



Northumbrian Woodturners Weekly Bulletin No 46

Quiz questions.

1. How many years is a term of presidency at the White House?
2. Complete the saying "Honesty is...."
3. What unit of measurement is used to identify the height of a horse?
4. Eagles, Kestrels and Buzzards are all types of what specie?
5. Which Whitney Houston song is an anagram of 'mention mine to me'?
6. Which famous fantasy adventure film was released in 1939?
7. Which song by Blur includes the lyrics 'Vorsprung durch Technik'?
8. How many red and white stripes are there on the flag of the United States of America?
9. What year was Coronation Street first broadcast in the UK?
10. What word can be placed before the following words to create well known phrases: chestnut, race, shoe?
11. Which famous girl group was originally known as The Primettes?
12. Lacharophobia is a fear of which type of food?
13. Which female American singer shaved her head in 2007?
14. Can you name 3 English counties beginning with C?
15. What type of animal is Skippy?
16. What year did the Titanic sink after hitting an iceberg?
17. How many pounds (lbs) are there in 1 stone?
18. What is the capital of Finland?
19. Which author wrote the Chronicles of Narnia?
20. What is the lowest army rank of a US soldier?

Last week's answers.

1. The nose and ears
2. Macy's
3. Three thousand, seven hundred and fifty (3750)
4. Algeria
5. Madonna
6. Cockles and mussels
7. December 26th
8. Ben Nevis
9. The German Air Force
10. Teaspoon
11. Victor Hugo
12. Saturn
13. A sweet potato
14. Sir Christopher Wren
15. Three (3)
16. A Collie
17. Fitzgerald
18. Blue
19. Boston Celtics
20. Columbus

Online Events



The next guest on Meet the Woodturner with Pat Carroll is Paul Howard, (AKA the Jig man). Check out some of Paul's work [HERE](#).

Join in on Sunday, January 31st at 7:00pm Irish Time for Meet the Woodturner with Paul by emailing meetthewoodturner@gmail.com

A promotional poster for the 'Conkers LIVE' event. The background is a dark purple gradient. On the right side, there is a close-up photograph of a woman, Emma Cook, focused on her woodturning work. She is wearing a maroon top and using a hand tool on a piece of wood. The text on the left side of the poster is in white and green. The word 'Conkers' is written in a large, green, stylized font with a gear-like pattern inside the 'o'. Below it, 'LIVE' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. To the right of 'LIVE' is a small green bell icon and the text 'Presented by CHESTNUT PRODUCTS' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, the text 'FEATURED DEMONSTRATOR: EMMA COOK' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, followed by '7:15PM GMT' and '4 FEBRUARY 2021' in the same font style.

The next Conkers LIVE demonstrator is Emma Cook. She is an excellent turner and we cannot wait to see what she brings to this next Conkers LIVE demo. Follow the link below to find out more:

[Conkers Live](#)

Why Did I Buy That? By Ian Elliott

How many times when you've arrived home after a club's Auction and have said those words "WHY DID I BUY THAT?"

I have several times, a few years ago I purchased a Trickle Battery Charger. I have never owned one before and have never had to charge any of my car batteries. So again, I asked myself why did I buy that? I think the Auction was a short while after Walter Hall had given a Friday night talk on hand tool restoration. Walter had used a Trickle charger attached to two electrodes which were immersed in a solution along with the tool to be restored. If my memory serves me right this was to remove rust from the tool, and I might want to do that one day. Needless to say, I never have! Apologies to Walter if I have miss remembered anything.

But due to Covid 19, we have been shielding since last March. We have only gone out for medical appointments and more recently I have been going out once a week at 7:00am for our weekly shop. Both our Doctors and the Supermarket are just under 2 miles from home. So, it was no surprise last week when on came the dashboard battery warning light! Now I know why I bought the Trickle Battery Charger, what great foresight I had, (more like dumb luck).

I have however had some great purchases from the club's Auctions and if others have been a WHY DID I BUY THAT? purchases the monies have gone into the club's funds.

