



WEST MIDLANDS WOODTURNERS

SECRETARY: BRIAN GOODALL
TELEPHONE: 01827 64114 EMAIL: briangoodall@gmail.com

Chairman's Comments

My Last Chairman's Comments!!



It's been 10 years that I have been contributing to the monthly news letter. I am sure I have repeated myself a few times but I have at least had the opportunity to encourage and compliment all those who offer so much to the activities of WMWT.

I have been asked to include some witty anecdotes in this last issue, I don't know why but although there have been many funny comments and occasions I can't recount them as a tale. Perhaps that proves it's time to step down as chairman; hand over the reins and go and get a 'memory check'.

January is the AGM and although I will be absent, getting some winter warmth and sunshine, I wish you well for setting the future agenda for WMWT.

Best wishes for the future, I will see you all in February, and I promise I will try and not interfere!

Brian.

PROGRAMME 2014

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 13th April: George Foweraker Demo Day
- ◆ 10/11th May: Woodworks. Daventry.

Chairman's Challenge. January 2014:



Egg and Egg Cup.

(The challenges for the forthcoming year were published in the December newsletter, and can be found on page 8 in this edition)



Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Christmas Event

This years CBHG Xmas event started off in chaos as I had misunderstood the starting time but in no time with the help of Tom Badger and Peter Hockley were up and running. Bob Rimmer did sterling work involving the children while Cliff lane, Brain Bateman and Don Lawrence manned the stall. We generated quite a bit of interest in the club and raised some cash but above all we enjoyed the day.

The hall administrator sent the following email:

Hi Malcolm

On behalf of the Trust I would like to thank you all for coming along on Sunday to demonstrate the art of woodturning at our Christmas Event.

We hope that you enjoyed your afternoon here in the workshop and should be grateful if you would pass on our thanks to everyone concerned.

Your support again this year has been very much appreciated and we hopefully you will decide to return to some of our events next year.

Regards Sue

I would like to think we will be able to go to their events this coming year and do a better job each time as we gain experience. I would like to improve the range and quality of the stock, even have a small case of display items. These events are not limited to the usual suspects if you are interested in helping let me know.

Malcolm Thorpe

Display Table :

There was just one item on the table, by Don Lawrence and shown below



The Christmas Tree Project:

Here are the decorations made and donated by members with the tree, donated to a worthy cause.



Review of Keith Lanchester Demonstration Day.

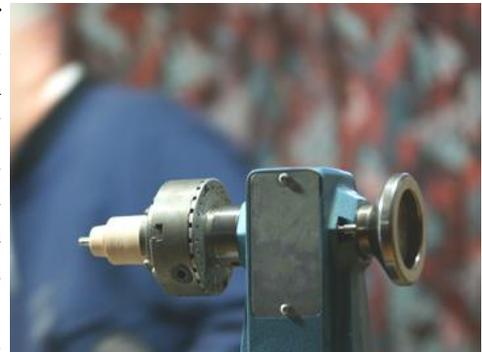
by John Hooper

This day was also our Christmas lunch and the Zimbabwean Chablis was flowing like Evostick. Even a second glass of the Somalian Shiraz would have been welcome. (Just kidding, we relied on caffeine supplied as usual by Cliff). However, it was perhaps serendipitous that Keith's first project was a wine bottle stopper. Perhaps he was thinking the same as me.

The stopper had a seasonal theme - a "sparkly" Christmas tree, and was fitted onto a standard stopper kit available from several suppliers including our friends at Nuneaton. In keeping with best practice Keith used a piece of beech which had had a former life as a chair leg. Given the size of the piece of beech I will have to review what goes in my off cut box instead of the scrap bin.

Having trued up the cylinder, the face was turned slightly concave and then drilled to take the screw fitting for the stopper. A useful tip was that Keith uses an engineers centre to make a small pilot before drilling the full diameter and depth. Because the engineers centre is short, it precisely positions the centre and the drill bit does not wander off centre when first applied, especially when small drills are used.

The beech was then turned down to match the metal stopper diameter, but tapered to form the "pot" for the tree. The threaded stub from the stopper kit was screwed into the drilled hole using the "double nut" technique to give the necessary purchase, and the cylinder was reversed onto the mandrel (available from all good suppliers including our friends at Nuneaton). Keith had modified his mandrel to prevent it from loosening by drilling and threading the back end and then passing a threaded bar through the headstock to screw into this, then securing the assembly with a hand tightened nut at the rear of the headstock. (Keith was asked if he could take all our mandrels to the JLR tool shop for this modification. Regrettably.....)



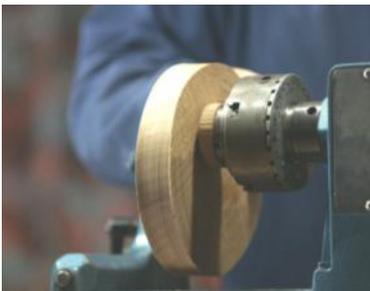
The tree and trunk were shaped using a conventional gouge (all of Keith's gouges are fingernail grind), and then a series of randomly positioned 1mm holes were drilled into the tree section. Short lengths of aluminium wire were cut and the glued into the holes with CA glued. A bit fiddly for my sausage fingers, but Keith used a pair of tweezers which worked well (I will have to raid my wife's sewing kit again). The ends were turned down and the tree, trunk and pot were finished by sanding and buff polished. The metal components were assembled to complete the project. This is a really nice and simple project, so well executed that the stopper is now one of our raffle prizes.





The second project was a disc, in Cherry, but turned on an off-centre basis. This was in some ways similar to the pendant that Gary Rance made for us, but without the use of specialised jaws.

