

Foreword by new Secretary, Simon Taggart



Hello all and welcome to my version of Peter's literary masterpiece, the Woodpecker. I hope I can do it justice and would appreciate any constructive criticism (well, at least for the first few editions!). This quarter's content is a collaboration between Peter (June/July) and me (August) and has been organised by the same management, editorial, research and media teams that Peter has used on previous editions (a veritable army...). So, on with the news...

June Meeting (41 members, 1 visitor)

There were 41 members present and one visitor, Maurice McCran, father of Andrew, our youngest member, and husband of Jenny.

Chairman Clive talked about attending the forthcoming Little Thetford Feast on 14th July. This is a charitable event that we attended last year, helping to raise money for the purchase of a defibrillator for the village. This is now installed at the hall.

It would be nice if as many of us as possible could attend the event as it does raise the profile of the Guild in the village.

Art in Wood really needs a few more participants, even if members are not exhibiting (as happened last year) and there's always a need for stewards. It's an opportunity to see what it's all about. There was a clipboard doing the rounds for people to sign up for their stewarding duties.

This year, the leader of East Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Charles Roberts, will formally open the exhibition.

Have a look at our [website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter](#) for more information.

Would members please remember to sign for, and bring back, library items? Thank you.

Jenny Starbuck Rodger Foden



Jenny Starbuck, who was to be our demonstrator this month, is ill, so **Rodger Foden**, who has become familiar to us, kindly stepped in at short notice.

Rodger's project was a goblet in three parts, cup and base in a light coloured wood, I think sycamore, and the stem in a dark wood, but I don't know what it was. After roughing the blank down, he formed a spigot, which was then held in a chuck. Now, it was a question of shaping this cup, goblet, the bit at the top, call it what you will, to the approximate shape required, but leaving the bottom thick for strength for the time being.

Left: Rodger roughing down.

Next, he hollowed it nearly to its final shape, before refining with a long-grind spindle gouge, sanded, sealed and parted off. A hole was needed for a small tenon on the top of the stem, so Rodger made a jam chuck on the end of the blank to hold the goblet by its rim. As so often happens (well with me it does), the fit was too loose, so Rodger packed it with some kitchen paper and all was well. The drilling of the hole had to be a very gentle operation, carried out very slowly, but it was accomplished.

The base was made in a similar fashion, but this time the hole was drilled before parting off.

The stem, about six inches, or if you wish, 150mm, long, was done between centres, not by choice, but because Rodger did not have suitable jaws for the chuck to do it any other way. This made things a little difficult, as too much pressure from the tail centre tended to make the piece bow and, therefore, wobble.

The whole item was accomplished with a delicate touch, with a very small decoration in the centre of the stem and tiny tenons at each end.

Rodger won a round of applause when he parted a piece off in his customary way, holding the tool under his right armpit while catching the piece in his left hand.

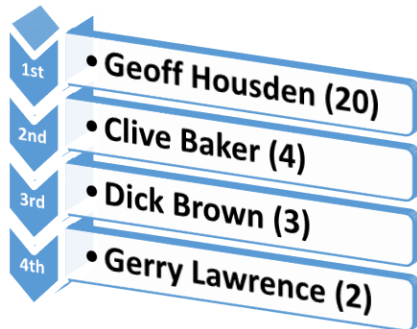
Rodger didn't quite have time to finish the goblet completely, but we showed a 'Blue Peter' example. Apologies for the poor quality of the photo.



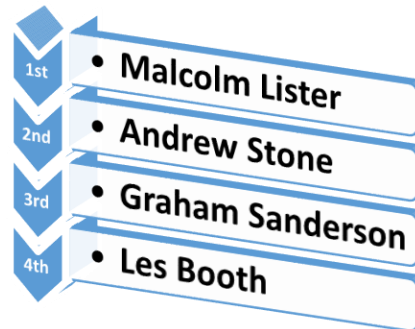
Incidentally, perhaps because of the late finish, and people were eager to get home (or to the pub), there were not all that many people left to help pack up. It was noted that sweeping up was being done by a lady who, it is known, has had serious health problems. Not quite on, chaps.

The competitions

Senior section: A laminated item



Novices: Lidded container



July Meeting (44 members)

Chairman Clive's first announcement was to remind us of the forthcoming Little Thetford Feast, to which the Guild has been invited. The object is to raise money for local charities. You may remember that last year our contributions helped in providing a defibrillator, which has been installed at the village hall.

