



Ryedale Woodturners

News Bulletin 6 5 February 2023

Hello all

Colwin Way demonstration Thursday 2 February 2023

We had an excellent turnout for this interactive remote demonstration (IRD) from Colwin Way in Dorset – 43 in the hall plus 4 on Zoom.

For newcomers to the Club, the first two meetings have not been what we might call “normal” meetings, with an Open Evening and a virtual demonstrator. The next 5 meetings will have a “real” person in front of, using a lathe and creating something, with explanation of their methods.

The IRD allowed us to welcome a top class demonstrator we would not otherwise see, and he delivered exactly what was asked of him – methods and hints on how to deal with green timber. Apologies for the technical hitches we encountered, with a couple of frozen screens and a loss of sound. We are not sure whether this was due to problems with Wifi signal, connections or computer processing power, but thanks to Martyn and Keith for resolving them as quickly as they could when they occurred. At least 3 of us will be having an investigatory, trial session before next month, to try and make progress. Anyone who would like to be involved please let me know.

Watching a demonstration like this, it pays to concentrate more on the process than on the final results. The two small bowls seemed fairly simple, but the techniques involved in creating them come from years of experience. Of course the bowls needed to be simple in design, because it was the characteristics of the wood that was their key feature, not any intricate shape, texturing or colour.

I will put a write-up on the website of some of the key points Colwin covered on the night – processing wet wood, dealing with sap and tannin, removing chucking points, using a jam chuck, sanding, finishing, and more. Hopefully Martyn will be able to put together enough of the interrupted recordings and put them on YouTube.

Snainton Woodturning blanks

Some members were telling me it was mayhem at SWS on Monday as the timber sale started, with shopping trolley loads of wood being carted off by lots of customers. I went on Thursday, when probably half to two-thirds of the stock had already gone.

I bought £670 worth of blanks, which with 25% discount cost the club £500. I will bring a box or two of these blanks to each meeting until we run out, for sale at the discounted price – ie 25% off, so no commission to the club, just a service to members. I bought squares

(spindle blanks) 2 – 4" width, and rounds (bowl blanks) 5 – 12" diameters, mainly in ash, spalted beech and sycamore. . All the oak had gone by the time I got there.

The intention is for members being able to buy a few pieces at each meeting. If you want a larger quantity, get down to Snainton before 6 April.



Alternative wood supplies

Here is a start on a list of alternative wood sources. I think you will find them more expensive than Snainton, and nowhere near the same stock of British timber that we have been used to, but needs must.

Suggested by Phill Armes:

Raventhorpe Trees, Cherry Burton (Beverley). A family run business selling live edge timber slabs, Hardwood firewood / briquettes, Turning blanks

<https://www.facebook.com/raventhorpetree>

Suggested by Steve Fearnley:

G & S Timber, Penrith Timber yard at Stainton, near Penrith, with a reasonable stock of turning blanks, though not always available. Free delivery if you buy £50+. They also stock tools, machinery and consumables. <https://www.toolsandtimber.co.uk/>

Duffield Timber, Ripon. Big operation timber yard at Melmerby, just off the A1. It has a woodworking and turning section as well as the large timber yard, with a fair variety of blanks. Often has good burrs for sale by the kilo. <https://duffieldtimber.com/>

Turners Retreat Doncaster. Big modern store at Harworth, selling just about everything for woodworking. Part of the Sorby/ Craft Supplies empire. A very good stock of blanks, especially exotics. Take your membership card for a 10% discount.



Mentioned at British Hardwoods Open Day:

Stiles and Bates. One of the big operators in the woodworking and woodturning business. Based in Dover, but a maximum £9.90 delivery charge on orders, regardless of volume. They stick to this charge even if they have to send orders in more than one shipment.

If you have used or visited other suppliers, please let me know some details so we can expand the list.

Chainsaw parts

One of our members, Sam Pick, has a Black and Decker GK43 Type 1 Chainsaw, not in working order. Now obsolete with parts difficult to source, he wonders if anyone else has anything similar, with the possibility of combining two defunct machines to make one working version. If you can help, please contact Sam on 07947 235925.

Second hand tools

Club member Paul Nelson asked me about bringing little used items for sale at meetings – is this OK? The answer is yes – anyone can bring items along for sale, and display on the sales table. Please put an asking price on them. This will be a straight transaction between seller and buyer, no commission to the club is expected or required.

Rhododendron and Apple

Thanks to Colin once again for bringing chunks of rhododendron free to members. Please think about what Colwin showed us and have a go. It will only be costing you time so don't be afraid to make mistakes. **Please** bring any items you turn to show us, either successes or challenges. And please take photographs and submit for inclusion in the newsletter. If we get some good items, Castle Howard Arboretum are interested in displaying them, and it may encourage them to give us more free timber in the future!

British Hardwoods Open Day Saturday 4 February

I enjoyed my visit to Keighley. A wide variety of wood craft on offer, though no specific woodturning demonstrator. There were people turning from Taylor Mirfield, Carleton Woodturners and West Yorkshire Turners. There was an interesting small company building computer controlled laser / CNC cutters for sale at around £350, with any profits going to the Men In Sheds movement: contact John at SharedWorks (Bingley) admin@artisanstudio.org.uk if you fancy a laser / CNC device.

The event was very busy, with lots of timber packs vanishing well before I got there at midday. Sadly there weren't any reductions at the end of the day as in the past. I did buy a few exotic blanks on offer from the Turners Retreat stall, which will be available for sale at the next meeting

I couldn't fit this spalted beech half log in the boot of my car, so left it there for use as a table.



Gallery additions

Andy has been squaring up more rhododendron blanks. Beautiful markings which should produce some unusual and impressive final turnings.



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