



# NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB

## NEWSLETTER June 2017

[www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk](http://www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk)

### Notes from the Editor

The web site appears to be back up and running. I've restored the hacked page and changed all the passwords. I am waiting to hear from the web hosting company to find out how it happened and what they are doing to stop it happening again.

Inside, you will find my reports on the demonstrations by Nick Adams and Gary Rance. Gary, you all know but Nick who? Well it's no use searching the ranks of woodturners, as Nick makes long bows and musical instruments! He gave a very different and very interesting talk.

First reports indicate that the club's demo at the Hinckley market went well. As well as promoting the club, it is also part of the AWGB's 30th anniversary birthday bash. Some photos are included.

And finally a message from Dr Shrivastava - get yourself checked for prostate cancer by asking your doctor for a PSA test. There are no early signs of prostate cancer and, by the time there are signs, it could be too late. However, if discovered early, prostate cancer is very treatable.

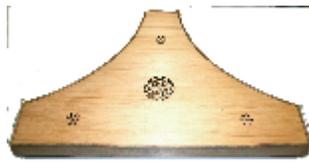
Regards  
Rob Sheehan

# Nick Adams 18/4/2017

By Rob Sheehan



Nick was a surprise guest. He didn't want a lathe (not a good start) but his knowledge and enthusiasm for making long bows and period musical instruments soon won us over. The lute in the picture was based on a 1580's instrument in the Vienna museum. Nick made his own plans from photos and the available historical research. As well as



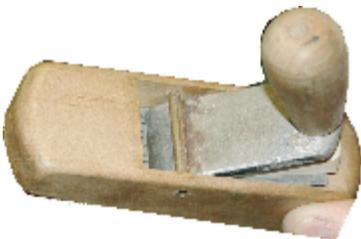
the lute, Nick has made a Plucked Psaltery and woodwind instruments. He

likes to make his own tools. See below for examples.



Back to longbows. Many tens of thousands of bows were produced during the hundred years war but few survived, so knowledge was limited. The Mary Rose discovery with its huge range of well

preserved artefacts, including longbows, greatly increased our knowledge of the period. Each longbow is tailored to the user. The length is approximately the person's height plus one hand (4"). The standard draw would be about 28" with a force of 120lbs. Modern bows are made from



Block Plane



Bowl Sander



Dowel Maker

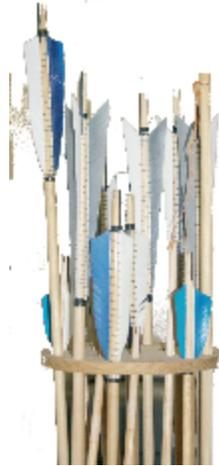
laminated timber. Traditional English longbows were made from Italian Alpine Yew, using both the sap and heart wood. The energy is stored in the compressed wood, and the whole of the bow bends, not just the thinner ends. Notched horn end caps would hold a hemp, flax or silk string. Arrows would be custom made. The length must match the archer's draw. The arrow's weight must take into account the draw strength and the expected weapon's range. Tips and flights also varied. The range of a longbow would be up to 350yds, with arrows fired at a rate of about six per minute. An archer would be supplied with 60 or 70 arrows, so they would have to be rationed during battle.



Arrow strength tester



Some arrow point types



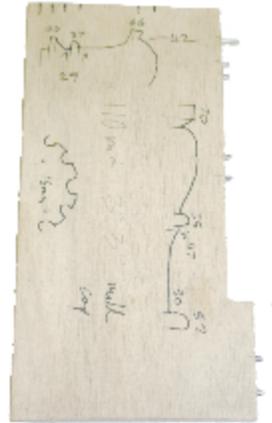
Archer's dagger

## Gary Rance 16/5/17

By Rob Sheehan



After some basic tool and technique training, Gary started on his first project, a Pepper Mill, based on one he found in a charity shop. As a production turner, Gary uses a scratch stick to mark the key dimensions. One pin locates the stick at the end of the piece, and further pins mark the key transitions. He also uses Paul Howard copy



fingers to save having to measure critical diameters.



Gary uses Cole & Mason mechanisms for his demonstrations. He tapered the blank down to 70mm (+

1/2mm for sanding) and cleaned the end face with a skew chisel. After marking the blank with the scratch stick, Gary used a 3/8" spindle gouge to cut top and bottom beads and to shape the body. The skew was then used for a cleaner finish. After sanding, Gary sprayed it with 3 coats of Chestnut sanding sealer, de nibbing with 800 grit between coats.

The top was a contrasting Walnut (for pepper). The length requires about 1/4" of mechanism to show through the top. Using the lathe's indexing, Gary marked 10 equally spaced points round the circumference of the top. He then used a square file to put a v-shaped indent at each point, followed by a round file, used at an angle, to create the castellated top. This was then sanded and sealed as before. In a production run, it would take an average of 15 minutes to produce each mill.



