



West Midlands Wood Turners

MARCH 2014

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PROGRAMME AND DIARY DATES

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Date	Event
16-March	Hands On day
21/22 March	Axminster "10 Turners" event. Nuneaton
23-March	AWGB Annual General Meeting. Stow-on-the-Wold. Gloucs.
28/29 March	Midlands Woodworking and Power Tool Show. Newark
10/11 April	Yandles Show
16-April	Mark Sangar Demonstration day
19-April	Castle Bromwich Easter Event
10/11 May	Tudor Rose." Woodworks." Daventry
18-May	Hands On day
22-June	Ladies Day with Margaret Garrard.
20-July	Hands On day
17-August	Paul Jones Demonstration day
21-September	Hands On day
05-October	Castle Bromwich "Apple Day"
19-October	Mark Baker Demonstration Day
16-November	Annual General Meeting and Hands On day
30-November	Castle Bromwich Christmas Event
14-December	Christmas Party, Presentations and Greg Moreton Demonstration.

Important

Please let Bob and Cliff have your display items for the Newark and Daventry events.

Our March meeting is the last day for collection for Newark.

Please note that 75% of all items for the Daventry show have to have been turned since the last "Woodworks", so we do need "new" items.

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Please check the arrangements for the Hands On day on 16th March on page 10, and sharpen your tools up!

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)

External Event Co-ordinators:

Newark Show: Cliff Lane and Bob Rimmer
Daventry: Bob Rimmer
Castle Bromwich: Malcolm Thorpe

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:



What a great club we have. When Andy Coates mixed up the dates in his diary the day could have turned into a complete disaster, but thanks to the great attitude in the club we turned the day into a meeting that was both enjoyable and informative.

Thanks to Greg Miller and Malcolm Thorpe for their demonstrations and to Don Lawrence for his clear explanation on how he turned his off centre box.

Having to put a demonstration together with the timber that was available and without time for preparation was a new experience but it all seemed to work out ok, I had never turned in front of a room full of people before but at least I did not have time think about this and realise how nervous I was. If I ever have to it again I might even remember to put my proper glasses on .

Thanks also to everyone present for joining in and asking questions about the demonstrations this added greatly the enjoyment of the day.

The Chairman's Challenge was well supported with 16 excellent pieces on display. It was very pleasing to see a piece submitted by Tim Davies. The Chairman's challenge is going from strength to strength and I look forward seeing the contributions at the March meeting.

The display table was also well supported with pieces of a high standard. I would urge anyone who has not yet put a piece on the table to give it a try. It's not as difficult as you think and after the first time it gets easier. It would also be good to see work in progress or pieces that you want advice on.

Planning for the Newark show is progressing and we will be contacting those of you that volunteered to help as soon as we work out the time slots. There is a lot more work involved than we thought in dealing with the show organisers and this is keeping John Hooper busy supplying all the information they keep asking for. Don't forget you need to bring items for display at Newark to the next meeting.

A group of men in their seventies were playing a four - ball game of golf.
As they trudged around the course on a particularly cold day they started to feel their age.
One said, "These hills are too steep for my old legs."
The second complained, "And the bunkers are too deep".
The third moaned, "And its hard work walking through this thick rough."
"Be Grateful," said the fourth, "At least we are still on the right side of the grass."

See you soon,
Cliff

It would be wrong not to mention the part that the Chairman played in "rescuing" the day. Ed.

DEMONSTRATION REVIEW:

When things go wrong, as Cliff mentioned in his comments, members are ready to step into the breach, and three of our members undertook demonstrations with no notice and no opportunity to rehearse. Thanks and well done to all of you. *(And it gave me something to put in the newsletter)*

The first was Greg Miller who did a session on sharpening, using our new equipment. Sharpening can be something of a trial for some of us (me!) so this was a very useful session. Greg started with an explanation of the various grinding wheels, grinder speeds for wet and dry systems, and an explanation of the difference between High Speed Steel and Carbon Steel. Very useful if you are considering buying “previously loved” tools, or are a newcomer to turning.

The significance of grind angles and styles was also discussed, but the over-arching message was that we each need to develop grinds and angles which suit us individually for the kind of turning that we want to do rather than stick to the manufacturers grind.

A visitor (and hopefully a future member) had brought along 3 chisels, which Greg agreed to have a look at. They were somewhat battered and bruised and were also Carbon steel, so they did need a bit of attention.

The first of these was a gouge sometimes known as a “Continental” chisel. These are still fairly popular in France, and combine the characteristics of a bowl gouge and a skew, with the flute being broad and shallow. Greg firstly showed how it was possible to sharpen freehand, and then went on to show how the use of a jig, once set up, simplified the whole process and ensured repeatability and consistency of grind.