Still with the hall, Clive said that Robert Bullen, who, I understand, was the Chairman of the village hall trustees until about two months ago, has recently passed away. He was Chairman of the Parish Council and helped to run the recreation field in its early days. I am told he will be a great loss to the community. I'm not sure how many Guild members actually knew Mr Bullen. Personally, I only had contact with him via e-mail or on the telephone.

Show and Tell

Geoff Housden briefly explained how he went about making his beautiful segmented bowls, one of which won him first place in last month's senior section of the competition. The turning part of these is fairly straightforward, it's the cutting and assembly of all the parts which must be time-consuming, requiring a high degree of accuracy and patience.

Tom Kittle

Our demonstrator this evening was **Tom Kittle**, who we have seen once before, in 2016.



Tom lives in Holt, Norfolk, where he has a gallery, and trades under the name of **Lapwing Woodturning**. He was actually a woodwork teacher before he took up turning. He said there were two schools of thought about teaching. One was the traditional way, where items were made using a tried and tested formula. The pupil was given a drawing and instructions and did it the way they were told. The other way was to allow the pupil to make whatever they wanted, to the design of their own choice, and were encouraged to think more for themselves.

This is perhaps what influenced Tom in his woodturning, because he went on to talk at length about what inspires him and where he gets his ideas from. He studies a large variety of objects, ancient and modern; glass, pottery, metal, sea shells. All can inspire him in the form that his own work takes.

Tom didn't actually finish anything tonight, but spent a lot of time explaining how to go about various operations, from roughing down a blank between centres, to using hollowing tools. With roughing down, he starts the cut in the centre of the blank and works towards each end, the tool coming off the wood at the end of the cut, rather than onto it. Similarly with the skew. His advice is practice, practice, practice.

All of his products feature a turned or drilled recess in the bottom, in which is inserted a wax seal of a lapwing (a type of bird, for the uninitiated, now becoming less common).

When it came to hollowing, again there was some sound advice. The hole had been started with a spindle gouge before switching to the type of tool which has a sort of guard which shields the cutting edge. Inserting the tool into the hole, this guard is placed in contact with the wood and the tool turned upwards until it starts to cut, thus controlling the depth of cut. An aid to this is a side handle which, when held horizontally, ensures that the cutting angle is correct. There is also a version which uses a right-angled bar attached to the shaft of the tool and rests on the tool rest. I made one and it works okay, but it can't be easily adjusted to take a finer cut.

Tom's project was a lidded box, although he didn't complete it. As we said, his theme was largely to show the use of tools, and where to source ideas for shapes. He recommended a visit to the [Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge](#) and the [Sainsbury Centre in Norwich](#). There was another one, but our research department stupidly didn't make a note of it, although there are many books available, so these same researchers suggest a visit to your local library.

Tom's presentation was informative, especially for the less experienced, and humorous, proving that you just need to look and listen to learn. Early on, when Chairman Clive had announced Simon Taggart's intention of having his somewhat luxurious locks shaved for charity, Tom had advanced towards him brandishing a large skew chisel.



Right: An example of Tom's humour

Something went wrong here, but never mind, here's an interesting gap filler.

You may remember that Simon Taggart had announced that, if he could raise at least £1000 for the Charity Mind, he would have all his hair shaved off. Well, he did it!

At the time of writing, it is not known how much has been raised in total, but it appears to be somewhat in excess of the target [Ed: it now stands at £2,326, but you can still contribute at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/simonshaircut>]. Simon has sent e-mails out, so those of you who have that facility will have seen photos and figures, but that may not be the final score. No doubt figures will be announced at a Guild meeting.



The hollowing process...

...and the part-finished lidded box. I think the bit at the bottom will become the lid.



The competitions

Senior section: Bowl with Enhancements

1st	• Chris Horne (15)
2nd	• Gerry Lawrence (6)
3rd	• David Ife (5)
4th	• Clive Baker (3)

Novices: Shallow Bowl

1st	• Malcolm Lister
2nd	• Andrew Stone
3rd	• -
4th	• -

Here's something the editorial team thought worth a mention.

Our publicity officer, Louise Taggart, has done a lot of work since being appointed at the beginning of the year. Well done, Louise!

