



## SHORT REVIEW...

April saw a club evening where the topic for demonstration and discussion was Finishing. The evening started with **Jeff Cordery** demonstrated why using **Danish Oil** is an easy and successful way to finish your work. Pieces are sanded and finished with grey Webrax, 1500 grit, before applying a coat of Rustins Danish Oil. A paper towel removes any excess and the 1st coat is left to soak into the wood for a day. Jeff denibs between coats with webrax and applies 2-4 coats in all on a bowl. Sanding sealer is not used as this would prevent the oil soaking into the wood. The final coat is burnished with paper towel.



Jeff then followed with a short demonstration of **liming wax**. A brass brush is used to clean dust out of the grain on a piece of stained oak, sanding sealer is applied with Webrax or wire wool. Liming wax is rubbed into the surface - wear rubber gloves - forcing it into the grain then clean off with a paper towel using oil or wax - not sanding sealer. **IMPORTANT** - do not throw away the oiled paper as it can self-combust when wet.

**David Buskell** spoke about the Beeplenish test the club had taken part in - see separate article on the result.

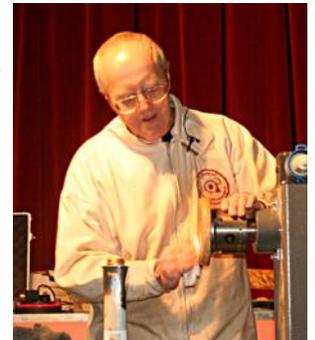
**Chris Barrett** spoke about the beauties of using wax. He finds a stick containing equal quantities of beeswax and carnauba works for him. His pieces are finished to 400 grit sanding and webrax and wax is applied and allowed to dry. We were given excellent notes about the process of waxing (to be found on the website). He reminded us it is important to keep our polishing rags dry.

**Hilary Sinclair** demonstrated her version of buffing wood, using Buffing mops on a polishing motor. Three buffing wheels are used for different grades of compound - hard for tripoli, which removes fine scratches, a medium grade mop with White diamond or Hyfin and she finishes by applying a fine layer Renaissance Wax by hand before giving it a final buffing with a soft swansdown mop.

**Gordon Cookson** was left with a short time to emphasise to us all the dangers of wood dust and how to make sure we don't end up with damaged lungs and allergies. The solution is to use a full face powered respirator. Gordon mentioned one or two respirators and prices (the one he quoted at around £300 is in fact closer to £200). This might seem like an expensive investment but as Gordon said - "What price is your health?"

**Trevor Etherington** finished the evening with a demonstration of ebonising and gilt, using Chestnut ebonising spray followed by gilt cream, applied with a soft cloth while revolving the lathe by hand, the excess is removed with Danish Oil and the piece buffed to a finish with a clean paper towel.

A 3-page extended version of this article can be found on our website under [Information/Reviews/Finishing](#), together with additional information on the [Beeplenish Test](#), Chris Barrett's [Thoughts on waxing and polishing](#) and [Renaissance wax](#).



## THIS MONTH...

On 16th May we welcome Greg Moreton back with a demonstration on 'turning something wet' plus a session on sharpening.

## RAFFLE...

Our star prize this month is a half inch bowl gouge as well as various other prizes - great value for the price of a raffle ticket at just £1.00 each.

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 16th May

## ON THE TABLE...



David Buskell - Plum Root



Derek Monkhouse made a great job of duplicating the legs of this oak table



Bruce Till produced this square unsupported platter (separate base) in what is possibly iroko with yew fruit. The platter was part of the Beeplenish test



Mike Sanger  
Tealight holder



James Cassidy - pens  
- part of the Beeplenish test



Trevor Etherington -  
ebonised and gilt clock



Gordon Cookson - put out a plea for practical suggestions on how to rescue this lovely horse chestnut bowl with a hole in the bottom!

