



the spin

Issue 092
May 2022

NEWS FROM
CHEAM WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION



APRIL LIVE DEMO

Richard
Findley
turning pewter

NEWS SNIPPETS

YOUR NEWSLETTER

The May issue of 'The Spin' is focussing on Richard Findley. I hope you enjoy it. The content of each issue is much dependant on what is displayed on the show and tell table plus any articles or tips that members can provide will be included.

Reporters are still required to prepare the written elements of demonstration reports each month. Please contact the Editor if you can help.

CLUB COMMITTEE

During the house notes at the April meeting our chairperson noted that the committee is still short of one member to join the team. If you believe that you could be that person then please contact David - davidbuskell10@gmail.com.

AXMINSTER TOOLS

Cheam Woodturners has a facility with Axminster Tools to obtain a 5% discount on items that the Club purchases from them. If you are considering buying an expensive piece of kit from Axminster then please contact either David Buskell or Jenny Boud for details.

FIRST AIDER

Thank you to Jamie Shears who has joined Max Hicks as part of the Club's first aider team.



NEW CLUB EQUIPMENT

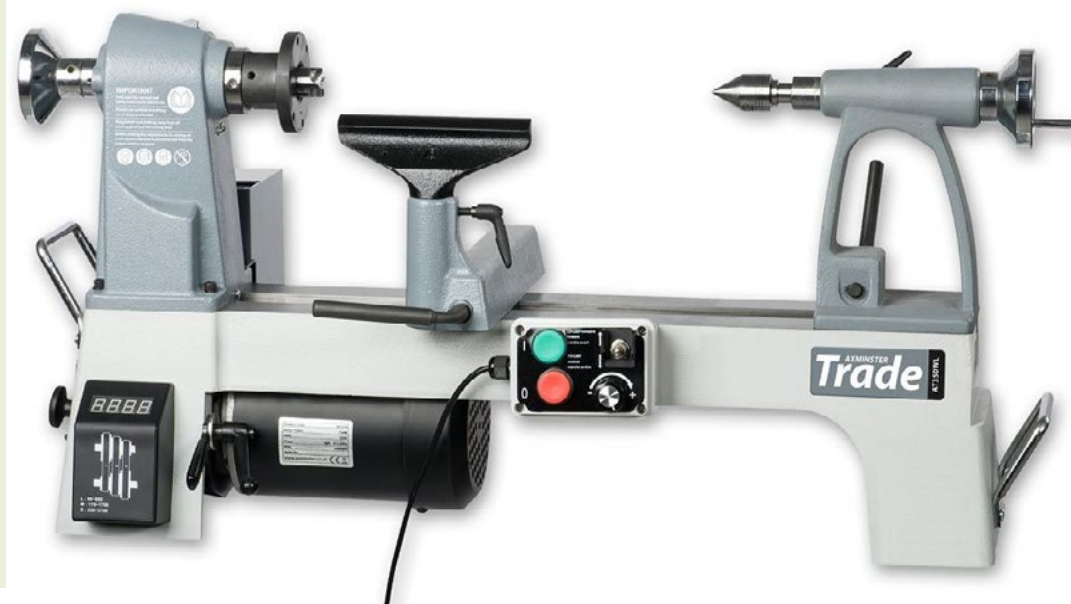
The Club tries to attend as many external events as it can and demonstrating is often part of the event's requirements. The Club has invested in a new Axminster AT350WL lathe and SK100 chuck package which will be available for members to use at these outside events.

Key Features of the Lathe

- LED spindle speed read-out in rpm for great control
- Distance between centres - 400mm, max diameter - 350mm
- Forward and reverse capability, perfect for final sanding
- Versatile, magnetic control box can be positioned on the lathe where required
- Supplied with Axminster manufactured drive and revolving tailstock centres
- Heavy cast iron construction gives strength and low vibration
- Inverter drive controls the motor speed and torque
- 24 division spindle indexing

The SK100 chuck package includes C dovetail jaws, faceplate ring and screw chuck.

