

## **Innovation – Show and Tell**

For years, but with decreasing enthusiasm, we have held an annual ‘Project Plank’ Competition as one of our Monthly Meetings. However, there is a general feeling that we would all benefit from a different approach, which would support the stimulation of new ideas, techniques or projects. It is always impressive to see the amazing outputs from members but we do not provide an opportunity for a “Show and Tell”, so that we can all benefit. We have decided to drop the competition element and just spend the evening hearing of the ideas, ingenuity and skills of our members.

Also, as you know, we have specialist groups, viz. Wood Turners, Cabinet Makers and Restorers, and Wood Carvers. Surely there should be much more opportunity to cross these boundaries and see ourselves as ‘complete woodworkers’.

Thus this evening should focus on:

- A project by a member which combines the themes of two or more of our Groups. For example, a cabinet or a box with some wood-turning or wood carving, or a turned item with embellishment. Let’s all try our hand at something we have not done before, and come and tell us about it..
- To also allow wider participation, members can also bring examples of how they have used a new technique for themselves. This could be a new tool or a new way of using a tool, a new design, special jointing, a different type of finish or application, etc. Each member should illustrate the experience and the benefits of this new aspect to their projects.

The first meeting on this topic will take place in August 2018, so there is time for members to get involved, to experiment and gather help and assistance from colleagues as required. Get away from the same-old, same-old ways and try something new and exiting. I know that we have great talent in our membership and I look forward to an exciting and educational evening.

Regards

Neville Comins  
Chairman