For me, this was much more scary, relying on friction mounts. The first one was where Keith opened the chuck jaws almost to maximum and then clamped the blank between the face of the jaws and the tailstock. The blank was trued up, and the first dovetail groove to form a chucking point was cut. This was 6mm deep and it was important to ensure a flat bottom for the chuck jaws to sit on.



The blank was then mounted on a screw chuck, but off centre ensuring that there was sufficient clearance over the bed ways. A spacer was used to limit the depth of the screw. A second dovetail groove for chucking was made, to the same depth as the first. This resulted in two overlapping grooves to allow the offset. Whilst still on the screw, the centre was turned almost to a depth to expose the screw.

The disc was reverse mounted onto the second dovetail using the expansion jaws and the centre hollowed out to meet the hollow made whilst on the screw. The hole created was opened out to about the diameter of a finger, but softening the internal edge to avoid the risk of cut fingers when the finished disc is handled.

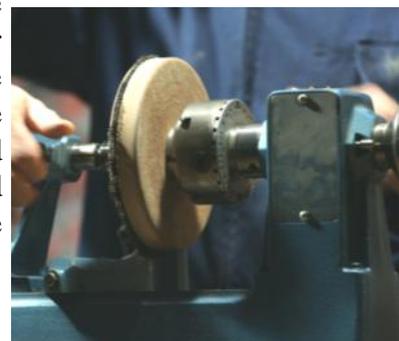


Two "V" shaped grooves were cut into the face of the disc, fairly deeply, using a skew chisel held horizontally on the rest and used as a shear scraper. These circles are reduced to arcs when the disc is thinned, and are probably the most difficult cuts to make in this project.

The disc was re-chucked onto the first (central) chucking point, and the face thinned down to about half thickness at the edges, producing a shallow curve over the face. At this point the two decorative grooves became two arcs. Some of the back of the disc was removed to start the thinning process on the reverse side.



A specially made mounting board was used to reverse mount the disc. This was a circular plate with a spigot on the reverse for mounting in the chuck. The face had been cut into a concave shape with approximately the same curvature as the face of the project disc. Using a piece of router matting the disc was clamped between the plate and tailstock. The router matting was placed between the plate and the disc, and care was taken to mount the disc as centrally as possible.



The back of the disc was then thinned down to about the same profile as the front face and removing the chucking grooves. The piece was then sanded and finished.

This project was an effective exercise in offset turning and showed the value of friction based mounting systems (a bit scary).



The third project was even scarier! This was the tuning of a three footed bowl from a cube, turning across the long axis i.e. from one corner point to the opposite corner point on the cube. Keith made the point that the cube had to be dimensionally correct and in order to flatten the two "chucking points" a jig may be necessary. Keith



had used a 90° "V" jig, and then set his bandsaw mitre at 35°. This should produce parallel flats on the two opposite corners which should ensure that the cube spin is true when mounted between these flats. The cube was mounted between a "Steb" centre and a standard live centre, and a spigot was cut at the tailstock end. Only light cuts were used, as heavy cuts tended to activate the Steb centre and the cube stopped revolving. The cube corners closest to the tailstock were also cut into curves, for the formation of the feet.



The spigot diameter was reduced so that it would fit between the chuck base plates (not the jaws), but also forming two larger diameter spigots to sit on the jaw face. The piece was reversed, the bottom of the bowl shaped and the inner sides of the three feet reduced to produce consistent edge thickness.



The bowl was removed and a small cylinder was mounted in the chuck. This cylinder had a concave face, fitting the base of the bowl which was then mounted between this and the tailstock. The spigots were turned away with the centre spigot being reduced to a small diameter.





This was then twisted off (carefully) and the bowl was cleaned up and finished by hand.



This was a project that used different mounting techniques and required considerable care when cutting and shaping. Altogether a challenging project. (One or two of these might look good at Daventry, perhaps)

Keith's final project of the day was a wall plaque loosely based on some of Nick Agar's work. A rectangle blank was used, and due to nature of the project, the edges need to be sanded and finished before turning. The project uses two screw mounting points, but more than two can be used if desired.



The blank was mounted centrally and a raised circle was cut, with the centre of the circle reduced and the remainder of the face thinned out to the edges. A spiralling tool was used on the raised portion to create a surface pattern, which was ebonised with a small butane torch, making sure that the scorching went into the deep grooves.



Scorching in the centre and around the edges was cleaned up with a gouge.

A small amount of gilt cream was rubbed into the spiral and on the ebonised face, and then sprayed with a sanding sealer. The untreated surfaces were sanded and finished.



The plaque was remounted on a second screw position and a groove about 1 cm wide was cut using a parting tool. Due to the position of the groove part of the ebonised section was removed and part was "off the edge". Additional grooves can be cut to create a concentric off centre pattern. Simple but very effective.



The use of different mounting techniques, which did not require the purchase of special tools, chucks and jaws was impressive. All that is needed is some creative thinking outside the box, and Keith demonstrated that many times during the day.

A very good demonstration from "one of our own". Well done!

Notices:

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 19th January. I am sure that everyone knows that some of the posts are being vacated by the current holders after many years supporting and developing the club. The two “Brians” will still be members of the club, and their successors will be able to draw on their considerable experience in the future.

As stated previously, the club cannot operate without its officers and committee members, so if you can do a job (or even share one), not necessarily as a committee member, please let us know.

Brian Goodall will be sending out the official notification of the AGM, together with the minutes of the last AGM for your perusal, and if you have any items to add to the Agenda, please let Brian know as soon as you are able.

Have a great Christmas and New Year, and I hope to see you all in January.

John Hooper
Editor

john@hooper25.plus.com

0121 354 8464



Chairman's Challenges for 2014

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