The lathe will also be the basis of a new 'Turn Up And Turn' project that we plan to introduce soon. If you are interested in participating in 'Turn-up and Turn' please contact Richard Shirazian - ddikie@gmail.com



Do members have any turning tips for novice and beginner woodturners to read? If yes then please forward them to the Editor for publication in future newsletters.

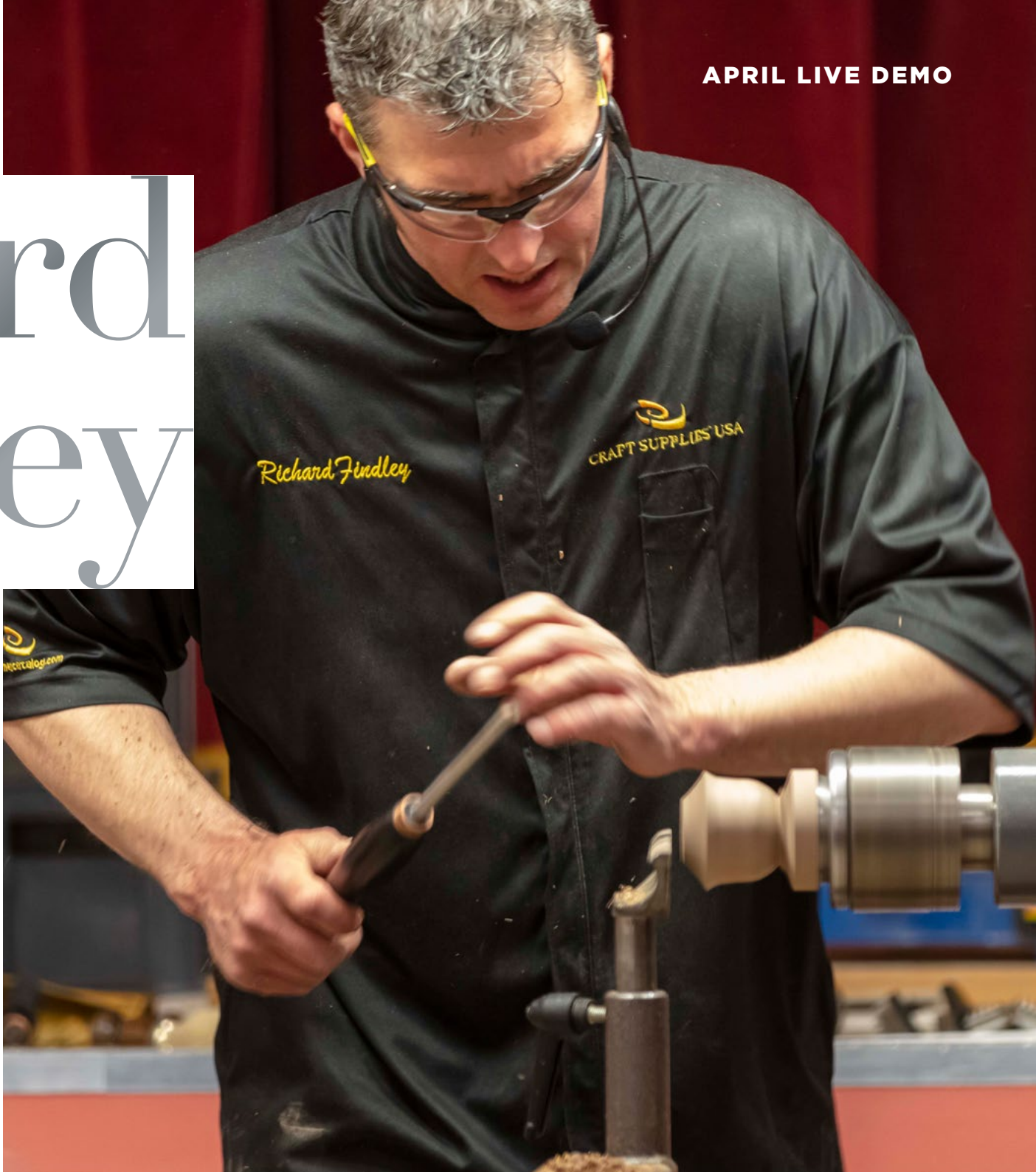
AN EVENING WITH

Richard Findley

Words: Derek Dowle | Photography: Richard Shirazian

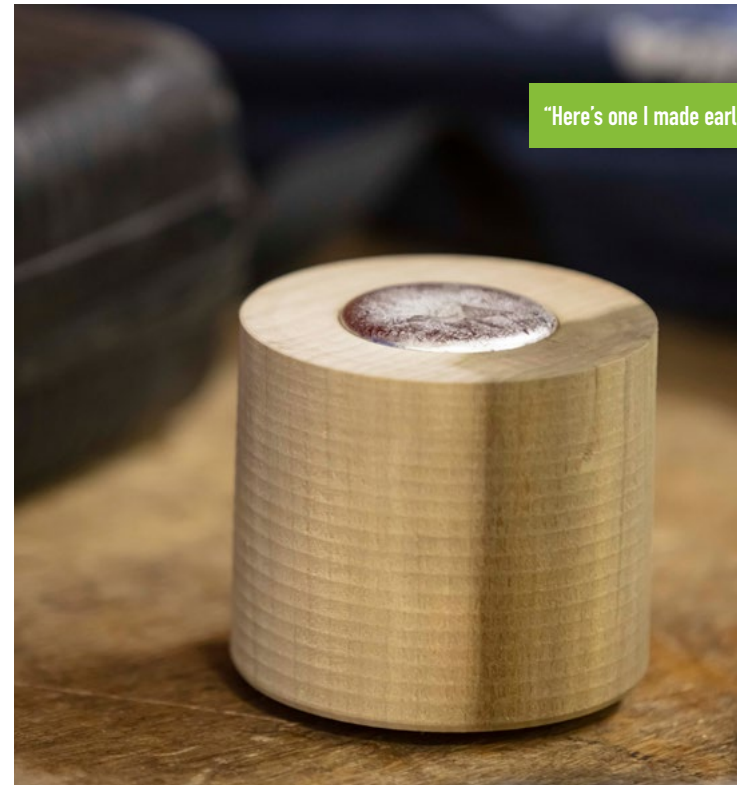
Richard is always a welcomed guest demonstrator for the Cheam Woodturners. He has the knack of clearly explaining what he is doing and why. On this occasion he was going to turn a lidded box in walnut and insert a pewter disc into a recess in the box's lid. The demonstration was to include casting and shaping the pewter disc.

APRIL LIVE DEMO





To melt the pewter a portable gas ring and an old saucepan was all that was needed.



Richard's demonstration started with the turning of the die in which the pewter disc was to be cast. For this he used a blank of tulip wood. Although at the end of the day only a disc of pewter was required, Richard was to cast a mushroom. The stem of the mushroom would enable the pewter casting to be held in a chuck for shaping the disc. To suit his chuck an 18mm diameter hole was drilled for the stem. A 40mm diameter recess was turned into the end grain of the blank to form the disc.

To melt the pewter a portable gas ring and an old saucepan was all that was needed. The melting point of the pewter

was relatively low, so it was important to ensure that the molten metal did not overheat and boil. If air got into the metal the casting would be ruined, so as soon as the metal became liquid it was poured straight into the die. Richard stressed that this should be done in a well ventilated space.

Time was needed for the casting to cool down, so in true Blue Peter fashion Richard had brought along another casting for use later in the demonstration.

With the pewter cast, the focus of attention moved to turning the lidded box, for which a piece of walnut was to be used. After rough turning, the blank spigots were

PEWTER FACTS

Pewter is a malleable metal alloy. Modern pewter is an alloy comprised primarily of the elements: tin, antimony and copper and at least 90% of the alloy is tin. Bismuth and silver may also be found in the alloy. The amounts of copper and antimony in the alloy determine its malleability.

Pewter has a low melting point, around 170–230 °C depending on the exact mixture of metals.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Shaping the pewter; Buffing with polish; Fixing the disc with epoxy; The finished piece.

turned at each end. Once the blank was transferred to a chuck, work could start on the box. Before parting the box from the lid, Richard shaped the blank to aid him in visualising each piece once they were separated.