Greg went on to show how to create a longer grind, by removing the wings using a “rolling” action across the face of the wheel. He did point out that it was very easy to end up with a “bird’s beak” when creating this grind, which is countered by starting from the wings and then blending to the centre of the chisel, rather than profiling the middle and working outwards.



The second chisel was a skew. Again, a freehand method was shown, with the bevel angle being simply set up by sight as shown here. Clearly this can result in inconsistent grinds, and it can be difficult to get the same bevel angle on both sides. When grinding freehand, it is also difficult to maintain the angle across the blade edge, resulting in a curved edge rather than a straight one. For some turners a curved skew is preferable to a straight one, but again it is about what suits the individual.



The jig attached to the grinder platform was used, with adapter for skews fitted. Greg was able to set the leg distance for the jig by sighting the angle of the bevel on the wheel and adjusting until “flat” against the wheel. One “trick” is to use a marker pen on the bevel and when the chisel is resting on the wheel, hand rotating the wheel and checking to see if all of the ink has been removed, and adjusting the jig leg if necessary.

Greg was able to show that it was much easier to maintain the bevel and blade angles using a jig, taking away the uncertainty which may well be a problem for less experienced turners. I do recall seeing Reg Slack grind his chisels using simple reference marks on the wheel casing, but I wonder how many years it took him to be able to get the consistency that a jig will offer.



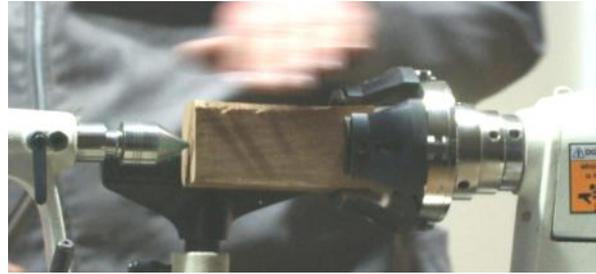
The third chisel was ground to the “Ellsworth” shape using the “Tru-Grind” style of jig. This allows long wings to be ground that can be used in the same way that a shear scraper is used, but, if the angle of attack is correct, a cut rather than a scrape occurs. Greg showed how to set up the jig, “sighting” against the wheel to establish the grind angle, and using both the pivot on the jig, and the distance of the foot on the leg of the jig from the wheel to position the chisel bevel. One feature of this jig is that the chisel is clamped with protrusion of about 2 inches, and noting this, together with the jig pivot and leg distance enables repeatability and consistency.



WEST MIDLANDS WOODTURNERS

The second member to demonstrate for us was Malcolm Thorpe who started with an egg. Although this appears to be a simple project, it can be difficult to turn the two different curves at the top and bottom of the egg and to end up with a diameter of 42 mm -the “standard” size for a hen’s egg.

It was interesting that instead of starting by roughing between centres and cutting a chucking spigot, Malcolm clamped the square section into the chuck, and brought up the tailstock to give support. This clearly saves time and removes the need to take the chuck off, use a 4-prong centre or similar and then replace the chuck.



Having roughed a blank to a cylinder, involving reversing to blank to remove the residual square end, Malcolm shaped the “sharp” end, whilst starting to turn down the diameter at the headstock end. Most of this work was achieved using a skew to create the curves required.



When the shaping was completed, the surface was sanded and a friction polish applied. At this point there was a discussion about the merits of using paper or cloth as a buffing medium with some members preferring the relative safety of paper and others preferring the possibility of a higher gloss with cloth.

The egg was parted off and the “bottom” finished by hand.



Malcolm made this look easy, and achieved a really good finish in a fairly short period of time. I shall just have to practise more.

The second project was a bowl, which had an "O.G." profile and thinned down to about 5mm wall thickness. There were a couple of interesting things; firstly the initial screw chuck and secondly, Malcolm's "home made" calipers.



Having secured the screw chuck base plate into the O'Donnell jaws (not seen that before), the blank was roughed into a cylinder. Using a number of chisels, which were not as sharp as Malcolm would have liked, the external O.G. was formed, with a good surface leaving very little sanding requirement. A chucking point, which could become a foot, was turned onto the base, and the bowl was supported by the tailstock during this part of the project.



After reversing the bowl, the centre was hollowed using a 1/2" gouge, working down until a reasonable wall thickness was achieved.

At this point the home made calipers were used to identify which parts of the wall required more work, and further thinning was carried out.

When the bowl had been thinned to the required wall thickness, it was reversed using a support block and the tailstock to allow the chucking spigot to be removed. The "trick with this was to ensure that the bowl was perpendicular to the axis, and this was achieved by the simple method of using the mark left by the live-centre when the external profile was being cut .



All that was left to do was a little sanding and polishing to finish.

The vessel calipers are available from tool suppliers from anywhere between £20 and £40 depending on size. I have attached a photo from the Robert Sorby website, which, should members be so inclined could be used as a

guide for something of your own design.