Walter says: *"That all sounds about right to me. Just make sure you don't try to use one of those modern chargers that switches itself off when the battery is charged for electrolysis. It won't work."*

I have ended up buying stuff when I was just bidding to try to push the price up a bit and putting it straight back in the next year's auction. I have also bought stuff I didn't need for stupidly low prices and more than doubled my money by selling it on. Swings and roundabouts."

Stan says: *"It was with great interest that I read Ian's article! He was very kind and did not blame the auctioneer or his colleagues for his excellent purchase at very little money, nothing said about the scheming way the lot was displayed with - bad side held to the back - very sly!! , a hand covering the damage, placed at the rear of the display Table - hard to view!!"*

So, when he was saved by his wonderful, inexpensive trickle charger purchased at the Grand NWA Auction just goes to show there is some good in the world!!

BUT remember we shall have another Auction (soon we hope) and the auction staff believe vengeance is best served cold..... “

Brian Archer has made a perfume bottle box from American walnut



Servicing the Super Nova Chuck by Nick Simpson

The second in this three-part series of articles by Nick.

The SuperNova 2 is similar in design to the earlier Nova G2 but has a backplate which keeps the insides relatively free from dust and uses a rack and pinion drive for the scroll. It is important to clean the chuck regularly and re-lubricate. This is a simple process, which is illustrated in the accompanying photographs (SN.1-5). Details of cleaning and re-assembly are shown in the photos G2.D and F from my previous article on the Nova G2 chuck.

Picture SN.1 shows the rear view of the chuck when removed from the lathe.



The backplate is seen *in situ* and is held in place by a circlip (SN. 2)



The next step is to remove the circlip (SN.3). **It is advisable to wear eye protection** as the circlip is made of sprung steel and can ping off the pliers unpredictably. The back plate should fall out when the chuck is turned over. If it is reluctant to separate there are 2 slots which can be accessed by 2 small slotted screwdrivers and the plate can be levered off.



Back plate now removed.

SN. 4



The 2 pinions should now be exposed and withdrawn from the housing to expose the back of the scroll (SN.5). The scroll can now be removed by inverting the chuck. Having removed the scroll, the jaw carriers may be slid out of their corresponding slots in the chuck housing. Each carrier is stamped with numbers 1-4. For the SuperNova 2 chuck there is no need to record which slot the individual carrier came from

SN. 5



. Now, in a **well-ventilated area with nitrile gloves and eye protection**, brush off all surfaces with a brass wire brush and then steep the parts in a de-greasing solvent (see G2. D in my previous report). I used paraffin but any solvent will do. Dry the parts on paper towel and leave to fully dry or to speed the process blow with compressed air using the **above PPE**.

