

Galloway Woodturners



Newsletter June/ July 2020
Volume 1, Issue 3

Castle Douglas.
<http://gallowaywoodturners.co.uk/>

Special Interest Articles

Club Competition

3D or 2D

'Toys'

What a Nice Man!

Articles by members

Science

Picture Quiz

Competition winners

The monthly competition has been superbly supported.

Stephen Eccles and Raymond McGarva were joint winners in the novice section and Mick Schofield won the seniors in **April**.

May saw Stephen Eccles win the novice again with Steven Young, Reg Thirwall and Colin Marshall in a three way tie for first in the senior group.

June saw a clear winner in Andrew Hall in the novice class and two equal winners in the senior group in David Simpson and Ken Coates.

Although we don't normally meet, and therefore don't have a competition in July, because it is holiday me and folks are away, July 2020 is different and most folks are at home and are still looking for excuses to get out of the household chores, so we will have a competition and the theme will be 'Light', because it is the summer solstice as I write this and therefore the day with the most light, lets capture some of this and turn an item that relates to either a lamp, sunlight, moonlight, starlight, the Bakelite Girl from Wallace and Grommit, or something else relating to light or lite. If your item is too far off the brief, or too subtle a link then people will not vote for it but let's see it anyway. The mushroom

entry produced a couple where I thought "that's clever" (sadly neither won)



Peilla Bakelite

Every year we award the club trophies for the best Senior and best Novice turner, by entering the competitions you will gather points and it is possible that you might never win a month's competition and still win the trophy.

Every Friday evening our family come together on Zoom and have a quiz, as all of them apart from me and my small granddaughters are university graduates I don't score very highly, but it is fun to enter anyway and to be part of it.

So let's see what you can do.

Entry to be with me, or on the web site before 8pm on the second Tuesday of the month, 14th July.

Future competition items are:

August – A thin walled item September – A goblet

October – Christmas tree decoration November – A lidded box

December – A present

From 3D round wood to 2D flat screens

Seeing things in 3D and being able to touch it, even sniff it or tap it with the back of your fingernail uses all your senses and gives the full picture. Possibly our club competition would have a clearer winner if everyone could get the whole picture, detecting the half hidden rough bits or feeling a little bit of extra weight that makes it less elegant compared to other entries.

When we turn an item we use all our senses, looking at the cutting edge, the horizon and at the shavings, we listen to the sound, are the shavings sighing or rasping, can we feel the tool tearing or sliding across the wood? Sometimes we can even feel the coolness of green wood, or the radiated heat of the dry shavings, and when we can smell the smoke from the end of the tool we know it is time to sharpen the edge again.

Have any of you been watching the Axminster Skill center offerings? They are very good and there are more and more great videos covering a wide range of subjects mainly turning, but other offerings are about machines and tools.

In our own workshop we get the full experience, at a professional demonstrator, or a club night we get some of these senses, but on a flat screen we get even less, especially if it is just a load of text from a web site. Video from the likes of Youtube is as good as it gets – inadequate but can still be fun and informative. I attended a Zoom session by the AWGB, about how to run Zoom sessions, and it seems that if it is done properly can be a good experience, not as good as 3D but better than nothing. What do you think? and what has been your experience recently?

I have been following Captain Eddie talks to us how to do Zoom and meetings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0W6HoeJOYYA>

Eddie has been making videos, and selling stuff for years, some of his early videos are great fun, a proper showman and woodturner.

Borders Woodturners also have a Zoom meeting and I have 'attended' one Zoom Session on 15th June where Helen Bailey gave very impressive demonstration of her talents. Carl Burns keeps me informed about what the club is doing and is badgering me to do a session for them, I probably will cave in eventually



A pierced bowl by Helen Bailey

'Toys'

When we are young parents and relatives bought us toys. Now that we are more financially secure we can buy our own toys, and as we get older the types of toys we choose differs, although this week for my 62nd birthday I got another box of Lego.