The base was the first element of the box to be turned. As the base was to house the lid, Richard took great care to ensure that the sides of the recess were parallel to the bars of the bed of the lathe. To do this he held a straight edge against the side of the recess.

Once the base was shaped, the remaining piece of the walnut blank was placed in the chuck. From this piece of

walnut the lid was to be turned, but also part of it would be used as a jamb chuck. The shape of the lid included a spigot to fit into the base. Initially it was turned to provide a tight fit as the joint was to form a jamb chuck with the base of the box. To achieve this, a slight bump was formed on the tenon to reduce the surface contact area to as small as possible. The bump will compress to enable a jamb fit.

With the lid securely attached to the base, the lid was parted from the remaining section of the blank. The base was returned to the chuck to enable the recess to be turned in the lid, to house the pewter disc and the profiles of the base

and lid to be blended. A small groove, shadow line, was cut in the lid immediately adjacent to the base to disguise any misalignment in the wood grain.

The remaining piece of the blank was returned to blank to create a jamb chuck so that the spigot could be turned from the foot of the base.

All that remained to be done was to shape the pewter casting. As pewter is a soft malleable metal, normal woodturning tools can be used. Once the size of the disc was reduced to the diameter of the lid's recess, the top was turned to a convex shape. A gouge does not leave a very smooth surface on the pewter. Richard

then used abrasives down to 1200 grit to improve the look; however, the surface of the pewter had a satin finish. Chestnut burnishing cream, which equates to 7000 grit, will improve the finish. To achieve more of a mirror finish Richard used a buffing wheel and metal polish. The mushroom was returned to the lathe so that the stem could be parted from the disc. The disc was then to be fixed into the lid with an epoxy resin.

All the cuttings and stem from the casting were gathered up to be used for another project, nothing being wasted!

Another interesting and educational demonstration from Richard. ■

A SELECTION OF
MEMBERS WORK FROM THE
SHOW AND TELL TABLE

Photography: Richard Shirazian



A selection from James Cassidy

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Bud vase in Ash finished with Chestnut Melamine Lacquer and Rainbow Wax; Salad bowl in Elm finished with Chestnut food safe oil; Fruit bowl in Cherry finished with Chestnut food safe oil; Decorative bowl in Ash finished with Hampshire Sheen Intrinsic colours, Gold embellishing wax and Gloss wax.



A selection from James Cassidy

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Lidded Pot in Cherry finished with Chestnut Melamine Gloss lacquer/Acrylic Gloss paint; Lidded Brass Finial Box in Oak finished with Chestnut Black Ebonising spray and Melamine Gloss lacquer; Wine bottle stopper (L) in Maple with glass marble finished with Melamine lacquer and Wine bottle stopper (R) in black and red acrylic; Pen in Rabina finished with CA glue.



gallery

A SELECTION OF
MEMBERS WORK FROM THE
SHOW AND TELL TABLE

Photography: Richard Shirazian

Max Hicks ▶

Bowl in Oak, finished with
sander sealer and wax.



Jamie Shears ▼

Bowl in spalted beech, finished with OSMO oil.



Richard Findley ◀

Richard Findley also placed three pieces on the show and tell table. Recently in his Instagram account he has set challenges for his followers and they are displayed here. If you would like to take up one or all of the challenges 'pdf' dimensioned diagrams of them can be downloaded from the 'download' section of Richard's website turnersworkshop.co.uk.

**ALL CLUB MEMBERS AND GUESTS
MAY DISPLAY THEIR WORK ON THE
SHOW & TELL TABLE.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHALLENGE SET BY THE EDITOR
FOR THE APRIL SHOW & TELL TABLE; NAMELY, TO EMULATE
ONE OF RICHARD FINDLEY'S PIECES PUBLISHED IN THE
WOODTURNING MAGAZINE OR AS SEEN ON HIS INSTAGRAM
ACCOUNT.**

the CWA editor's challenge to members

IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT RICHARD FINDLEY WAS TO VISIT CHEAM WOODTURNERS IN APRIL A CHALLENGE WAS SET FOR MEMBERS TO EMULATE ANY ONE OF THE PIECES TURNED BY RICHARD IN HIS ARTICLES IN WOODTURNING MAGAZINE. FOUR PIECES WERE PRESENTED ON THE SHOW AND TELL TABLE. THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED.