August Meeting – Hands-On Evening (39 members, 1 new member)

As this was a hands on evening, there was a lot of bustle first thing as people set up tables with interesting items.

Chairman Clive finally banged his gavel and the meeting began. Clive mentioned that the Little Thetford Feast went very well and was a fun afternoon with demonstrations throughout and various items for sale – I believe both Stephen Franklin and Gerry Lawrence found buyers for their work. The Feast managed to raise a fantastic £1,600 to go towards their “Speed Awareness” campaign, and the organisers really appreciated our involvement.

Clive welcomed a new member, Ian Hipkin, to the Guild.

Art in Wood

Mike still needs volunteers to help with stewarding over the ten-day period of the exhibition. As the prime event of the Guild each year, we really do need members to step forward and assist, even if you don't sell anything yourself.

To help with ‘getting it out there’, Clive will be on the “Over to You” show on Huntingdon Community Radio on Friday 10th August at 7pm and on the Jeremy Sallis show between 2pm and 3pm on 13th August, so do listen out for him. The event will also be advertised on the website and social media up to, including and right through the exhibition, so we hope we can drum up enough interest to bring the crowds.

On that note, Clive mentioned that there is a wealth of information, including planned events and reports of past events, on the website – worth a look if you haven't already.

Clive also announced that Jean and Gerry Lawrence recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, to a large round of applause – well done, Gerry and Jean!



Clive reminded members that former AWGB chairman Andy Coates RPT will be attending our Hands-On Day on 20th October.

The event will start promptly at 10am, so try to be there a little earlier. It will finish around 4:30pm. Tea and coffee will be provided, but you'll need to bring your own lunch. Clive will try to ensure the bar is open (apparently, it usually is on Saturdays). We're planning to include a Q&A with Andy and he's offered to critique anyone's work if they wish, so do bring along

something. It's not every day you get a professional's help with improving your work, so do take advantage. Tickets are a bargain at £10 and available from Mick Saul (msaul@uwclub.net); after the September meeting, if there are tickets left, they will be offered to other woodturning club members, so order them soon or miss out!

At 7:30pm when the formal meeting is normally convened, Clive then announced that Peter Symonds was stepping down as Secretary and that he had nominated Simon Taggart (me!) to be elected into the post. This was seconded by Mary Ward and put to a member vote which was passed in the majority.



John Last then stepped up and gave a speech on Peter's long term as secretary, followed by a presentation of a Guild Life Membership certificate. Peter accepted the honour and gave a small impromptu speech of his own.

Hands On



There were an array of tools and accoutrements on a series of tables that members could examine or even try, including:



- 8" grinding wheel with a home-made jig and a selection of gouges to demonstrate sharpening
- Small grinding wheel which was presumably for grinding smaller tools (help me out here)
- Part-turned object (burr of some sort) which had been glued for a show and tell
- Clive's Ely Magic wax-making kit which he gave instruction on using
- High-speed drill attachment

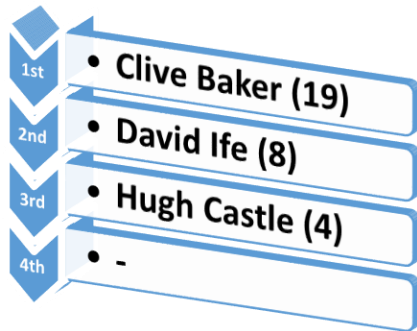


- Pyrography: 2 machines with assorted nibs, laminate blanks, air filter and a dodgy bloke in the corner wearing eye protection
- Various books on woodworking and pyrography
- A dremel with assorted attachments

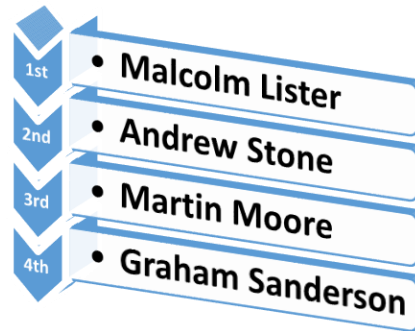
There were also items for sale and exchange (didn't get photos – I blame Brexit).

The competitions

Senior section: Six Identical Items



Novices: Chisel Handle



And finally...

Caption Competition

Best answer will be announced in the next edition. Please e-mail your entries to secretary@elyguildofwoodturners.org.uk or catch me at one of the meetings.



END