



Ryedale Woodturners

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Hello all

Club Night 5 November 2026: John Boyne-Aitken

Our next meeting will be one of our big-screen live video demonstrations, featuring “The Bowler Hatted Turner” from Trowbridge in Wiltshire. John is a former chair of the Register of Professional Woodturners, and was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to heritage crafts. Obviously popping up to North Yorkshire for a couple of hours would be a bit of a challenge, so our use of the technology allows us to welcome someone who would not otherwise be available. He has demonstrated for us before, during lockdown in 2021 John will be turning a hanging pomander with a threaded lid, from “an unusual piece of wood”.

Sam’s wood store



Sam Pick’s widow, Joyce, invited me to have a look at his wood store, and to take anything of use. Sam was a bit of a scavenger, so it contained mainly large cuts of felled trees, including some 3” planked walnut. Sadly there was quite a lot of woodworm attack and some cracks, but I have cut this out and managed to salvage some promising blanks with beautiful grain patterns. It was donated to the Club free of charge – “Sam would have wanted you to have it” – so I intend to bring a box full to the next meeting for members to take a piece or two, free of charge, and turn it into something

by way of remembering Sam. It would be good to see a collection of “Sam’s Shapes” – perhaps a display at the December meeting would be good – just a display, not a competitive showing as we already have the Chairman’s Challenge (candlesticks) and the club competition. We could send a photo of the collection to Joyce if it materialises. After that you can of course do what you wish with the pieces – keep, sell or donate for sale.

Photographing woodturning

I am always hoping that people send me photographs of turning they have done, to share in this bulletin. Nick Webster is a professional photographer, and I asked him if he could provide a few simple tips to share with people regarding photographing woodturning. His suggestions are as follows:

Top Tips for Photographing Your Woodturning

A few simple steps may help you improve images of your projects.

1. Keep the background simple.

Remove clutter and distracting objects. Use a plain backcloth of fabric, paper or card to make your turning stand out.

2. Make the piece the star.

Move in close enough to fill the frame, but leave a little breathing space around the object.

3. Look for soft, diffuse light.

Bright sunlight and bare lamps can produce harsh shadows and glaring reflections, especially on polished finishes. Look for diffuse cloudy light, perhaps from a corner with two windows, or through net curtains. Outside on a bright but cloudy day (not in direct sunshine) can be perfect.

4. Avoid back-light

Phone cameras will make what they consider is the best adjustment for light. Placing your woodturning in front of a bright window will probably result in the object being too dark.

5. Watch the reflections.

Glossy finishes can reflect windows, lights and even the photographer. Explore moving the light source, your phone/camera and the piece to minimise distracting reflections.

6. Keep the camera steady and focus carefully.

Phone cameras are really good these days. Get the main subject in focus and keep your phone steady. Moderate editing/enhancement can improve the shot, but don't go over the top.

7. Take several shots and check them.

Try different viewpoints to find the angle that best shows its shape, proportions and grain. Check that the whole piece is sharp, the colours look natural and the background is unobtrusive. Crop off distractions.

Keep it simple. Good light, a clean background and a well-chosen viewpoint will make your masterpiece shine.

Which of these shots works better, and why?



Of course you can ask Google AI to “Enhance photo – remove background” and it will oblige, but it is always best to do as much as possible to get a good photo in the first place.

Second hand lathe



Mike Rafferty spoke to me at Thornton Show, about a lathe he has that he would like to donate to the club, free of charge. This is an old Record DML24 (I found out that DML means Drill Master Lathe), basic but functional – similar to the one I started on, and still use as a buffing machine. He

contacted me again this week to follow up. Mike is in West Ayton, and is happy to deliver locally. I can pass on contact details if you let me know you are interested:

info@ryedalewoodturners.org.uk

Gallery



Noel has been making some rather cute penguins. Reminiscent of the master thief, Feathers McGraw, in Wallace and Gromit's *The Wrong Trousers*, but without his cunning rubber glove chicken disguise. Very popular in the last sale.

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