

Woodland Crafts Area

The woodland crafts area is at the heart of the exhibition at point 350 on the demonstration circuit, opposite the chainsaw carving competition. You will be able to see an extensive array of woodlands crafts being demonstrated, talk to the craftsmen about the skills involved and in many cases try your hand at them. There will be several stalls where you can buy both the new and second hand tools required. Crafts being demonstrated include: charcoal burning, hurdle making, cleft gates, coracle making, cane and rush seating, polelathe turning, windsor chair making, stick dressing, besom brooms, steam bending scythe handles, dugout canoe making, three legged stools, cleaving shingles, making hay rakes, willow weaving, sussex trugs, oak swill baskets, 17th Century joinery and carving, coracle making, spoon carving, bowl turning, whistle making, rolling pins, wooden flowers, captive rings, pole timber framing and baby's rattles! There will be three have-a-go polelathes available for you to try your hand. Come and have a go and get tuition from the current World Champion, Peter Wood.

There will be daily demonstrations of individual crafts and have-a-go events and a detailed timetable of these will be displayed in the crafts area

The World Log To Leg Polelathe turning championships

This exciting and fast moving competition will involve competitors in a head to head race to turn two logs into two identical chair legs in the fastest possible time. At the gun the competitors run to a stack of timber and select two round, green ash logs then take these back to their polelathe to turn them into two chair legs in a frenzy of wood shavings. The competition is judged not just on time on time but on the quality of the legs produced with penalties being awarded for poor finish, non- matching legs and other visual faults. The 2014 champion was Peter Wood in the incredible time of under 8 minutes. The winner receives the Champions Mazer which is a silver rimmed drinking cup. The championships originate from when turners lived and worked in woodland producing chair legs commercially for the furniture industry. There will be two daily races, a three man team race at 11.45 and a singles race at 3.45pm on Thursday and Friday. The semi-finals will be at 11.45am on Saturday with the World Championship race being staged at 3.00pm.

For more information about pole lathe turning visit www.bodgers.org.uk email : jimsteelewindSORchairs.co.uk or talk to any of the pole lathe turners on site.