

Forthcoming Attractions

September 1st - Demo by Chris Eagles
October 6th - Hands on Evening
November 3rd - Demo by Peter Fagg
December 1st - Hands on Evening
Provisional 7th or 14th Jan- Post Christmas Social
February - Graham Bell Segmental turning

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**Woody's
World**
The Newsletter of



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Editorial

I was just about to hollow out a bowl when these two faces appeared over my shoulder. "Could you let us have a go at the sort of basics?"

I was at the Gilbert Richards centre in Earlsdon, Coventry. This is where 'Age UK' hold classes for everything from Computers to making greetings cards. Being once an old school it has a woodwork room. This has a couple of lathes which can be used by the likes of me. There are extractors and bandsaws etc available so I tend to go down there once a week. It is much better than getting my own stuff out as I have to have it all packed away. Quite some time can be spent just getting the lathe onto a bench and the saw onto another and everything ready to go.

Anyway my two companions had seen me over the weeks and now wanted to have a go. I suddenly had to put my Nick Milton hat on and go back to what do you tell them first.

I did the basic stuff on making curves on a baton. 'Always go down hill' that sort of thing. Then I got them to make a snowman for a Christmas tree. Just one step at a time marking out more or less each cut. When I told them they really had made a snowman they just couldn't see it. That was until I parted the ends away. Faces lit up. I can see why "teachers" get satisfaction from this sort of thing.

I was on holiday at our last hands on meeting so I thought I might write about some basic stuff.

Have you got room to store wood for some time? People might offer you a branch from a tree in their garden. Usually it is still a

branch and they want you to take it away. I was offered a chunk of **willow**. A trial showed that it could be shaped "green". Moreover in a week it had not split. But by then the friend had thrown the lot onto the bonfire.

Cherry is likely to come your way. Lots of gardens have cherries in need of pruning. Cherry is tough but actually turns easily and polishes to a great finish.



Fruit made from 34 different woods

Mahogany is around a lot since many doors and frames are made out of this wood. It is of varying quality and hardness. There are rather a lot of Mahoganies. The harder variety has a rather boring look and does throw off a fine dangerous dust when sanding. But with care it shapes well and the finish can be really worthwhile.

Ash always gets a good write up. I keep seeing the phrase 'this is an underestimated timber' in magazines. There are varieties which give ripples and big variations in colour.

You might be offered **beech**. Much used in furniture making as it can be steam bent easily. It has a pinkish buff finish. Many table legs are made from laminated beech. This lamination can be used to enhance the finished polishing.

All the above you may obtain for nothing - "just take it away".

Whilst there are quite a few **Laburnum** trees in domestic gardens I have never even got a sniff of a piece. It makes beautiful effects, with strong contrast between the heartwood and the rest. I tell a lie, I was given a small piece to try making a lace bobbin. Apparently lace bobbins can sell for a lot but you need something like the contrasting dark and light wood of laburnum to get the 'buy me' effect. My effort snapped the end ball off which I blame on the tiny little stick I was given to start with.

Of course there is a big difference between seasoned timber and freshly cut.

A friend keeps loads of wood stacked by his garage. It looks more like a winter fuel store. If it is a newish log he paints the ends with emulsion then sticks it in a plastic bag. He says this works. All wood shrinks and this will cause splits and shakes. But even after the initial contraction there will be further movement.

See diagram below

