



West Midlands Wood Turners

FEBRUARY 2015

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Access Notice:

15th February Meeting

As reported at the January meeting, it is possible that there will be extensive road works in the vicinity of Water Orton Railway Station.

This may mean that there could be road restrictions from the Minworth side of the village and access to the school may only be possible either through Castle Bromwich or from the A446.

PROGRAMME AND DIARY DATES

Date	Event
15th February	Gerry Marlowe Demonstration
8th March	Hands On
4th April	Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens
19th April	Nick Arnall Demonstration
26th April	AWGB AGM - Broadway
15th & 16th May	Tudor Rose "Woodworks"
17th May	Hands On
14th June	David Lowe Demonstration
19th July	Hands On
7 - 9th August	AWGB International Seminar . Loughborough
16th August	Mark Raby Demonstration
20th September	Hands On
18th October	Jennie Starbuck Demonstration
15th November	AGM and Hands On
6th December	Demonstration and Christmas Lunch
Bold text above indicates link to Demonstrators and other websites.	

Demonstration days start at 9.15 am and conclude around 4.30 pm. (Setting up from 8.30 am)

Hands On days start at 9.30 am and conclude about 4.00 pm.

WMWT Website:

Brian Goodall has undertaken a considerable amount of work improving the website. The statistics on usage show that we are getting higher than expected hits, with an average of 80,000+ pages accessed each month. (Wow!!!!)

We have received a considerable number of enquiries arising from website access leading to an increase in the number of visitors and consequently, members, who now number 56.

There are further improvements to come. Well done Brian.

Diary Dates 2015

7th February	Axminster - Steve Heeley Demo
7th March	Axminster - Coombe Abbey Demo
13 & 14th March	Paskins Show
27 & 28th March	Newark Show
10 & 11th April	Yandles Show

35 – 2 – 8 – 19 – 56 – 60.

No, they are not my lottery numbers but they are important milestones for the club achieved at the January hands-on meeting.

- 35 members attending on the day, this was 63% of current membership.
- 2 new members signed up – A warm welcome to them.
- 8 visitors who all enjoyed the day and intend to come to future meetings.
- 19 entries into the Chairman's Challenge, a truly magnificent effort by all concerned.
- 56 is the current number of members of WMWT.
- 60 the raffle produced an excellent £60, thanks to everyone for your generosity.

There were six lathes set up and kept busy all day with members having tuition.

A new initiative was the setting up of the camera equipment, this served two purposes, firstly it gave the chance for more members to practice setting up and using the equipment, and secondly to trial the idea of mini demos on camera, this worked well and is an idea that we will try again.

Everyone agreed that it had been a most enjoyable day. *(See the report from Phil Stevenson)*

If you have not been to a hands-on meeting recently I would urge you to come and see what you have been missing.

Help wanted

We need a volunteer to help with making the tea at our next meeting as Les will not be available.

The club will be represented at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Easter event on the 4th April, so I am asking for your donations of turned items to build up our stock for the sales table and pick a peg prizes. As you know all of the sale proceeds go into club funds so we all benefit.

I am not asking for gallery quality just simple pieces that are easy to turn and therefore will not take a great deal of time to produce. Some examples of popular items are mushrooms, dibbers, small bowls, goblets, bud vase, fruit, eggs, pens, key rings, mice, spinning tops, etc - etc.

There are only two meetings before the CBHG event; the Demo on 15th February and the Hands On Day on 8th March.

At her annual medical check-up, an elderly lady was told by her doctor that in order to improve her heart rate, she should try to indulge in sexual activity three times a week. Embarrassed, she asked the doctor to repeat the suggestion to her husband.

So the doctor went into the waiting room, took the husband to one side and told him that his wife needed sex three times a week.

"Which days?" inquired the husband.

"Well, something like Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays would be ideal," said the doctor.

"Ok doctor," said the husband, "I can get her here Mondays and Wednesdays, but Fridays she will have to take a taxi."

Cliff

HANDS ON DAY REVIEW:

By Phil Stevenson



Our last Hands On Day was probably the most active on record with up to six lathes on the go, as well as the sharpening station. The Audio-Visual crew had a busy time training up several new operatives to ensure we always have adequate coverage for our demonstrator days. Two or three of us took the opportunity to perform on camera as guinea pigs - Hollywood haven't been in touch yet to my knowledge ... It was really gratifying to see so many members, especially newer members and guests, having a go on the lathes.

