



WEST MIDLANDS WOODTURNERS

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Chairman's Comments

What a great start to the New Year Stuart Mortimer gave us, and great turn out to see a Master Craftsman at work! That's a good standard set for this year's demonstrators! February is our AGM & 'Hands On', the AGM is our annual business meeting to report the state of the club and consider the future direction we may wish to take. Reminder ---- don't forget, all positions are up for reselection. Do you want to have a say in the affairs of the Club, then why not put yourself forward for election?

Any ideas you may wish to raise, please contact the secretary and get an item put on the Agenda. The deadline for Agenda Items is 12/2/12.

On the subject of the 'Hands On' Days the aim is to make the event project motivated and linked to the Chairman's Challenges by which means I hope we can entice a bigger number of entrants. Please see the details of this month's project and Have a Go!

See you in February, do your best to attend and support the Club by attending the AGM.
Brian.

PROGRAMME 2012

- ◆ February 19th. Three-quarter Day — AGM & 'Hands On' Day
- ◆ March 18th. Full Day— Demonstration by Reg Slack
- ◆ April 15th. Three-quarter Day— 'Hands On' Day



I have received the following email which may be of interest.

*"Dear Secretary,
I'm sending you some information about myself which I feel may be of some interest to your membership. I run Greenwood Days a centre in the National Forest where I teach and promote traditional crafts, one of those crafts being pole lathe turning.
I've found that while woodturning is your members main focus they perhaps would be interested in a wider area of woodworking and crafts. With this in mind would it be possible to pass my details onto your members either by forwarding the attached newsletters or by a small mention in your own newsletter.
As further interest I do come out and give talks to a wide range of groups. This can be an hour or two demonstration covering the history and techniques involved in pole lathe turning or bring out up to 6 lathes for a more substantial hands on session with your members. I've found it illuminating to some members when they see a matching pair of chair legs turned from the log in under 10 minutes!
Many thanks for your time.
Peter Wood"*

More information can be found at www.greenwooddays.co.uk



Chairman's Challenge for Sunday February 19th. 2012.

Sponsored by Earlswood Interiors & Crafts

Select a tool from your kit, Gouge/Scraper/skew etc. which you could do with some tuition in using . Make a copy of the Handle, identical in dimensions, length, width & shape, bring along as a pair, they will be judged as a pair and hopefully during the 'Hands On' Day we can give you some tips on the correct use of the tool.

Stuart Mortimer's Display Table.



A review of Stuart Mortimer's Demonstration January 15th.



Stuart Mortimer

Stuart Mortimer is known to, and admired by many of us, so it was no surprise to see such a great turnout for his demo day with us. It was a pleasure to welcome Stuart's wife as well, but bringing a dog who specialises in twisted forms in woodturning was a bit of a surprise!

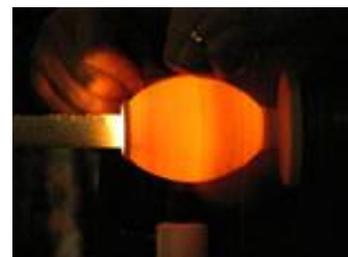
Stuart wasted no time in running quickly through the agenda for the day, and quickly showed us the basic cuts with the skew and the spindle gouge. It is

always good to see some skilful tool work (and Stuart reminded us that such an exercise is a good way to warm up for any turning session), but we had come to see some more exciting stuff. Our first foray into twists was a demonstration of how to mark out a double twist and then open it out. I don't intend to explain how Stuart executes his work, but he has written an excellent book (now sadly out of print?), of which I have a copy. Don't hesitate to ask any of a number of WMW members who will be happy to explain to you the basics.



Stuart showed how the bines can be roughed out and shaped using a small saw, carpenter's chisel, rasps, Arbortech, etc. Finishing as always was with Stuart's "special tool" (twisted strips of abrasive paper to you and me).

