



Ryedale Woodturners

News Bulletin 47 – 19 November 2023

Hello all

Emerging bowl demonstration

A [write-up with pictures](#) is now available on the Ryedale Woodturners website.

Stiles and Bates

Following Snainton Woodworking Supplies' closure earlier this year, another long-standing family woodworking firm has announced it is closing down its current operation, with Dalmann UK taking over in April 2024. More details are on the [Stiles and Bates website](#), including details of some significant sale reductions.

Jarrah Wood

I have bought four beams of jarrah wood from fellow club member Frank, which I will be cutting into more useable blanks and bringing for sale at the club shop after Christmas.

There is an interesting story behind them. Frank rescued them from a former neighbour up in Liverton, near Whitby, before he was going to chop them up for firewood. When jarrah comes up for sale as turning blanks, it can be quite expensive.

They are quite uniform in size, and look like small railway sleepers, one of the purposes for which jarrah used to be employed. I contacted club member Derek Quinn, who used to be a manager at Boulby mine, to see if he thought they were sleepers. Here is his reply:



From 1996 I was head of Engineering at Boulby mine and part of my responsibility was our railway. Boulby owned the old branch line that went from Carlin How to the Mine, a total of 5 miles. We had our own railway team on site because the rail was Bull head track (the only location in the UK to use this and with wooden sleepers).

It was a major maintenance problem due to the vast number of trains that were using it. We purchased the sleepers ourselves and paid more for hard wood which lasted longer in our environment. I cannot remember the type of wood but they will have come from overseas through UK suppliers.

In 2000 I decided to modernize the full 5 miles, changing to flat bottom rail and concrete sleepers. Because it was only a single track and the effects this would have on stopping production, it took 5 years to do, changing 1 mile each year during our annual 2 week shutdown.

All the old used wooden sleepers were stacked up at our rail store at Loftus and on the Mine site. Some commercial companies purchased a large amount of the sleepers but we also allowed any employee to take them free of charge.

Consequently you will find a disproportionately large number of old sleepers in that part of East Cleveland, and my garden.

You need to watch out for any oil or tar deposits in them.

If you have been busy on the Chairman's challenge, and have liked working with jarrah, watch out for blanks appearing in the shop in 2024.

Club exhibition and sale Thornton le Dale 18 – 19 November 2023

We are only half way through the sale as I write this bulletin, but despite some wet and gloomy November weather we appear to have had a good day on Saturday. Martyn told me we have taken over £900 so far, which is very promising. It is almost identical to the amount taken at last year's November sale, which was better weather and a little nearer to Christmas. We ended up taking over £2000 tomorrow, so here's hoping that we can do well on Sunday. Thanks to everyone who came down and got out on the streets encouraging people in. Everyone is very welcome to do more of the same on Sunday!

There was a problem on Friday evening, as the hall had been double booked for a Council meeting. Technically we book it for the Saturday and Sunday, but have always been allowed to set up on Friday evening. Apologies to those who came some distance to set up on Friday – we only found out the error on arrival on Friday. In the event we piled all the boxes in the kitchen, and five of us came down around 8 am on the Saturday to set out the tables and all our wares. Hey ho!

Gallery

Martyn sent me a photo that he had taken on his visit to Harrogate Show, of the carved wooden bike I mentioned last week. The bike was created by Richard, who has a small website at woodwithatwist.co.uk, with a gallery of other items that he has recreated in wood – a pair of boots, a jacket, a handbag for example. Remarkable work, well worth a look online.



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