Chess Set turned by DAVID JONES
in Sapele and Ash.



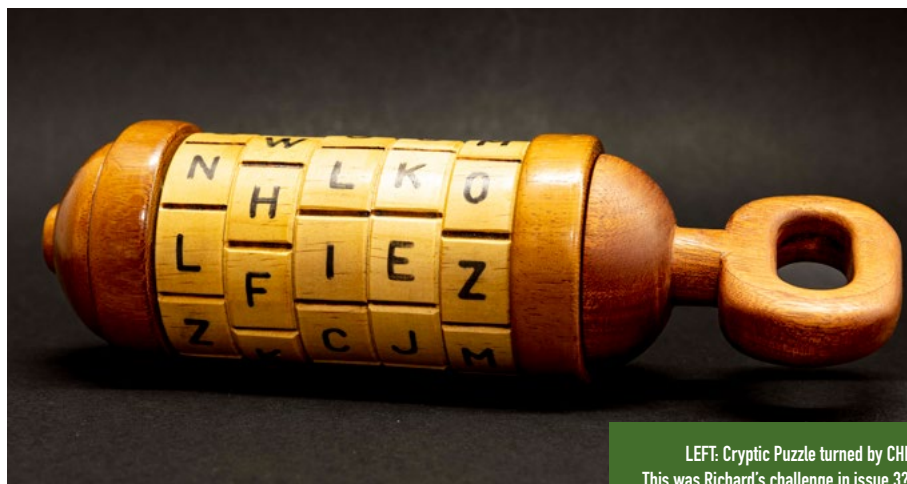
Christmas Tealight Star turned by
DEREK DOWLE in Ash and finished with
treatex Hardwax Oil ULTRA Satin.

This was Richard's challenge to make
something Christmassy in issue 337 of
Woodturning.



Three legged stool turned
RICHARD FINDLEY at a
previous CWA meeting.

The stool was finished by
CHRIS TAYLOR.



LEFT: Cryptic Puzzle turned by CHRIS TAYLOR.

This was Richard's challenge in issue 3?? of Woodturning.



RIGHT: Singapore Ball turned by Chris Taylor in Lignum Vitae.

editor's challenge

A Christmas Star

Not being a person who would shy away from trying something new, I selected Richard's 'Christmas Tealight Holder' which was featured in Issue 337 of Woodturning.

The first challenge was drawing the star on the blank. If Richard had chosen the six point David's star, I could have fallen back on what I remembered from schoolboy geometry. Fortunately, Richard explained how to do it in the article.

The recommended size of the blank was 25cm diameter and 5cm thick. It could be no smaller than that diameter otherwise a tealight holder would not fit inside the five points of the star. I found a 27cm square blank in my workshop but it was only 4cm thick. Unfortunately the blank had warped, so my first challenge was to straighten the concave side so that the blank would sit flat on the bandsaw table. To do this I fitted a screw chuck on the convex side which would eventually be the top of the piece.

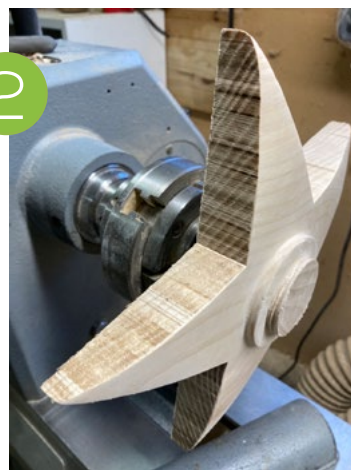
The next task was to cut the star out on the bandsaw. With the screw chuck already fitted the star was then



attached to the lathe so that the bottom could be turned and a spigot formed to enable the top side to be shaped.

