

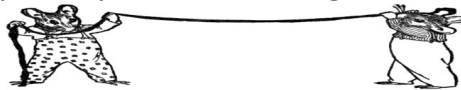


*Lynn
shows
how it's
done*



Last month Lynn boldly stepped up to the lathe to show how easy it can be to demonstrate to club members and an excellent job he did too.

Many have admired his highly polished fruit with flecks of gold deeply engrained. The secret is ensuring you have a good finish before applying the lacquer and gold cream. Many were interested in trying the technique but it must be said that there were a few intakes of breath when Lynn mentioned that you won't get any change out of a tenner when buying your tiny jar of cream. Tight as a nun's purse-string some members.



Also last month, Mike K. brought in an example of his recent work [1935?] which attracted a lot of interest. Might be worth trying this.... Glue a strip of lace to your work and then varnish/spray/paint or whatever to add an unusual decorative feature. I bet it would look good on the rim of a bowl for example.



Photograph your work with a quality camera : **For Sale** - Nikon D200 with Sigma 18mm—50mm AF lens plus spare battery and filters. Other lenses available. £250 (cost £1k +) contact PC.



Members' Work



A story of everyday country folk...

The Longbow Story

It was King Edward 1 who started a military wing of longbow archers in his army. He mostly recruited them from South Wales and Scotland but it was Edward III who took them as part of his army to France in the 1340s and beat a force ten times its size.

In those days it was much cheaper to equip a longbow archer than a crossbow archer. In addition, the longbow could shoot faster and further than the crossbow. It was such a deadly weapon that the longbow was banned by The Magna Carta but that was conveniently forgotten by the king.

A crossbow man was paid 4d a day and an archer 2d a day. The difference was due to the fact that crossbow men came from the middle classes of Norman descent and the longbow archers from the lower class. A bill of sale of the time shows that, in 1480, 10 bows were purchased for 20 shillings and 288 arrows cost 34s. 8d. The price of the longbow was capped by law at 3s. 4d.

Yew was, and still is, used to make the longbow because it has good 'memory' and will always resume its shape if bent. The heartwood and sapwood work together and allow the wood to flex, one side of the bow being compressed and the other under tension. The longbows found on the Mary Rose were still able to shoot an arrow after all that time sunk in the mud. Today, longbows are, in the main, laminated owing to lack of usable yew but are not as good at casting an arrow. A longbow archer could be expected to shoot and hit a man or horse at 200yds. They would usually shoot in groups of ten and would aim at one mounted knight charging towards them. The total weight of metal from the arrowheads, arriving at one time, would knock a knight from his horse where he would lie helpless until despatched.

The French preferred the crossbow and hated the English longbow. Any archer taken prisoner by the French would have the first two fingers of his right hand cut off before a prisoner exchange. From this practice came the two-fingered salute that the archers used to show they still had a full set of fingers.

At the time, all males between the ages of 15 and 60 had to practice at the butts every Sunday morning. Also an archer, standing in England, could shoot and kill a Welshman across the border. The former has certainly since been rescinded but I do not know about the latter.

Hon. President	Allan Beecham	Date of next Meeting: Sunday 23rd June Demonstration by Gary Renouf
Chairman	Maggie Wright	
Treasurer	Morris Ekins	
Secretary	Kevin Head	
VC & Newsletter	Peter Castle	
Events Organiser	Dave Rogers	
Comp. Secretary	Mick Briggs	
Librarian	David Spice	