



*Oxon  
Woodturners*

## Newsletter

May 2026

Dear Members,

this month's Club Night on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> was a hand-on with the theme of 'inside-out turning'. We had a reasonable attendance for a Bank Holiday week, with a couple of visitors and some returning visitors....you were very welcome and we hope to see you next month.

Dan Finnemore kicked-off with a demonstration and Dan, a fine turner, started by admitting to being a novice with regards to inside-out. It was useful that he shared his thinking and research behind his approach, particularly for the majority who had not tried this technique before. Dan had prepared the more customary square blanks plus some rhomboid (120 degrees and 60 degrees) blanks which you could assemble as hexagon or a hexagram (6-pointed star), just because he likes to try something new! It obviously impressed as the extra bundles of blanks he had brought to the meeting all sold out.

Dan held the bundles together with rubber bands and masking tape, taking care to use a steb drive in the headstock and a cup drive at the tail. This is preferable to centre-point drives, which would tend to try and separate the joints. It worked well and other methods involve glue, but only at the ends of the blanks where there is scrap wood. That avoids having the facets damaged when the blanks are separated to turn them inside out.

I was so mesmerised that I forgot to take photos of Dan and his work so the example below is from Google Images and shows the possibilities with a 6-blank star. Think Christmas tree decorations.....



3-blank hexagon



6-blank hexagram



Google example using  
the 6-blank hexagram

Dan also brought his Robert Sorby Pro-Edge sharpening system and sharpened some tools. The versatility of the system proved to be of great interest to those with other systems.

## Competition

This month's subject was '**a pair**'. The quality of the entries was the best we have seen for a very long time, with three in the Advanced section and 5 in Intermediate. Very difficult to judge as all were different subjects and all so well-turned and finished.

### Advanced Section

**1<sup>st</sup> Jim Hanlon** with his superb segmented salt and pepper grinders.



**2<sup>nd</sup> place Charlie Jones** with his exquisite, very small and thin jars made from (I think) Yew and either ebony or blackwood



**3<sup>rd</sup> place Dan Finnemore** with his segmented spinning tops with spin-out arms. They worked too!



## Intermediate Section

<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Place Craig Jones</b> (Left) Maple and Blackwood</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> place Joe Brash</b> (right) with 'bowls from a block' in Mahogany</p>		
<p><b>= 3<sup>rd</sup> Andy Griffin</b> (left) with a pair of Oak goblets.</p> <p><b>=3<sup>rd</sup> Ace North</b> (right) with fountain pens in Purpleheart,</p>		
<p><b>Unplaced John Temple</b> with a pair of candlesticks</p>		

### **Next Club night is on Tuesday, June 2nd**

This will be a hands-on with the theme of **end grain turning**.

The competition theme is a '**modern candlestick**'.

### **Reminders**

**Harcourt Arboretum's** Spring Fair is on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> and the Club will have a gazebo with turning demonstrations and members' work for sale (with a portion of the proceeds to Club funds). Please do come along if you can.

**Oxon Woodturners WhatsApp group.** Very useful for quick questions and calls for turning advice and opinions. If you'd like to join the group, please email Ace with your phone number. Ace is at **acenorth79@gmail.com**.

**Facebook** page '**Oxon Woodturners**'

**Website** at **www.oxonwoodturners.com**

*All the best and see you in June, Chris*