At this point it would be wise to reiterate what Richard advises about personal safety and other issues. The most important of these is to keep hands and fingers from straying over the tool rest. Richard says "The first thing that I notice is the huge amount of air the star moves when it's spinning on the lathe. It whirs like a propeller and I know for certain that great care will be needed to ensure nothing gets caught in the spinning star".

When turning items with much air between sections of wood, care needs to be taken not to have break out.



Richard suggests using a sharp chisel to chamfer the leading edges of the rotating star. In this instance I used a micro plane to form the chamfer. The most vulnerable part is the point of the star. To ensure that the tip does not get damaged I put a piece of tape on the tool rest in line with the tips to indicate the limit of the gouges travel. Using a finger nail, ground bowl gouge and a push cut, I start to shape the underside of the holder. Initially I was not getting a very clean cut. I wound the speed up to 1000rpm which improved the cut and I could hear what Richard had said about the sound of a whirring propeller.

Using the principles learnt on the underside, I then progressed the top of the holder. For safety reasons this

project involves a lot of hand sanding! The final challenge was to remove the spigot and to do this I utilised a jamb chuck, going into the hollow which holds the tealight.

Project finished? Not quite! I used an Ash blank to make the tealight holder. Before leaving the workshop I made sure that the glass cup rotated comfortably in the hollow. Within a few days with the star in the house, it started to change shape and close in on the glass cup. Out came the abrasives and more hand sanding ensued.

The star is finished with four coats of 'Treatex Hardwax Oil ULTRA'. I am pleased with how the star looks and can see where I could possibly improve if I turned another. But will I? Time will tell.

CLUB EVENTS

The events listed have been selected by the Committee for the Cheam Woodturners to participate and for members to represent the Club. Any member may participate. To participate please contact the Event Leader.

ASHTAD VILLAGE DAY

Saturday 11 June 2022

Queen Elizabeth II Field, Barnet Wood Lane, KT21 2BZ

At this event participating members can display and sell their wood turned pieces, demonstrate woodturning or meet and greet visitors to the Club's stand. Members selling their pieces will contribute 15% of their sales towards the cost of the pitch. This event is now fully subscribed.

Event Leader: Trevor Etherington
tjetherington@googlemail.com



BELMONT FESTIVAL

Sunday 3 July 2022 | 12:00 - 17:00

Belmont Village

This is a biennial event to raise funds for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. The Club's stand will be within the grounds of St John's Church, Northdown Road, SM2 6DY. At this event, participating members can display and sell their wood turned pieces, demonstrate woodturning or meet and greet visitors to the Club's stand. A minimum of four Club members need to participate if the Club is to take part in this event. Members selling their pieces will contribute 15% of their sales towards the cost of the pitch. If you would like to participate, please contact our Secretary, Jenny Boud.
 Event Leader: To be advised.



EXTERNAL EVENTS

THE WOODTURNING WEEKENDER 'FULL STEAM AHEAD'

30 & 31 July 2022

The Museum of the Great Western Railway, Swindon. For full details:
www.woodturningweekender.co.uk

AWGB INTERNATIONAL WOODTURNING SEMINAR 2022

7-9 October 2022

Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire

For full details

www.awgbwoodturningseminar.co.uk

EXTERNAL THIRD PARTY EVENTS

Please let the editor know if you are participating in an event involving woodturning independently of Cheam Woodturners. You can advertise the event here.

COPY DATE

Deadline for the May 2022 issue of the e-newsletter is **25 May**.

Do you have any article or information that you would like included in the SPIN?

Contact: Derek Dowle:

derek.j.dowle@btinternet.com



2022 MEETINGS PROGRAMME

May 18th	Gregory Moreton Live!
Jun 15th	Chestnut Products with Terry Smart
Jul 20th	Stewart Furini Live!
Aug 17th	Club Night
Sep 21st	Phil Irons *
Oct 19th	OGM & Southern African Hardwood
Nov 16th	Stuart Batty *
Dec 14th	Christmas Party & the Frank Clarke competition

* Remote Video Demonstration