



West Midlands Woodturners

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Chairman's Comments

Our last meeting of the year will include our usual seasonal hospitality and gift sharing. To make the day a worthwhile woodturning event, Keith Lanchester will be demonstrating for us.

For those who are unfamiliar with our Christmas Social get together, we all contribute items of food for a Buffet Style table and socialize during a lunch time break. We share and exchange gifts of nominal value, which we wrap as a present suitable for a woodturner. We also invite guests, friends and family who would like to see what we get up to. Guests are asked to participate in the gift sharing by bringing a wrapped present for a non-woodturner.

As we don't have a Chairman's Challenge project this month can I ask for additional turned Christmas decorations for the tree which is to be presented to Arden Hall, Castle Bromwich Parish Council premises to add to their festive display. Finally I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year .-----
Brian .

Christmas Tree decorations donated and made at the hands on day.



PROGRAMME 2013/4

- ◆ 8th December - Keith Lanchester Demo, Christmas Lunch, Presentations
- ◆ 19th January - AGM and Hands On
- ◆ 16th February - Andy Coates Demo day
- ◆ 16th March - Hands On
- ◆ 28/29th March Midlands woodworking and power tool show. Newark

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Hands On Day:

What a good day we had!

There was a lot of activity with members and some much younger guests making tree decorations and a fair quantity of shavings. It was really good to see wood turners in the making, as we will probably need to recruit them in the (near) future.



We also had a look at the new grinding and jigs recently bought from the raffle proceeds. Many thanks to Malcolm Thorpe and Greg Miller for designing and making the stand/storage container and for the demonstrations . (Also to the cat, who seemed to be taking an active role in the fabrication stage.)



For the first time in a while we ran a sales table, and some sales were made. There was no commission for the club and it is run purely for the benefit of members. The organiser (me!!) needs to come up with a better way to unite sellers with buyers when we do this again.

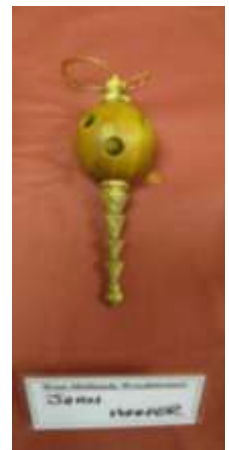
There was a good range of items on sale, and as someone said— “a good way to recycle our j**k”



There was, according to the “wood man”, a good trade in blanks. The stock seemed to be much more the sizes (and price) that most members needed, and we will certainly invite him again (when I can find his card!).

Display Table:

In addition to the tree decorations a number of items were brought in, as shown in the photos below:



Chairman's Challenge Results: Christmas Tree Decoration.

Premier Group - 2 entries

1st place

Dave Nash



2nd place

Don Lawrence



Basic Group - 7 entries

1st Place

John Hooper



2nd place

Dave Howgate



3rd place

Kris Cietak



Dave Hobbs



Brian Goodall



Brian Bateman



Peter Hockley



Members Activities:**Castle Bromwich Gardens:**

Malcolm Thorpe and Bob Rimmer will be demonstrating at Castle Bromwich on 1st December from 12 until 4pm. Donations of tree decorations for sales to the benefit of the gardens would be appreciated. Come to the event if you can.

Adam and Phil Stephens:

Adam and Phil will be at Earlswood Christmas Market every Saturday and Sunday until 22nd December. They will be demonstrating and selling their work. They would appreciate our support.

Greg Miller's Spoons

You may recall that Greg entered the instant gallery, at Loughborough, with his spoons, which were selected for the travelling gallery of 50 items.

If you did not see them, have a look on page 12 of the December 2013 edition of Revolutions. I understand that they were purchased for the Daniel collection, and can be seen there amongst a lot of other well known wood turners work. The collection can be accessed from [here](#), or at <http://www.thedanielcollection.com/index.php>

External Events:

Woodworks Exhibition at Daventry :

This will be held on 10th and 11th May 2014, and wouldn't it be nice if we could win again! Bob Rimmer and Cliff Lane will be organising our display and collecting exhibits, so expect them to be chasing you for work.

