



West Midlands Wood Turners

JUNE 2014

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WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

PROGRAMME AND DIARY DATES

Page No	Description
2	Chairman's Comments
3	Hands On day 18th May
4	Future Events
6	Daventry Results
6	Ladies Day and May quiz answers
7	Chairman's Challenge Results for May
8	Rolly Munro Tour
8	For Sale

Date	Event
22nd June	Ladies Day with Margaret Garrard
20th July	Hands On day
17th August	Paul Jones Demonstration Day
13th September	Coombe Abbey Craft Fair
21st September	25th Anniversary & Hands On day
5th October	Castle Bromwich "Apple Day"
19th October	Mark Baker Demonstration Day
16th November	A.G.M and Hands On day
30th November	Castle Bromwich Christmas Event
14th December	Greg Moreton Demonstration and Christmas Lunch
2015 Dates	
18th January	Hands On
15th February	Demo day—TBA
8th March	Hands On
19th April	Demo day—TBA

WEBSITE

The new website is up and running at:
wmwoodturners.org.uk

Thanks to Brian Goodall for his hard work on this.

One of Margaret Garrard's highly decorated pieces.



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. (Setting up from 9.00 am)

Chairman's Challenge for June:

Earring and necklace stand

Chairman's Comments:

In the 5 years that Woodworks at Daventry has been running, the standard of the display tables and the turning has improved massively. I would like to think that WMWT has had a part to play in this improvement over the years. This year there were 11 clubs taking part and we finished 4th overall . This was only one point behind the third place club and two points behind second place. There were some questionable decisions by the judge in some of the categories but we can only accept the results and double our efforts to be back among the winners next year. I would like to thank Phil Stephens, Malcolm Thorpe and Greg Miller for volunteering to turn the competition pieces over the weekend. Malcolm achieved a first place with his Apple, Greg had a fourth with his Bowl and Phil sixth place with his Lidded Chalice. Greg and Phil suffered from continual loss of power supply on the Saturday so I think they both did exceptionally well in the circumstances. I would also like to thank everyone that helped with the setting up on Saturday, taking a turn looking after the stand over the two days and the help in packing and taking the stand apart on Sunday.

Numbers for the Hands-On on the 18th May were down with 29 members and 2 visitors. There were 5 lathes giving ideas for items to sell at Coombe Abbey and Castle Bromwich so I hope we have all now got some ideas and look forward to seeing what you come up with.

The Chairman's Challenge was well supported with 12 pieces. The number of voting slips showed that several members did not vote so please remember to vote at future meetings and give your support to the people that work so hard making items to put on display. I would like to thank Earlswood Interiors for their continued sponsorship of the Chairman's Challenge and ask you all to consider them when you are planning a purchase.

Thanks to the help and advice given by Brian Massey, I have sent a piece about WMWT to the Sutton Observer Club News Page. This has now been published although part of the report was left out due to available space . I am hoping that we can now get a regular mention and perhaps generate interest in the club.

Please do your utmost to promote the next meeting whenever and wherever you can. I would like to see a full display table so if you do not have recent work, bring in one, or more, of your favourite pieces.

An elderly couple went to the doctor for their annual medical check-up. The old man went in first, and after he was finished, he waited outside while the doctor examined the old woman. The doctor said to the wife, " before I look at you, I'd like to talk about your husband for a moment. I'm rather concerned about him. I asked him how he was feeling, and he said he felt better than ever. He said that when he got up this morning, he went to the bathroom, opened the door and God turned the light on for him. When he was done, he said he shut the door and God turned the light out for him. What do you think it means?"
"It means" sighed the wife, "that he's been peeing in the fridge again."

See you all 22nd June
Cliff

Hands On Day—18th May

It was a very hot day, one of the few for some time, and that will go some way to explaining a relatively low attendance and, for some, an early departure. We did have a couple of visitors, one who was a member of another club, and a female visitor who was a newcomer to woodturning.

Tuition was provided by Phil Stevenson, Dave Nash, Greg Miller, Malcolm Caines and Steve Simmons. There was a range of turning activities undertaken, some with a view to making saleable items for the Coombe Abbey Craft Fair in September.

Brian Goodall ran the 2nd skills challenge, using the skew to form a taper to precise dimensions. The results will be available soon.

Photos taken on the day:



For the Gadgets and Gizmo's table, a number of home-made tools were shown by Bill Finnigan.

Bill's version of the popular "Steb" centre was made from a Shield Anchor or "rag" bolt and a hardened nail. A simple make, with the only tricky bit being centring the nail point so that it runs "true".



A circular cutter, made from a tin opener cutter and bar, and a scraper which uses a metal work square cutter were also shown, as in these photographs. Again, fairly simple to do, but a tap and die set would be needed. (I bought a set from Aldi for about £7.00 a few months ago.)



A raffle was held, which raised around £35.00 to be added to the equipment fund.

Overall, an enjoyable day with a lot of activity, notwithstanding an earlier than usual finish.

Future Events:

During the course of the Hands On day, there were a number of discussions about future events. This year, we are committed to 3 more outside events; the Coombe Abbey Craft Fair and two more visits to Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens, and there was some concern that our purpose in attending these events is not entirely clear. We are very clear about why we attend “Woodworks” at Daventry - it is a competition based show and we would like to win. Having won the show shield in 2012 and 2013, it was a bit disappointing to come 4th in 2014. However, as Cliff has said, we will try harder next year, in the face of increased competition.

