	Tim Pettigrew	(standing for re-election)
Treasurer	Peter Hoare	(standing for re-election)
Secretary	Colin Clark	(retiring)
Inspector of Accounts	Keith Goddard	(standing for re-election)

Colin Clark, Hon.Sec

2020 Competition Subjects

Mar	Based on Feb demo by Ben Dick
April	Easter Egg
May	Object using several woods
June	Natural edged bowl
July	Kitchen Roll Holder
Aug	Candlestick
Sep	Goblet
Oct	Spinning top
Nov	Hollow form
Dec	Toy or puzzle

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Competition subjects

AGM Notice

Programme 2020/21

Turners of the month

Ben Dick Demo

For Sale

AWGB Bulletin

Turners of the Month, Feb 2020

Beginners



1st Tim Pettigrew



2nd Jim Burnley



3rd Mark Azicowitz

Advanced



1. Allen Kaye



2. Chris Squires



3= Graham Lester



3= Teraina Hird

Masters



1st Mike Fitz



2 David Lock



3 Peter Hoare

Open



1st Don Guy



2 Teraina Hird

Demonstration by Ben Dick 11th Feb 2020

The demonstration was devoted entirely to making and decorating a “top tower” – a top which, after being set spinning on the tower, slows down and instead of falling off ends by hanging neatly in place. The toy seems to have originated in Germany where it is known as a *turmkreisel*.

There were four pieces to be made – a base, the stem of the tower, the top body and the handle or finial and the wood chosen was Sycamore.

The base was a cross grain disc 60 mm in diameter. It was held in the chuck and the bottom trued, dished so as to stand properly and decorated with rings. A 20 mm section was parted off and reversed in the chuck for the upper surface to be shaped. A 10 mm hole was drilled to receive the stem. Sanding only needed to be taken to 240 grit as the finish was to be acrylic paint.

The stem was formed from an end grain piece about 150 mm long rounded to about 25 mm diameter. In the free end was drilled a hole 15 mm diameter and 10 mm deep with a Forstner bit. The bottom of the hole had to be flattened with a small scraper. The piece could then be supported by a live centre in this hole whilst the stem was shaped. It was given a nice smooth taper to the top where a cup shape was made around the hole. After sanding, a 10 mm tenon was formed at the bottom to fit into the base. Ben showed us a neat way of making the tenon to size by using a 10 mm spanner with the upper edge sharpened. After parting off the stem was then glued into the base.

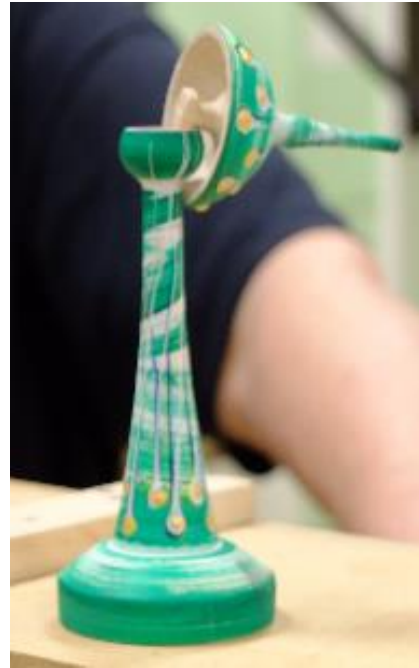
The handle or finial was made next, about 40 mm long with a 5 mm tenon at the base to fit into the upper surface of the spinning top.

Finally, the top itself was made from a 2 inch square block mounted in the chuck and rounded to 50 mm. After truing the free end, a cut was made with a parting tool to leave a central disc 10 mm diameter and 10 mm high. With a spindle gouge a point was then formed on this. The under surface of the piece was then hollowed to leave the central stem as a pointed ‘button’ on a 4 mm diameter stem. This surface was sanded and waxed as it would not be decorated further. After parting off, the top was reversed in the chuck, shaped and sanded and a central 5 mm hole drilled to receive the finial, which was glued in place.