At all ages we could desire a new toy, get it, and it gets very little use sitting in the back of the cupboard gathering dust. There is hardly a workshop in the land that does not have barely used, perfectly functional tools doing nothing. It has even been known for some of us to see a 'new toy' and sneak it into the workshop and try to hide it in a corner so that our wife doesn't see it, only to find an identical tool already there.

There is only one, very skilled, woodworker that I know who has no unused tools, and that is because he (poverty aside) had all his tools in a rented workshop which burned down a week before he was due to start a new class. The students needed tools and all he had was a pile of ashes and some metal parts. He quickly worked out the minimum tools he needed for the course and prioritized re-tempering and making new wooden handles. He never got round to fixing or replacing the non-essential tools. subsequently his tool collection has no surplus. The way he works is also most efficient, making sure that each tool reaches it's full range. Nothing overlaps or is underused, every movement of the tool is considered and quality, ensuring the minimum of strikes, slices, turns or strokes. His students learn to buy one good (and often expensive) tool and appreciate it so much that they don't want to put it down.

Surely that is the sign of a great 'toy'. Rather than getting a pile of brightly coloured plastic and electronic tat we should get rid of anything that is inefficient, no matter how pretty it may be. Acquire a quality tool that suits exactly what you want it to do, and hold onto it, use it, and only replace it when it is no longer able to do the job. Do not keep it for a 'spare' because you have replaced it with a much better tool, and if it gets worn out you will have two worn out tools that don't work, not a broken and a spare.

My default position has, for many years, been 'Yes', or 'I can do that' or 'I would like to try that' which means that I have gathered tools and materials (Toys) so that I am ready to start that particular project; turns out that I do not have enough life expectancy to use all the things I have on my To Do list, and even if I did get them done they would be so out of fashion, or the customer has long ago died of old age waiting .

So much as I don't want to grow up, and for ever get new toys, I have to accept that my toy acquisition has to slow down, and that my toy making has to speed up.

There is also a great deal of satisfaction in making a special tool, or breathing new life into an old one. The Cambridge dictionary defines a toy as "an object that is used by an adult for pleasure rather than for serious use"



There is no reason why that object cannot give pleasure and also be for serious use.

Science by Mick Schofield

Sticky Science

You don't need glue for most woodturning projects but it's useful stuff for repairing, for making larger blanks from smaller pieces and even for chucking.

Modern wood glues are very strong and in a properly made joint the wood should fail rather than the glue or the joint line. Technically, failure of a glued joint may be adhesive or cohesive. Adhesive failure is where the glue failed to stick well enough to one of the jointing surfaces. Cohesive failure is where the glue itself comes apart. Looking at why these failures occur highlights the important steps in making a good glue joint.

Important points for making a glue joint

Several factors can cause glue not to stick properly, leading to adhesive failure: Contamination of the surface of the wood by oil (lubricating oil from the lathe), silicone spray (and WD40) and even dust can prevent the glue from 'wetting' the surface. Some woods such as rosewoods and cocobolo have such a high oil content that they should be wiped clean before gluing. There is no single solvent that is recommended but the following can be tried for effectiveness: acetone, methylated spirits, cellulose thinner, white spirit and turpentine. Unfortunately these solvents can interfere with epoxy glue.

The wood to be joined should be flat (to create a thin glue line), perhaps sanded to 80 or 100 grit. It should not be smooth; think of how easy it is to remove paint from a sheet of glass compared with the rough surface of sandpaper. The blades of a planer can burnish the wood, making it very smooth, as can the heel of a spindle gouge. A smooth surface should be roughed up a little.

The most common reason for cohesive failure is a glue line that is thicker than it needs to be, for example if the joining surfaces are dished. The glue itself can fail, leaving a layer on each of the surfaces after the joint has broken apart. Always aim for a thin glue line, do not use more glue than is needed and then clamp the joint for the recommended time.



The exception to this rule is in the paper glue joint. Including a thin sheet of paper in the joint facilitates cohesive failure at a force much lower than a normal glued joint, but the joint is still strong enough for careful turning before it is then split open with a thin blade.