The rules have changed this year, following comments from us and other clubs. Bob is closely monitoring the changes and will let us have details as things clarify or change. At present the position is:

1. 75% of items on the display must have been produced since the last Woodworks.
2. Only one lathe per club
3. Best pieces competitions: There will be 2 categories, into which each club can enter 2 items. The categories are:
 - 1: Any woodturned item without decoration (polishing is permitted.)
 - 2: Any decorated woodturned item.

Competitions

1. A bowl 6" to 8" diameter and 3" deep. The blanks will be supplied by Tudor Rose. Time limit 1½ hours.
2. An apple to your own design and of a wood of your choice. Time limit 1 hour.
3. A lidded chalice of your own design, to be done over the weekend, but on the judging table by 2pm Sunday.

It is clear that the organisers have accepted some of the concerns from last year's event, but there are still a number of aspects which will require clarification, especially those to confirm the 75% issue and the condition of blanks brought in for the second and third competitions. Watch this space!!!

Midlands Woodworking and Power Tool Show:

This event will take place on 28th and 29th March 2014 at the Newark Showground. We have been offered a free stand for a display, which will need to be staffed during the show. This is a good opportunity for us to display our work to a much wider audience, and visitors to the show will include people from our region - a chance for recruitment, perhaps.

We will be looking for conscripts, sorry - volunteers to cover the display over the weekend so please put this in your diaries. This might not be popular, but you could make a day of it and take your other half!

Further details will be made available, as soon as we have them.

Club items:**Programme:**

It has not been possible to arrange meetings on every 3rd Sunday of the month. Please check the dates when published to avoid missing a day.

Subscriptions:

AWGB have asked for early payment for next year and Les has already started taking subs in. The good news is that subs will not be increased this year either by AWGB or WMWT and are held at £16 and £10 respectively. If you have already paid - thank you, but if not please do so soon or Les will have to send the boys round.

Annual General Meeting;

The AGM is on Sunday 19th January 2014 starting at 10 a.m. There will be vacancies for a number of positions and elections will be held. If you would like to be considered for a post please let the Secretary know as soon as possible. We should be aware that if the posts are not filled, it will be extremely difficult for the club to run successfully. As Jack Kennedy said: "ask not what your (club) can do for you.....".

Wood Suppliers:

We have come across new suppliers, in addition to the traders who sometimes attend our meetings. They are:

From Phil Stevenson:

I've recently made the acquaintance of Steve Slack, a fellow woodworker. Steve is a member of Coombe Abbey Turners and has a massive stock of timber which he is happy to sell to turners and woodworkers. The timber consists mostly of locally sourced native hardwoods, planked and kiln dried, and is available at great prices; some really lovely stuff. Steve has been very helpful to me in supplying some beautiful ash and elm (as well as advice) and I can personally vouch for the quality and value for money! Steve lives in Sapcote in Leicestershire, not too far away, and close enough to Axminster in Nuneaton for a joint visit! Steve can be contacted on 01455 273894, and his website is www.woodcharm.co.uk

From John Hooper:

I recently visited Kingsbury Water Park, and found that they have created a log yard and have a large supply of various timbers. The Ranger, James Taylor told me that they are bringing all the forestry felling for North Warwickshire to this site for disposal. They have large pieces (I bought a log 18" diameter) down to branches and sections from Birch, Oak, Beech and other locally grown woods. Please note that these are "green", although some of the larger pieces have been there for a year or two. The only downside is that you have to pay £3.50 to get into the car park. Go to the shop and ask for James and they will radio for him to come to the yard. If he is not available, Fred will assist.

Chairman's Challenges for 2014.

The advanced List of Items for the Chairman's Challenge Competition is given at the beginning of the year in order to provide greater preparation time and hopefully encourage more members to participate. *HAVE A GO!!*

January (AGM)	Egg & Cup
February	Lidded Box
March	Rimmed Bowl
April	Open Neck Vase
May	Platter 8" / 170mm Dia.
June	Earring & Necklace Stand
July	Gavel & Block
August	Candle Holder
September	Lidded Bowl
October	Spoon/Ladle
November	A Christmas Decoration
December	No Competition

This competition is sponsored by Earlswood Interiors & Crafts, who donate a prize for the winner of the Basic Group at the year end.