



## Picture Perfect

During these extraordinary times of lockdown and isolation due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is important to keep our members in touch and provide some extra incentive to keep turning. Following a suggestion from Richard Hasleden, a new online competition has been set up to continue until such time as meetings can resume. As entries will be judged purely from photographs it is important to get the best picture possible so here are a few tips on the subject.

Whether using a simple point and shoot camera, a sophisticated DSLR camera or a mobile phone, some basic rules apply. As with turning tools, techniques matter far more than the equipment.

Create a stage for your piece. Try to remove all other distractions and position it somewhere with a unintrusive backdrop. Perhaps drape a piece of cloth in a plain neutral colour behind the work.

Experiment a little with the lighting on your project. Avoid harsh bright lights such as full sunlight, which cause strong shadows. Try to find a more diffuse light source, natural daylight on a more cloudy day is ideal. Otherwise task lighting could be used. Remember though, this can also produce harsh shadows. The light could however, be diffused by bouncing it off a wall or even a simple piece of white card and reflecting it onto the turning.

Fill the frame with your item, so get close up but remember to try different camera positions to get the right perspective. The wrong angle can make a tall elegant piece look squat and ugly.

When you've taken your photograph, have a critical look at it. Does your piece stand out, look good and more importantly does the photo do your work justice?

Some members have been keeping busy with woodworking projects other than turning and you may be interested to see some of these.



Left. Lynn Chambers has restored this garden bench.

Right. Peter Hawes has made a selection of sticks.



Below left. A flying mallard mobile by Sandra Day.



Right. Mike Pollard has been making wooden toy trucks and cars.



## Entries for the August Online Competition



1. Pepper and salt mill in ash



2. Pair of vases in magnolia wood with transfer designs



3. Lidded segmented pot



4. Flower in sycamore and pink ivory 5"x1"



5. Oak bowl with sapele inlay



6. Painted platter



7 Bowl in yew



8. Little pot with veneer segments

### Competition notes

Entries for this first competition are included as submitted other than some cropping. For future months, the following criteria will apply. Members can enter one item or a pair of items with up to two photographs. Do consider the earlier tips when taking your pictures. A brief description may be included.

Results will be announced in the following month's newsletter. Deadline for the September edition will be Tuesday 8th September. Send your entries to me by email [s.a.day@theforstell.plus.com](mailto:s.a.day@theforstell.plus.com) or whatsapp on 07929095846

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