G2.D

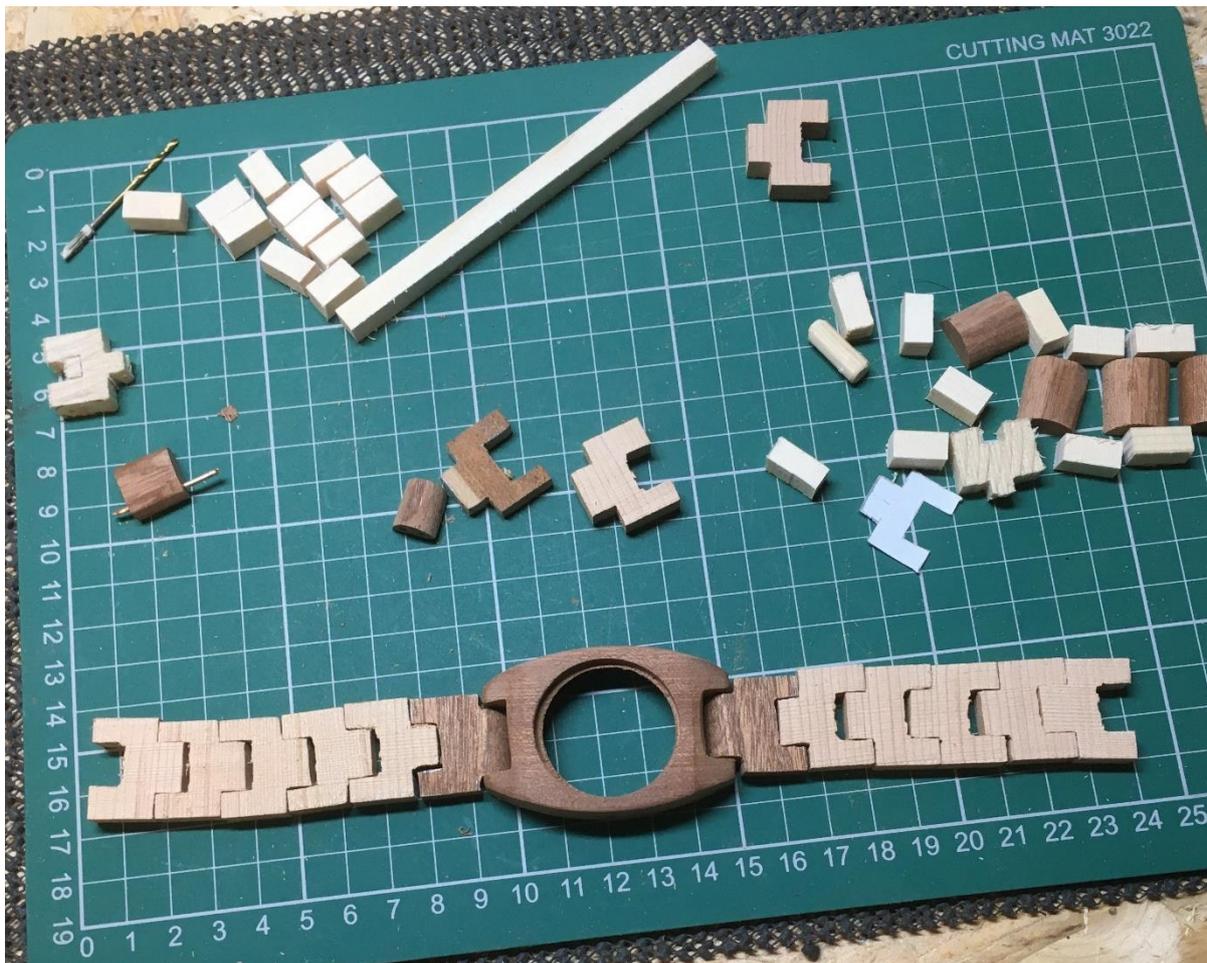


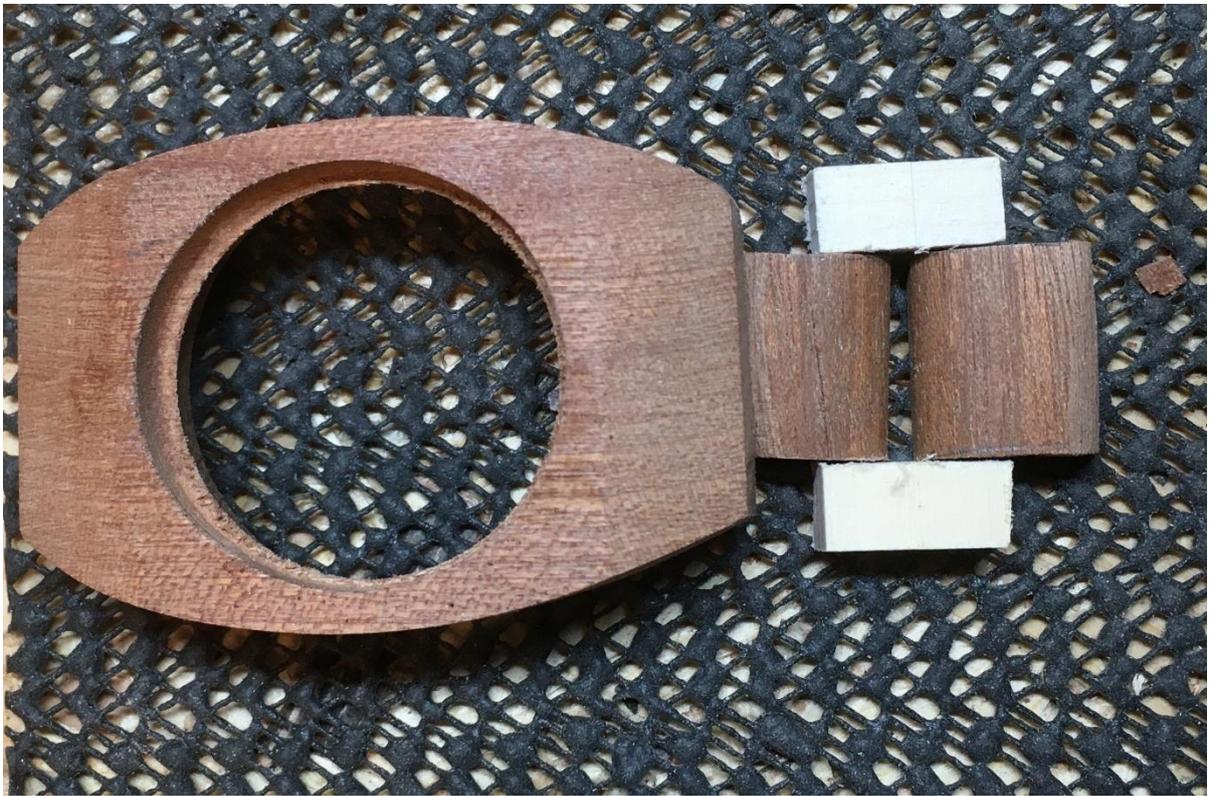
Reassembly is the reverse process with certain caveats. Spray each part with lubricant prior to assembly. My preferred lubricant is PTFE spray, because it is a 'dry' lubricant, but any fine oil will do. Do NOT use grease of any grade. With the chuck on its back insert jaw carrier labelled 1 into any slot. Now insert all the other carriers in order 2-4 into slots in a **clockwise** sequence. Bring the carriers together so that their inner edges form a square and turn the whole over (G2. F of previous). You can now drop the lubricated scroll onto the jaws and with a little 'jiggling' it will engage with the carriers. Now replace the lubricated pinions and engage them with the teeth of the rack, replace the backplate locating the recesses over the appropriate pinion and refit the circlip and the job is complete. JOB DONE.



Martin Stacey had time on his hands.

Martin said: "Hello everyone, hope you're all safe and well. I've tried to push the skill level a little higher and attempt to make a wooden watch. It's not Rolex standard but it's nice to try something new."







Martin has also found time to finish work on his wool bowl.



Hiking sticks by **Chris Tait**

I've always thought that woodturning can offer a quicker route to making functional hiking sticks rather than the traditional method of carving horn or antler. I've always admired people who have the patience to carve traditional sticks, many producing fantastic work, putting hundreds of hours into creating a single stick. These sticks deserve to be displayed and admired but not bashed about the Northumbrian countryside in all weathers. I want to see if I can produce a functional hiking stick in an afternoon, turning the handle and using a seasoned blackthorn rod for the shaft.

The design for the handle of this stick is born out of experience of using hiking poles. It is based on the need for a good grip section to provide support and drive when walking on the flat and uphill, whilst the top knob is useful for support when walking downhill to help balance and prevent slipping.

Choice of wood is up to you or in my case what's available, though consideration of grain direction and ultimate strength of the finished handle needs to be thought through.

I started with a piece of yew, 50mm square by 180mm long. This is mounted in the chuck and the end squared off ready for a 10mm hole to be drilled. This needs to be at least 50mm deep to take the connecting rod (a piece of 10mm threaded bar) to join the handle to the shaft.

Next, I reversed the blank onto a friction chuck made from scrap wood. This is to ensure a good alignment of the hole for the connecting rod with the overall shape of the handle. The chuck therefore consists of a 10mm diameter pin in front of the rear section which is the same diameter as the shaft of the stick (25mm)

The drilled blank is mounted on the chuck, the tailstock brought up and the blank is turned down to around 45mm diameter using a roughing gouge.

A story board is used to mark out the rough dimensions of the handle. This is a useful step if you plan to do repeat turnings and, in this case, maybe another identical stick to make a pair.