**NOTE: while we are sorting out a date for a photo shoot (possibly June), items brought in and put on the table will be photographed and where possible uploaded onto our website, Apologies for any items which have been inadvertently omitted.**

## CHEAM WOODTURNERS AT POLESDEN LACEY...



A last minute request to NT volunteer Trevor Etherington saw Trevor plus Peter Westermann, Derek Rixon and Brian Chaves demonstrating at the "Get Outdoors" Event held over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

The 'team' set up next to Dr Tim Lawson, who was attending separately, and the chat enlivened 2 rather damp and chilly days. Despite the weather, there was a fair turnout and the turning demonstrations, including a marathon stint on the Monday - thanks Derek, drew plenty of attention and it was particularly encouraging to see the

interest expressed by the younger generations. Sales were perhaps a little slow, probably due to the difficult financial times we are going through at the moment. We were told a similar event held prior to a major gift buying time, ie Christmas, would have produced a quite different result.

A number of people took Club particulars and one or two gave the impression of real interest, we will see who turns up at future meetings! This is a good venue for promoting the Club and we should take advantage of any similar future invitation to attend one of the NT's events. Thanks must go to the Peter, Derek and Brian for 'turning out' at short notice to help.

**Trevor Etherington**

### JUNE MEETING

Next month we have a club night - please don't forget if there are any topics you want to cover in a club meeting let **Bob Higgins** (020-8942 2221) know. If possible, we are intending to have a photo-shoot for the website gallery.

**We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 16th May**

May 2012

## KENT PEST ALERT...

Government experts say an infestation of Asian longhorn beetle (ALB), an exotic pest which could have severe consequences for British trees, has been found in the Paddock Wood area of Kent. It is thought to have been imported in packing timber from China. The beetle poses a serious threat to a wide range of broadleaved trees and shrubs such as maple, ash, sycamore, elm, horse chestnut, willow, poplar, birch and some fruit trees. Measures to treat outbreaks in the US and Italy have resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of mature trees. This is the first time an outbreak of this pest has been found in the UK and it is being treated extremely seriously.



The Food and Environment Agency (Fera) and the Forestry Commission say they are taking urgent steps to try to eradicate the outbreak before it has the chance to spread. More information about this pest can be found on the **DEFRA website** or contact the Fera Plant Health Helpline on 0844 248 0071. The distinctive adult beetles (20-40mm long) start to emerge from mid-June and any sighting should be reported to Fera immediately.

## NONSUCH PARK TREE WALK...



A rare sunny day greeted members who took the tree walk around Nonsuch Park Wood.

As announced at the April meeting, **Mike Smith** the head gardener at Nonsuch Park would be pleased to welcome anyone who would like to volunteer as an assistant to work on the gardens and trees. The bonus for woodturners is that they will be given 1st choice on any trees that are cut down. It is anticipated that further walks will be organised in the future.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact **Brian Ash** (020-8642 8108).

## BEEPLENISH TEST..

**Beeplenish Finishers Formula** is a wax finish new to the UK and to woodturners. It can be used for antiques, restoration and woodturnings, and contains Manuka honey.

How did we hear of it? Through the power of the internet. The New Zealand Honey Shop who import the wax, are based in Wandsworth. They Googled "local woodturning club" and got Cheam Woodturners amongst their search results. A quick review of our new site showed that we seem to know what we are doing and the shop contacted us. (Moral of the story: keep the website up to date and with good photos in the Gallery section).

Cheam were asked if we would trial some pots of the wax and report back on our findings, to which we agreed. A small (15g) pot was distributed to 5 willing volunteers (thanks, guys!) with instructions to make a piece and finish it with the Beeplenish wax. We needed a short questionnaire to be completed to let us know how the wax performed.



Beeplenish is about £17 for a 200g tin so it should have something extra to offer being at a premium to normal wax. Beeplenish is anti-bacterial, a food grade finish, contains beeswax and a higher content of Carnuba wax (for shine) plus of course, Manuka honey. The wax is therefore suitable for a multitude of uses.

The pieces made by the 5 volunteers were then shown to the audience and several volunteers commented on their use of the wax. There was a lot of interest in the pieces during the tea break and hopefully members will use this wax in future. The one common comment made was that the finish started off well but went dull after a couple of days despite a higher level of carnuba wax in the mix.