Turning an out of balance piece on a glue chuck is a risky procedure – any defect in the joint could easily result in failure because of the repetitive bending stress imposed by the rotating force.

Types of wood glue

There are many types of wood glues, these are the main types used in woodturning.

PVA glues are based on the same chemistry as emulsion paint but have added constituents that cross-link the polymer chains for higher strength and durability. They are water based so it is easy to wipe off the excess. Remember to select a waterproof type such as Titebond 3 for anything to be situated outdoors. Some PVA wood glues are food safe, including Gorilla Glue Wood Glue and Titebond 3.

Polyurethane glues are activated by moisture and they may not receive enough moisture to cure properly on wood that is very dry, e.g. kiln-dried, so it can be advisable to lightly dampen one surface. They expand when they cure, which means good clamping is necessary. The original Gorilla Glue is claimed to be 100% waterproof

Cyanoacrylate glues (superglue or CA) are fast acting and react with moisture from the air or the wood to create a polymer. They are available in low viscosity (thin), medium viscosity and high viscosity (thick) with increasing gap filling capacity. The thicker types are not instant acting, allowing a little time for repositioning. An accelerator (or, less effectively and more unpleasantly, heavy breathing) will speed up curing. They have a short shelf life, typically one year from manufacture if unopened, and one month once opened. Technically, CA glues are not food safe.

Epoxy glues are two-pack products, and can be messy to clean up. Some, including Araldite, are available in double syringes, making them easier to use and less wasteful. They are available with different curing times, and are the ultimate gap filler capable of making very strong joints. However the glue should be applied to both surfaces and allowed to sit long enough for the wood to soak up as much as it wants before the joint is made otherwise a weak joint can result. Epoxy glue joints should not be clamped too tightly so as to squeeze out all the glue. Epoxy glues should not be used on acidic woods such as oak because the glue will not cure, it will remain soft. Many epoxy glues are not food safe.

What a nice, and generous man

Our landlord Keith Irving, like his father Robert, is a kind and generous man. He has been very good to the club over the years and allowed us to build up our workshop to the point where it is the envy of many clubs. Our treasurer sent this quarters rent to Keith who promptly sent it back stating that he would not take rent during this time . He is under no obligation to do so and at a time when most businesses are in a very delicate and challenging situation his support is doubly generous. I have written, on your behalf, to thank him for this very generous financial support of Galloway Woodturners. In that good old Scottish Presbyterian tradition every time I break biscuit (Irving's shortbread) at 10 o'clock I bow my head and give thanks to Keith, I suggest you do likewise.

Eye – brain coordination

Inspired by John Brown here are some images to get your brain going, they are close ups or cropped images of items in our workshops, what are they ?

Too easy?

This is just for starters, let me know how you got on and we would welcome your images. If everyone gets 100% then I will make the next round more challenging.



Answers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Next issue

The next issue will come out sometime next month and I would very much appreciate some input from members (Thanks to Mick and John for the articles this month)

As there will be no news coming from the workshop for a while yet, the news will come from your own workshops. You can also post things on our web site, or Facebook, remember there is still the possibility of writing something with a pen on paper and sending it to me, or typing something on an email. Tell us what you are making, what worked, what didn't and what you saw on the TV or internet, or even what you heard on the radio. Books still exist and are an excellent source of learning and inspiration. 1/3 of my bookshelves are covered in woodturning books, or bits I have cut out of magazines. So let's have your tuppence worth.

If you have a craving to produce the next newsletter then that can be arranged.

About Galloway Woodturners

Galloway Woodturners is a club for woodturners in Dumfries and Galloway. Established in 2007, the club is open to anyone interested in woodturning: male or female, young or not-so-young, experienced or complete beginners; or anyone who is just interested in finding out more about woodturning.

We meet at our workshop on the [Abercromby Road Industrial Park](#) in Castle Douglas.

The contents of this newsletter are the opinions of the contributors and not necessarily the views of the club, they might not even be true or accurate.

Galloway Woodturners
Abercromby Road Industrial Park
Abercromby Road (A713)
Castle Douglas, DG7 1LH