Gary's second project was a Pendant with a rotating centre. He turned the blank to 48mm (the size of his pendant holding jig) and used a pull cut to clean up and taper the face from the centre to the outside, leaving a flat in the centre. He also rounded over the edge. Using a split holder, he then held the pendant securely in the chuck jaws. The split holder is placed over the finished edges of the pendant and allows the jaws to exert a clamping force without marking the pendant. Using a modified kitchen knife as a very thin parting tool, Gary cut into the centre at an angle of  $45^{\circ}$ . He only went in halfway so the centre was still attached. After measuring the outside diameter of the groove, Gary reversed the pendant and cut another  $45^{\circ}$  groove to meet the one on the other side. This frees the centre portion, allowing it to rotate but, because of the angled cuts, it is still trapped within the pendant.

This process can also be used for box lids and earrings. Just remember, if you are making multiple rotating rings, cut the centre ring first!



Gary's final project for the evening was a Tippy Top. He started with a blank 6 1/4" long by 35mm diameter. This is enough to make 3 tops. Thanks to Tony Baxter, the dimensions of the finished piece are attached. First, Gary turned the stem to 7mm diameter. He took off the corners but left a little flat (a pointed stem does not spin as well). Using a 1/4" skew chisel, Gary extended the stem into the body of the top by turning a 1/4" recess parallel with the stem. This recess was 14mm deep. He then rounded over the outside making sure to allow for the recess on the inside. After sanding and colouring the top, Gary parted off and removed the point left by parting off. The first attempt at spinning the top failed to tip over, so Gary held the top in a home made jam chuck and removed a fraction more from the bottom. This time, the top would spin on the rounded bottom, flip over and continue spinning on the stem.

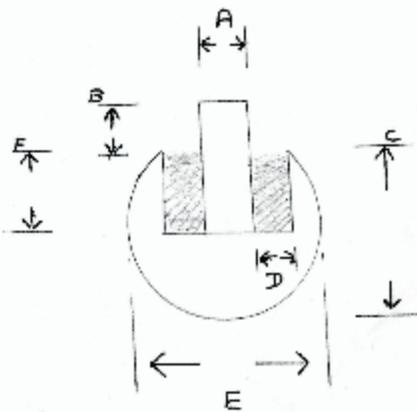


In the final few minutes, Gary showed us how he sharpens his tools by hand, without the use of a jig.



# TOPSY TOP

Design by Gary Rance  
Dimensions courtesy of Tony Baxter



A - 7.20 m.m.

B - 12.08 m.m

C - 28.65 m.m

D - 6.40 m.m

E - 31.90 m.m

F - 14.30 m.m

# North Warwickshire & Hinckley Woodturning Club at Hinckley Market 17/6/17 by Bill Tipple

The weather was sunny and very hot. The double Market Stall was positioned near to the top of Castle Street (the main market shopping area). Several members attended to do some turning or to help set up and to promote the club. The stall was set up from about 08.30.

Two lathes were set up, and members did small turned items on the day. A large amount of turned items were donated by club members, All that was requested was a small donation towards the local Air Ambulance. Item donated included small turn mice and hedgehogs bowls, pens, honey stirrers, vases, turned tulips in a vase, turned shot gun cartridge and pencil crayon inserted key rings, and many more craft items.

Club members distributed information leaflets about the club during the day with details of the club venue and club nights.

Great feedback from people who enjoy hand crafted items. Members were surprised at the number of people who do wood turning at home but do not belong to a club. Many said they would attend a club evening. If only a small percentage come along we will need more refreshments .



**NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY**  
**WOODTURNING CLUB EVENTS 2017**

April	4th	Hands On	Hollowing. Pat Hanley
	18th	Demo	Nick Adams
May	2nd	Hands On	Barry Morley. Stickware
	11/12th	Woodworks@Daventry	
	16th	Demo	Gary Rance
June	6th	Hands On	Steve Obrien. Pyrography prep
	20th	Hands On	Steve Obrien. Pyrography
July	4th	Hands On	Rob Sheehan. Pen Turning
	15/16th	UK & Ireland Woodworking Symposium	
	18th	Hands On	Rob Sheehan. Pepper Mills
August	1st	Hands On	John Thompson. Colouring
	15th	Hands On	John Thompson. Finishing
September	5th	Hands On	
	19th	Demo	TBD
October	3rd	Hands On	
	17th	Demo	John Bradbury
November	7th	Hands On	
	21st	Demo	Mick Hanbury

Next Event

Tue 17th October      John Bradbury

Next Axminster Event

Sat 12th August      Andrew Hall "The Hat Man"