The last project of the day was made by Chairman Cliff who made a shallow and narrow bowl from a piece of branch. The first thing that happened when the branch was mounted on a screw chuck was there was an immediate migration of members out of the “firing line” in front of the lathe. Unnecessary, as it happens, since it did not come off the lathe, and perhaps we should have had more confidence.

Cliff started by turning the underside of the bowl, working outwards and forming a chucking point at the centre. There is a good deal of air turning involved, and the risk of locating the ends of the branch with your fingers is fairly high. If you do locate them this way, it hurts!

Because visibility can be an issue with this type of turning, Cliff stopped the lathe frequently to see how far the shaping had gone, and to avoid splintering the ends, which became progressively thinner.



After some sanding, which has to be done by hand because of the obvious risks, the bowl was reversed, and “hollowed” until thin enough. There is always the hope



that the bark will stay attached to the sides of the bowl, but can be loosened by the impacts and vibrations caused by “air-turning”. However, repairs can be made with CA glues if needed and the splits and separation are seen in time; another reason for frequent stops and checks.



A thin profile makes this project an interesting and challenging one, but as can be seen, well worth the effort. We may well see a few of these on the display table soon.



WEST MIDLANDS WOODTURNERS

Chairman's Challenge Results for February - Lidded Box.

Basic Group: (8 entries)



1st: Tom Badger



2nd: Dave Reynolds



3rd: Dave Hobbs



David Howgate



John Hooper



Ken Beresford



Les Saunby



Les Wilkes

Premier Group: (8 entries)



1st: Don Lawrence



2nd: Malcolm Thorpe



3rd: Greg Miller



Dave Nash



Peter Hockley



Phil Stevenson



Tim Davies



Ted Gill

MULTI-AXIS TURNING:

Don Lawrence was asked how he had created the 3 face curved lidded box, which earned him 1st place in the Chairman's Challenge this month. Don explained that the "secret" was in the marking up for turning between centres, and although he had used a 3 axis design, it was possible to use a larger number of axes and produce an increased number of faces. Don stated that he had found the idea on a Youtube video, and this is the address of the presentation by Barbara Dill.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKIEvP_NCI0

This will open in your browser.

HANDS ON DAY 16TH MARCH:

The next Hands On Day is our opportunity to formalise the day's activities and introduce some new topics. We will be having a Skills Challenge - not a difficult project but a chance for everyone from beginners to our most experienced turners to execute exactly the same simple technique. Blanks for this project will be provided and feel free to bring your own roughing and spindle gouges if you want to take part.

We will also be providing the opportunity to offer one-to-one mini tuition sessions. Let Brian Goodall or Phil Stevenson know on or before the Hands On Day if you want tuition and we will arrange this for you.

Our attendance at the Castle Bromwich Gardens Open Day is a chance to sell items to the public, so the lathes at Hands On will be making a variety of small projects. There will be a notice board detailing who is doing what on which lathe so check this out and see what interests you. As we keep saying, everyone is encouraged to have a go and there will be ample opportunity to do so - just ask! You are welcome to bring your own tools.

We also hope to continue with our Gadgets and Gizmos table, our Catastrophe Corner (show us what went wrong as well as right!) and a Sale / Swap Table.

Finally, Phil Stevenson will be doing an informal demo of how he made his Windsor Chair, including some specialist tools as well as some all-action steam bending!

TIMBER AND BLANK SUPPLIES: 16TH MARCH

David Winter will be attending with his wide range of small turning blanks and project timber. His materials were very popular with members when he last visited us, so bring your wallets and stock up on blanks.

NAME BADGES:

At the request of members, we will be providing name badges for all members. These can be collected from Les Saunby, on entry on 16th March.

LOCAL CLUB PROGRAMMES:

The secretary has contacted local clubs and asked for copies of their programmes, so that WMWT members can attend their events. The programmes of those clubs which have responded will be placed on the notice board, but further details can be found on the clubs' website.

Please confirm the event with the club secretaries, to avoid a wasted journey.

EQUIPMENT SALES:

Space is available in the newsletter for members to advertise tools and equipment which they wish to sell. The insertion is free of charge for members, and is subject to availability of space in the newsletter. The accuracy of information concerning items for sale is entirely the responsibility of the advertiser and not WMWT.

Subject to space availability, sales of non-members equipment may also be advertised, but a small donation to club funds will be sought. The accuracy of information concerning items for sale is entirely the responsibility of the seller and not WMWT.

Deadline for inclusion in April edition : Sunday 24th March 2014

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

Articles for the newsletter from members concerning any aspect of our craft will be welcomed for inclusion in the newsletter. Photographs, plans, drawings and sketches can also be included.

The deadline for publication for the April edition is Sunday 24th March 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.