We attended the Newark show, a new venue for the organisers, and whilst the show was fairly well attended, it was not clear what we gained from our considerable effort, other than the fact that we were present and visible. The only response from the flyers that were produced was one offer of a large, still standing, conifer in a village north of Nottingham. As you might expect, I declined the offer, on the basis that tree felling was not amongst our specialities, and our public liability insurance may not cover us for such activities. *(In all cases of tree felling, some rules apply, even if it is your own tree in your own garden and these should be carefully checked before starting the work).*

There can be little doubt that the Coombe Abbey event is about selling what we make. The question is what pieces do we want to sell? It is very difficult for all turners, whether professional or hobby/amateur to sell at realistic prices in the UK and “under-selling” is a common complaint. There have been many statements about this in the “dislikes” section of the interviews with professional turners in the magazines. So, do we sell pocket money items, such as “Bic” type pens and spinning tops or do we sell our best work at “artistic”

rates? Whilst the answer is probably both, do we have an opportunity to test the market and put a number of properly priced pieces in? It does not really matter who gets what proportion of the sales price in this context, since what is important is establishing the correct price expectation for what we do. We might not sell anything, but we will not have given very good work away at poor prices. Members may recall an article on pricing in the Woodturning magazine a few months back, which illustrated the problem. I know that some will say that we have had these discussions before and we simply cannot sell good work at sensible prices. If that is the case then it begs the question as to why we are attending a Craft Fair, when we will incur costs that will not be recovered, something that in the long term, we can ill afford.

There is only one more Hands On day before this event, and we need to make decisions so that Phil Stevenson can make the necessary arrangements. It goes without saying (but I will say it anyway) that we will need an appreciable amount of stock to sell.

There are two further events at Castle Bromwich; the "Apple" day and the Christmas event. The question of what we are trying to achieve at these events is perhaps more difficult to establish. Realistically, there are 3 options which are; selling our work, supporting CBHG by our presence at their event, and recruitment of new members. These are by no means mutually exclusive, but each may require a different approach. For support of CBHG we need a good display of work and members undertaking demonstrations; for selling we need a range of stock, mostly at the pocket money end of the scale, but all visibly priced and on show. If recruitment is the objective, then participation seems to be the key, involving supervised "have a go" sessions, but with appropriate PPE and all the usual warnings in place.

Given the experience of Newark and the time, costs and petrol expended by members, we do need clear objectives for these events.

I expect that some members may disagree with me. That's fine, but do let us know what you think and why, so that we can have an open discussion about what we are prepared to commit to. It is very difficult, in a democratic structure, to know what members want, and provide for them. It is impossible if there is no discussion and consequent decisions.

John Hooper
May 2014

Daventry Results:

As Cliff said in his comments, we did not do as well as we might in this competition, The shield scores are shown below, and I do have a full set of the results should anyone wish to see them.

Well done to Malcolm Thorpe for winning the Apple competition.

I was unable to attend this year so did not take any photos. However, a large number of photos, mainly it appears, of traders stands are available on the Tudor Rose website which can be accessed [here](#),

or at: <http://www.tudor-rose-turners.co.uk/page36.html>

Shield Winners		
Position	Club	Total Score
1st	Middlesex	54
2nd	Tudor Rose	50
3rd	Coombe Abbey	49
4th	West Midlands	48
5th	Norwich	45
6th	North Bucks & Milton Keynes	44
7th	Village Turners	37
8th	West Northants	32
9th	North Warwickshire	23
10th	Heart of England	14

Ladies Day.

A reminder to members to encourage the fairer sex (can I say that anymore?) to join us on 22nd June with a view to seeking new members.

Could you also bring any item made for or focussed on the traditional “female” activities, such as those which were the subject of the quiz in the last edition, (results below) for the display table.

Answers for last months quiz:

Item 1: Darning mushroom

Item 2: Needle case

Item 3: Couronne Sticks, also known as lace ring making sticks

Item 4: Marudai for Kumihimo Braiding (In English, a device for braiding ribbons).

Chairman's Challenge: (8" or 200mm platter)

Basic Group - 7 entries

1st place: Steve Simmons



2nd place: Tom Badger



3rd place: Peter Blakey



Premier Group - 6 entries

1st place: Don Lawrence



2nd place: Ted Gill



3rd place (Equal)

Tim Davies



and

Greg Miller



Rolly Munro Tour of the UK.

This world famous turner will be in the UK during July and August, and there is a rare opportunity to see him in action.

He is demonstrating as follows: (reproduced from Woodturning Magazine: June 2014)

TOUR DETAILS:	
Saturday 26 July – Coombe Abbey Woodturners Web: www.coombeabbeywoodturners.co.uk	Sunday 3 August – Diss and District Woodturners Email: davies@collings.co.uk
Monday 28 July – Herts & Beds Woodturners Web: www.hertsandbedswoodturners.org	Thursday 7 August – Avon & Bristol Woodturners Web: www.avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk
Tuesday 29 July – East Surrey Woodturners Web: www.eastsurreywoodturners.org	Saturday 9 August – Burnham-on-Sea Woodturning Club Web: www.burnham-on-sea-wtc.co.uk
Wednesday 30 July – Shropshire Association of Woodturners Web: www.shropshire-woodturners.org.uk	Sunday 10 August – Mid Wales Woodturners Web: www.midwaleswoodturners.com
Saturday 2 August – Norwich Woodturners Web: www.norwichwoodturners.co.uk	

Members should contact the hosting clubs to reserve a place for what are likely to be popular demo's.

For Sale:

Nothing posted for sale this month, but if you do want to advertise items for sale, insertions are free for club members.

Next Issue:

Closing date for insertions: Sunday 29th June 2014

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.