A special thank you to our regular hands-on tutors who do such a great job of introducing new members to our craft and sorting out problems for all and sundry. We also had a busy sales table as well as a couple of interesting features for "My other hobby".

We tried out a new system of judging the Chairman's Challenge, with myself and Keith Lanchester putting our necks on the line and awarding marks for each of the many pieces submitted. Let me say this is no easy task! Our standard of work really is exceptional and we found ourselves looking for reasons not to award full marks instead of just saying "very nice". Our judgements therefore may have seemed rather negative and apologies of this was the case. No negativity at all was intended and we sincerely hope any comments given act as a spur to improvement to even greater heights.

Entrants to the Chairman's Challenge are encouraged to seek out the judges for a more detailed discussion of the pluses and minuses of any piece under assessment and a huge pat on the back to everyone who took part!

A great day all round and hopefully our next Hands On sessions will be just as busy. Remember - these are YOUR days - get stuck in!

GREAT DEAL ON SANDING SEALERS AND THINNERS

Phil Stevenson will have Cellulose Thinners (£4.50 per 500ml) and Sanding Sealer (£6.50 per 500ml) for private sale at our next meeting; these prices are significantly cheaper than you can buy retail. Every sale contributes to club funds so save yourself some money and add to the club's money bag at the same time! If possible please let Phil know in advance how many tins of what you might want so that he knows what to bring. Please email Phil direct (not the Secretary!) with your requirements at phil@stvnns.co.uk.

CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE RESULTS FOR JANUARY

Advanced Group (7 entries): Goblet

1st Place: Don Lawrence



2nd Place: Tom Badger



3rd Place: Malcolm Thorpe



Intermediate Group (3 entries): Goblet

1st Place: Brian Bateman



2nd Place: Bob Rimmer



3rd Place: Ken Beresford



Novice Group (9 entries): Spurtle

Joint 1st Place:
Kris Cietek



Joint 1st Place:
Malcolm Robinson



2nd Place:
Dave Reynolds



3rd Place:
Dave Howgate



DISPLAY TABLE:



TECHNICAL SECTION: BANKSIA NUTS

Banksia is a genus of over 100 species in the [plant family proteaceae](#). They occur in Australia and are easily recognised by their characteristic flower spikes and fruiting cones and heads.

The Australian Aborigines' have always used the Banksia as an important food source, they would suck on the flower spikes to obtain the nectar, they would also soak the flower spikes in water to make a sweet drink. The Banksia tree is also a reliable source of insect larvae which are extracted as food.

The first botanical collections were made after the discovery of the east coast of Australia by Captain James Cook on the Endeavour in April 1770. On that ship were botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander who collected many new species of plant from Botany Bay. The Banksia was named in honour of Joseph Bank's contribution to botany.



Banksia flowers are quite small, but they occur in dense clusters, which in some species can number several thousand individual flowers. The flowers are followed by large woody cones in which the seeds are contained within closed follicles, two seeds per follicle. To the majority of species these follicles remain tightly closed unless stimulated to open by heat, such as following a bush fire, but with a few species the seed is released annually. The seeds themselves have a papery wing that allows them to be distributed on the wind.

Most Banksia are medium shrubs, but some are prostrate and a few grow into large trees 5 to 10 metres tall. Species native to areas where fires occur at regular intervals often have a lignotuber, a woody swelling at or below ground level from which regeneration can occur if the above ground stems are destroyed.

Banksia are popular garden plants in Australia because of their large showy flower heads, and because the plentiful amounts of nectar they produce attracts birds and small mammals.

Banksia wood is reddish in colour with an attractive grain but it is rarely used by woodworkers as it warps badly on drying. The large cones or seed pods are the only part of the tree used by wood turners.

Banksia nuts are hard, solid and easy to turn, but they do create a large amount of flying seed and chip dust, some sharp and dangerous, so the use of a good dust mask and visor are recommended. The nuts vary in size from 100mm to 259mm in length by 75mm to 130mm diameter. They will have been dried for a number of years after picking from the tree. They turn easily and finish well leaving a good deep shine to the hard brown surface. Interest is added by the rough surface area, which can be left natural on some items, and the velvety brown fibrous layer immediately under the surface. For best results use finishing oil as any sort of wax finish will clog the open seed pores of the nut which extend through to its centre core.

