



Woodturners Beware

Workshops are potentially dangerous environments, full of machinery and tools which are dangerous in their own right if not treated with care and respect.

How many of us spend the time in our workshops on our own? Have you ever given any thought to how you would get help if the worst happened and you suffered a serious injury? The main way to avoid such a situation is to follow correct procedures and good habits. However, accidents can still happen so have a phone handy or some sort of alarm.

Follow a few general guidelines. Keep your workspace tidy and well lit. Avoid trailing leads. Keep lids on containers securely tightened. Avoid smoking or using naked flames as it is possible for dust in the air to ignite. Many finishing products are flammable so keep a fire extinguisher handy. Take a break if you feel tired and make sure everything is turned off at the end of the session.

Always use adequate PPE, at the very least, mask and safety glasses but preferably impact protection and respirator. Wear a purpose designed smock or make sure you are not wearing any loose clothing or jewellery and tie back long hair. Wear sturdy footwear, a chisel dropped on a foot can do some serious damage. Use a dust extraction system and research the timber you are using as some, particularly exotics, can be toxic.

Before you start work do give some thought to the risks involved. It is impossible to partake in woodturning and associated processes without risk. It is therefore extremely important for us all to recognise the risks in order to minimise them. They may be obvious such as cutting off your fingers on the saw bench because you did not use pushsticks. With the lathe however, the dangers are not always apparent, particularly to the novice. The most serious and life threatening injuries sustained when turning, are caused by heavy lumps of timber being propelled with force from the lathe. Even PPE may not necessarily offer adequate protection.

Prior to mounting the wood, check it for defects and discard it if it could split when turning. Consider the mounting option, is it the most secure? Before switching on, revolve the work by hand to ensure it is firmly fixed and clears the tool rest. If possible bring the tailstock up. Check your lathe speed is set low at first. In fact, it is a good habit to reduce the speed when you finish work. Then stand to one side as you turn the lathe on. If all is secure, speed can be increased as the blank becomes balanced.

Most important of all, if you are interrupted or distracted by some other event, go through your checks as though you were just beginning. These situations are when accidents often happen.

Right. Peter Hawes shares this good idea with us. He has fitted a large piece of plywood under his lathe to catch the shavings. A timesaver when clearing up.

Do you have any good tips you could share with members?



September Competition Results

The winner of last month's competition was Jim Moger who turned the set of oak candlesticks.

The other entries were as follows: 1, Richard Hasleden, 3, Lynn Chambers, 4, Malcolm Page, 5, Gareth Garner, 6, Mike Pollard, 7, Tim Cornwall, 8, Marion Brunt. Well done everyone. Thank you Peter Hawes for judging.



Entries for the October Competition.



2, 10" Trinket box in Cherry and Ash

1, Lamp turned from resin and Elm



3, Storage jar lids, in mahogany



4, 10" Sycamore platter decorated with spirit stain.



5, Coloured tulips



Left, 6, Spikes, 12"x3"



Right, 7, Lidded box painted with spirit stain in Eastern Mediterranean style



Members' Work



Above and right, work in Burr elm by Paul Filsell.
Left, Platter in American walnut and oak segments inlaid with clock parts by Malcolm Page.

Back in November 2017, Wealden Woodturners enjoyed a demonstration by Colwin Way. Amongst topics covered, he described turning a traditional German Christmas carousel. He had recently had the project published in Woodturning magazine issues 311 and 312.

Included in the hardware needed are pyramid cup bearings which have proved impossible to source in the UK. As a result, Colwin is now selling them himself along with other parts for the project. They will soon be available on his website <https://www.colwinwaywoodturner.com>

Colwin demonstrates on the Axminster Skill Centre at Home site and Youtube. I know some of you have been finding these demos very helpful.

A Notice from Peter Castle

Alistair (from the Brighton area) has a large stock of timber which he wishes to move on. He mentioned in particular;

Seasoned planks of elm, as well as green elm planked and in the round.

Very nice burr Horse Chestnut.

Quarter sawn London Plane plus many more goodies.

For the really good stuff it is £50pcf but generally speaking it will be "much, much cheaper than that".

He can also cut any timber he has to your requirements.

If interested please call him on 07733 436 095

November Newsletter

This will be published on November 8th

Please send your competition entries to reach me by Tuesday November 3rd

Any other photographs will be gratefully received.

Do you have an interesting vintage or rare lathe? If so, please could you send me photos and maybe write a few words about it.

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