I start turning with a 3/8 spindle gouge on the ball end of the handle, having taken the diameter down to about 40mm, the tailstock stays in place throughout the process.

The body of the handle is then turned, again with the spindle gouge, the easiest way to do this is turn two coves at each end of the handle and blend the two in the middle. The handle is about 25 -28mm diameter in the hollow of the coves whilst the wide section of the handle is 35 – 38mm, whatever feels good to your grip. The bottom of the handle is finished with a small cove and is then blended down to the wood jam chuck at the correct diameter for the shaft of the stick.

The handle is then sanded down to 400 grit and a few grooves and burn marks added. These help with grip, as a highly polished surface can easily slide in your hand especially when it is raining. Finally, the top is parted off. I did this with a parting tool as I planned to drill a shallow recess in the top to take a badge. Parting off could be done with a skew or spindle gouge to complete the ball shape as required.

The recess for the badge was drilled using a 25 mm bit. With hindsight this could have been done at the beginning of the process and the tailstock could be brought up into the recess during turning, it was a bit tricky trying to maintain alignment whilst drilling this recess when the handle is held in the jam chuck.

Assembly is relatively straightforward, using a straight well-seasoned blackthorn shaft (this one was cut about 10 years ago!) to make a nice contrast with the yew handle. The end of the shaft is cut square and a 10mm hole drilled to at least 50mm. This is the tricky bit in trying to make sure the hole is parallel. The connecting rod is glued into place with epoxy and the handle is then added. The turning at the base of the handle ensures a good flow between handle and shaft as seen below.

The badge is also glued in at this stage (I used a lapel pin badge) and everything is held together with tape whilst the glue dries.

So, it is possible to turn a functional hiking stick in an afternoon, albeit you have to wait overnight for the glue to dry before cleaning it up, cutting to length and applying a finish, which in this case is danish oil for both the handle and shaft, sometimes poly varnish is applied but is easily damaged when in use allowing water to get under the varnish and stain the wood. The stick is cut to length as a hiking pole. This is done by inverting the stick and holding it with your elbow at 90 degrees, cut stick above your hand. A ferrule is added to the bottom of the stick and it is good to go.

As always, this project has made me think about the next sticks I can make, a two or three sectioned shaft that can be carried and stored more easily, a turned shaft, a turned thumb stick, there are plenty of options and the turning is not too tricky!



Sanding Disc/Table by Keith Davidson

I knocked up this sanding platform from scrap. The kinematic design of the five points of contact with the two lathe bed bars (essentially two “V” blocks to rest on the front bar and a stop on the back bar) ensures that the normal six degrees of freedom of movement are limited to only one. So just as a three legged stool won't wobble on an uneven floor, so this is absolutely stable on the lathe bars: The remaining degree of freedom, sliding along the bed, is taken care of by the friction in the wing-nut-bolted clamp underneath.



The retrospectoscope reveals a serious flaw in this design, which was conceived and developed with my “woodturning” head on: I presumed that you should only work on the “front” half of the disc, where the sanding disc is pushing the work down onto the platform. In fact, provided you keep the work down on the platform, the abrasive grinds from a different direction on the rear half. If Mk II is produced it will incorporate this facility.

When turning the sanding disc from MDF- not a pleasant task- I made a duplicate disc, and up-cycled/repurposed an obsolete leather trouser belt: I possess a few of these as over the years my belts have been in the habit of shrinking! I glued the belt to the edge of the second disc with Gorilla glue, which is very tenacious and will fill huge gaps. I charged the leather with green Dialux compound to make a honing/stropping wheel. This polishes HSS nicely and is also very useful to sharpen other tools, although you do have to be careful not to round the edge over.



Mick McCabe has moved on to the rear step and tow bar as his Landrover restoration continues.

Mick said: "This is the progress on the step. Well this step/tow bar has been more involved than first expected mainly due to the rear crossmember being non-standard and heavy duty type so taller than normal so most fixing points were in different places. All old fixing points cut off new ones made and welded on. Then heavy-duty steel tread plate cut and bent welded to the top of the step. Etch primed and will be painted along with the custom front bumper which is the next task."