To mount on a lathe cut off one or both ends to form a flat surface and mount between centers. Form a spigot for a chuck if the item is to be hollowed in any way, or turn to completion on a screw chuck for items such as fruit.



Paul Hannaby



Jim McFail



Willy Vanhoutte

ONE AID TO SPHERICAL TURNING

By Malcolm Thorpe

Just to make clear the method I used to make the sphere at the hands-on day.

Turn a cylinder between centres and trim to a length equal the diameter with the supporting stubs around a fifth of the diameter. Multiply the diameter by 0.293 ($2.5 \times 0.293 = 0.733$) Mark the cylinder this distance from the corners along the cylinder and down the sides. Produce a flat face using the marks as a guide. This is an ideal time to practice turning with left and right hand. Measure the diameter at 45 degrees: it should be the same as the diameter of the cylinder.



The corners can now be turned off to produce a spherical shape. This can be done as a series of flats, finishing off with a smooth curve or by a series of curves. The ability of a turner to learn the instinctive action of lifting and rotating the cutting tool to produce a smooth curve while maintaining the bevel rubbing cut is essential to art of woodturning.



The work piece can now be removed then turned through 90 degrees and held between a dimpled drive and dimpled pad on the revolving centre. The stubs can now be removed by carefully tuning away the 'shadow' apparent when the work is revolving. Care is needed as the grain is now at right angles to the cut. Continue the cut until a full diameter is produced and finish turning the sphere. If the work is well cut, the sanding process can be started. If not the work can be repositioned and high points turned away. Start sanding with 120 Grit, regularly moving the work. Continue through the grades to 400 grit, then remove and finish by buffing.



**Novice Group:
Honey Dipper**

One dipper from Chairman Cliff



Two dippers from Malcolm Thorpe



YouTube videos of turners making Honey Dippers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REHtZ_wGrjU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L87afTa6grM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Je209t1Pm1Q>

(March Challenge: Dibber)

**Intermediate and Advanced Groups:
Discus Bowl**

(March: Novelty item)

Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens: (4th April) - Organiser: Malcolm Thorpe

In addition to producing items for the "pick-a-peg" game, we will also need volunteers to help with the stand and the demonstration lathes. Please let Malcolm Thorpe know if you are able to assist.

We also set up a display and sales stand. If you would like to display (or sell) some of your work, let Malcolm know and we can organise accordingly.

Please remember that anything sold by the club, including commission sales items will be covered by the Products Liability insurance that we hold. If you would like details of the cover, please contact the Secretary.

Tudor Rose "Woodworks", Daventry (15th & 16th May)

Although May is a few months away, this event will come round pretty quickly. We need to start thinking about the display and look at the rules which will apply this year (they seem to change every year!).

This is a 2 day event, but the difference is that it is being held on a Friday and Saturday, instead of Saturday and Sunday as previously. This may cause some problems with travel as roads tend to be busier on Fridays and car parks busier on Saturdays. We hope that the organisers will have considered this, but no doubt we will find out! Again volunteers are needed, and it would be helpful if members could confirm their availability.

MESSAGES RECEIVED

I have been looking at your website as i am looking for some help with a project for a 492 Squadron Air Cadets based in Shirley, Solihull.

The squadron Website address is below for reference. <http://www.492aircadets.org/>

I am part of the Civilian Committee attached to the organisation and a past Commanding Officer of the Squadron. We are looking at putting a "Gun Run" together, the same as what you might of seen our forces competing against each other on TV. We have some basis designs from the company that makes the guns and carriers, and also have their agreement to use their design.

What i am looking for is someone who would see this as a challenge and donate their time to make one and possible two gun carriages. We would cover all of the materials. If you think there may be someone in your club who would be interested then please drop me a mail.

Flt Lt Lee Elvins RAFVR(T) Ret BEng(Hon) CENG MIET

I wonder if you and your fellow woodturners would be interested in some seasoned laburnum. The tree was cut down two years ago so is well seasoned and the pieces range in size and length. If you feel this offer has potential come and see what we have; we live in Stourbridge, West Midlands.

Regards, Carol Elvin

If members are interested in either of these offers contact the Editor for contact details.

**Deadline for March Edition:
Monday 23rd February 2015**

Please send materials for the newsletter to :
john@hooper25.plus.com

If you want to send paper based materials, give me a
ring on 0121 354 8464 to make arrangements.