The second half of the demonstration was devoted to showing ways of decorating. The stem and base were given a coat of yellow acrylic and on top of this a light spiral streaking of blue. Then came a most surprising and original touch. A jig was mounted in the lathe between chuck and tail stock which enabled the base of the tower to be clamped securely with the stem directed radially out from the centre. A protective box was mounted on the lathe bed to guard against anything breaking loose when the lathe was set spinning. A series of small blobs of paint were then applied around the bottom of the stem, so that when spun, centrifugal force caused the blobs to streak up the stem to form most attractive patterns.



Another jig allowed the spinning top to be held by the finial and spun so that paint could be spread centrifugally on that also. When dry the parts could all be given coats of vinyl lacquer.



This was an action-packed and most interesting demonstration, greatly appreciated by a large audience. It was challenging too, because it was to be the basis for the next competition.

Tony Taylor



Another colourful example

Steve Beadle Raffle Coordinator

I act as the raffle coordinator for the forthcoming year and need to fill the diary for the purchase of prizes for the months as stated below.

Raffle purchase Diary for 2020 so far

Month 2020	Name
March 10	Harvey Allison
April 14	Stephen Tinsley Marshall

If you need to swap dates please contact me or another member so that cover can be maintained

As a guide we have increased the budget for prizes to £ 60.00 per month with a maximum number of prizes being 5/6 in total.

2019/20 Program

2020		
March 10th	John Aitkin	The bowler hatted turner
April 14th	AGM	Finishing
May 12th	John Clothier	
June 9th	Club Night	Brains Trust
July 14th	Terry Smart	Chestnut Products
August 11th	Andrew Hall	
August 12 th	Andrew Hall masterclass	
September 8th	Club Night	
October 13th	Colin Smith	
November 10th	Les Thorne	
December 8th	Christmas Social	
2021		
Jan	Gary Rance	
Feb	Martin Saben-Smith	
Mar	Mick Hanbury	
Apr	AGM	
May	Emma the Tiny Turner	

Loan Equipment

There is one of the smaller club lathes available for loan with a set of tools and chuck for anyone who is not yet set up but wants to turn while sorting out their equipment. Please contact Bruce Edhouse or Alan Lewis if interested:

AWGB Bulletin

Herts & Beds Woodturners Secretary AWGB AGM

Those who were paying attention may have noticed the lack of date for the AGM in the last bulletin -The AGM is on March 29th St Cuthbert's Community Hall, Sharp Street, Burnley BB10 1SL at 1:00pm. All AWGB members are welcome to attend. There will also be a branch meeting at 11:00 am. These are usually held as a forum for affiliated branches but this year we are opening up the forum to all associated clubs too. Each club is welcome to send a representative and the AWGB will pay travel expenses for one car per club (you can put as many people in it as you like!) to attend the branch meeting. Lunch will be provided for anyone attending - please inform the AWGB [secretary](#) in advance so numbers are known for catering.

Does your club need another lathe?

We have been given an Apollo professional lathe with bench and some accessories including chuck faceplate and jacobs chuck. The lathe has variable speed, 2hp motor and is approx 6' in length and very heavy so it would suit a club with a permanent workshop. We are prepared to pass this on to a club on our usual indefinite loan arrangement. Please [contact me](#) if interested.

Advert correction in Revolutions

There was a table saw listed for sale by Alan Quine from the Worcestershire woodturners. In the advert, a reference was made to the "late" Reg Sherwin. However, Reg is still with us so please don't send your condolences to the Sherwin family.

International Woodturning Seminar 2020

Please remind your members that anyone can attend (they don't have to be AWGB members) and the discounted early bird rate ends at the end of March. The whole amount doesn't have to be paid up front, 50% can be paid now and the rest by August. More details and booking are

available on the [Seminar Website](#).

Happy Turning!

Paul Hannaby, AWGB Chairman