Then on to a small hollow form in ash. Interesting to examine Stuart's hollowing out gouges - bowl gouges with swept-back wings, which seemed to make the task of removing stock so very easy in Stuart's hands. The real fun was watching Stuart finishing the outside of the vessel using a light source inside; as is often the case the audience held it's breath and seemed far more nervous than the demonstrator as the wall got thinner and thinner! In reality, a wall thickness of 2.5mm still gives a surprising level of strength, so give it a try and see how thin you can go!





Showing the grain in the hollow form

The next stage was to take a similar shape (in carob) and show us how to mark out and form 16 bines in the hollowed out vessel. Stuart again did this remarkably quickly using his faithful Arbortech, followed by rasps and sanding. So much of the time in many of Stuart's pieces is taken up in finishing so he typically showed the technique on only a part of the piece.



I know that several of our members have made similar beautiful pieces to this and I expect we will see a few more!

Moving on to a goblet with a twisted stem, this time in a nice piece of walnut. Stuart uses the same hollowing out technique, then by eye, showed us how to measure up and rough out a three start twist, finished in the usual way with mini rasps, files and abrasive. Stuart's finish of choice is a cellulose gloss lacquer (Myland's Gloss for Wood according to my notes).



The almost final piece was



a ribbon twist around the rim of a small vase. I don't recall seeing this demonstrated before but the same logic applies to marking out and the only added action is



drilling through a small hole (32 times) to allow the ribbon twist to continue around the rim before shaping and sanding.



And lastly, the small open twisted finial Stuart uses on many of his display pieces; same measuring and marking out (by eye), same method of shaping and finishing ...

On the one hand, you may think that this demo was somewhat repetitive, as the basics of measuring twists, then shaping and finishing them is essentially the same whatever the piece, but not so. Watching Stuart in

action and listening to his explanations shows us (again) that mastering basic techniques is the key to producing a huge range of widely varying work. The speed at which Stuart works and the skill and confidence he shows in his tooling are what sets him apart from us mere mortals. Stuart will be the first to admit as well that power tools such as the Arbortech and the Dremel rasps help complete the task in a fraction of the time it would take with hand tools, but remember that back in the days when Isaac was a lad, craftsmen did just as fine a job with hand tools we would today consider rudimentary, so there is no excuse for us not to give all these projects a go.

Stuart's easy manner and good humour made the day a real pleasure. In my opinion he is a real master of his art, and one of the woodturning circuit's "must sees".

You might also want to check out Stuart's website if you need even more inspiration:

<http://www.stuartmortimer.com/>

Phil Stevenson



General Information

If you have not paid your Subscriptions for 2012 they are now are now OVERDUE

Subscriptions for both AWGB and WMWT were both due on January 1st. There is no increase this year! The club fee is £10.00 and the AWGB subscription is £16.00. Both subscriptions should be paid to the Club Treasurer as soon as possible. Payment can be cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to W.M.W.T.

The Treasurer's address is:-

'Westbury', Coppice Lane, Middleton, Tamworth B78 2AR

Chairman's Challenge Winners

Can I remind all winners of the Chairman's Challenge competition to keep their winning piece for the Daventry 2012 exhibition.

Programme 2012.

The programme for 2012 has been finalised and the pocket programmes will be available at the next meeting. It will also be on the website. Please note that there is an error on the pocket programmes that have been issued already. The date for the Daventry Woodworks 2012 Show should be 12-13th. May, not as shown.

Next Meeting February 19th. Annual General Meeting and 'Hands On' Day

This is a Three-quarter Day.

This will commence at 10 a.m and finish at about 4 pm. There is a £4.00 fee for the day.

Helpers to set out tables and chairs from **10.00 a.m.** please.

Do not forget your sandwiches and a mug for your tea/coffee.

Items for the Newsletter

If anyone has any items for inclusion in the Newsletter, please note that the deadline for the March issue is **February 22nd.**

Axminster Tool Centre

We have set up an account with "Axminster Tool Centre" whereby club members can get a 12½ percent discount on anything purchased from the woodturning section of the catalogue.

This can only be achieved by placing your order with Brian Gibbs or Les Saunby who are the administrators of the account. You can only place an order through the Club, you cannot take advantage of this offer by approaching Axminster directly.

For more information or to place an order please ring:- Les Saunby on 0121 308 1076