Our thanks to Simon Kingston at The New Zealand Honey Shop for involving us in this trial.

For more details and to order the wax contact Simon via <http://www.newzealandhoneyshop.co.uk/>

**David Buskell**

If you have any comments, corrections, or items to add, please contact e-shot editor Hilary - [hsinclair@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hsinclair@blueyonder.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 16th May

## WESTONBIRT WOOD SALES...

If you are travelling westwards at any time you might be interested to visit Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire. The **Friends of Westonbirt** hold a monthly wood sale on the 2nd Saturday and Sunday of each month between 10.00am and 1.00pm. The wood comes from routine pruning and thinning of specimen trees within the collection from native species to rare and exotic. You can find them at Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, Nr Tetbury, Gloucestershire, GL8 8QS (only cheques and cash accepted) look for brown visitor attraction signs from the M4 or the M5. More information about the arboretum can be found at [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt). Thanks to Gordon Cookson for this information.



### FOR SALE...

**Electric Chainsaw and trousers:** Jeff Cordery will be selling an electric chainsaw and chainsaw trousers for the sum of £40.00 at the next meeting

**Tyme Avon woodturning lathe** with short and long bed bars giving 24" and 36" between centres, centre height 5 ½", swivel headstock for large bowl turning. Offers in the region of £200.

**Coronet Major woodworking machine.**

Consists of: Woodturning lathe centre height 4.5", maximum length between centres 2'9"; Swivel head and circular saw; mortising attachment; sanding disc & planer. Overall length 5' 10", weight 240lbs  
Offers in the region of £400.

Contact Richard Hoodless for either of these items on 020 8330 1338 for more details

### Record Lathe:

Our Record DML 305 lathe and stand together with tools and chuck is currently available from this month onwards. To borrow the lathe please let Brian Ash have your details (phone: 0208 642 8108, email: [brianash@virginmedia.com](mailto:brianash@virginmedia.com)) by the week prior to the next meeting. Remember that it will be needed for various demonstrations during the summer months so take advantage of it while it is available. To comply with the Club insurance, the kit has to be signed in and out again each month.

## EXHIBITIONS & SHOWS ...

**International Turned Wood exhibition** 24 May - 23 June.

**Sarah Myerscough Fine Art**

is delighted to be exhibiting a turned wood collection in the gallery between the 26 May – 23 June. This exhibition will showcase a selection of new work by world class turned and carved wood artists from Europe and America. Contributors include Alison Crowther, Marc Ricourt, Philip Moulthrop, John Jordan, Christian Burchard, Bud Latven, Jim Partridge, Martin & Dowling, Friedemann Buehler and Liam Flynn. The Gallery is at Moss House 15-16 Brook's Mews, Mayfair, London W1K 4DS 020 7495 0069 website [www.sarahmyerscough.com](http://www.sarahmyerscough.com)



### Made in Clerkenwell: Summer Open Studios

at Craft Central 24-27 May 2012.

Meet the makers at **Craft Central** with a range of designers and makers, selling direct to the public in this summer show spread across Craft Central's two buildings, 33-35 St John's Square London EC1M 4DS and 21 Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DX

### Bauhaus: Art as Life - 3 May 2012 - 12 August 2012

**Barbican Art Gallery.** The biggest Bauhaus exhibition in the UK in over 40 years presents the modern world's most famous art school and will feature a rich array of painting, sculpture, design, architecture, film, photography, textiles, ceramics, theatre and installation

### MEANTIME DESIGNS...

Many of you will welcome the news that Jon Warrender of Meantime Designs (skeleton clocks, etc) is back in business in conjunction with Phil Irons, after the disaster in Japan stopped his supplies. For a current price list email [phil@philironswoodturning.co.uk](mailto:phil@philironswoodturning.co.uk), or phone 01789 751284. Unsurprisingly the prices will be somewhat higher than previously charged.

**Submissions** for next month's e-shot should be sent to **Hilary** by 8th June

If you have any comments, corrections, or items to add, please contact e-shot editor Hilary - [hsinclair@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hsinclair@blueyonder.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 16th May