



West Midlands Wood Turners

MAY 2014

Secretary & Editor: John Hooper
john@hooper25.plus.com Tel: 0121 354 8464

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

PROGRAMME AND DIARY DATES

Page No	Description
2	Chairman's Comments
3	Report on Mark Sanger Demonstration
7	Arrangements for Hands On day 18th May
7	Updates on External Events
8	Forthcoming Special Events
9	Chairman's Challenge Results
10	Display Table and Exhibits for Daventry
11	Identification of function quiz
11	Newsletter Publication deadline

Date	Event
10/11 May	Tudor Rose "Woodworks" Daventry
18th May	Hands On & PAT testing
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

Notices:

Portable Appliance Testing:

Testing will be undertaken during the Hands On day 18th May. Bring any equipment that needs certification.

Skills Challenge:

This continues and members will need to bring a *skew chisel* to the May Meeting

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.

Chairman's Challenge for May :

8" (200 mm) platter.

External Events Co-ordinators

Daventry:	Bob Rimmer
Castle Bromwich:	Malcolm Thorpe
Coombe Abbey:	Phil Stevenson

Chairman's Comments:

It has been a busy couple of weeks again starting with our last meeting which was the demonstration by Mark Sanger, this is covered elsewhere in this newsletter so I will leave you to read Malcolm Thorpe's report. We all enjoy demo days and sometimes forget that as well as the quality of the demonstrator the equally important things are the setting up of the room with tables, chairs and the lathe, setting up and operating the camera, taking the photo's and writing the report for the newsletter and most importantly a steady supply of tea and biscuits and, of course, putting it all away at the end of the day.

Attendance was down a little at 31 with some of our regulars missing so I hope to see you all again at our next meeting. The Chairman's Challenge was well supported with 15 pieces and again it was a near impossible task trying to pick a winner.

Your response to our request for items for display at Daventry was a good selection of quality items. We have volunteers to use the lathe over the weekend and for the three competitions. We also have offers from members to take a turn looking after the display table but more would be better so while you are there just giving half an hour or so will give someone else a welcome break.

Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Easter event was on Saturday 19th and when I arrived at 9-30, Malcolm Thorpe and Tom Badger had already put up the gazebo's so it didn't take long to set up two lathes and the display table. Brian Bateman, John Hooper and his wife Alison set out the items for sale and we were ready in plenty of time for the 11am opening.

Dave Hobbs and his wife Wendy came to help out with the afternoon session and the clearing up at the end so thank you to all of you. Gerry Pulcella and his wife also came as visitors and it would be nice to see more club members at future events. Visitor numbers on the day were low and this was reflected our sales total of £34 which goes into WMWT club funds. These are enjoyable events and volunteers for CBHG and or Coombe Abbey will be welcome.

Brian Bateman has been informed that Isaac Foden has been ill and is in hospital. I am sure that you all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery and we look forward to seeing him back at the club soon.

See you on the 18th May



Sad News:

We have been advised that Chris Archer, a former member of WMWT died suddenly on 5th March 2014. Although Chris had not been able to attend for some years, his daughter has asked that members who knew Chris are informed of his death. She also stated that although Chris had been ill for a period, his death was sudden and without pain, caused by an unexpected aneurism.

DEMONSTRATION REVIEW:

Mark Sanger and a Sack Full of Shavings

A review by Malcolm Thorpe

We know from previous demonstrations that Mark Sanger is a prolific woodturner and he did not let us down. He did four projects; an open pot, a noodle bowl, a tall lidded box and a hollow form. There were similar techniques used in making each project, but he kept up a good commentary as he worked.

The first was an open pot in wet oak. After truing up the blank with a spindle roughing gouge, he added a chucking point with plenty of waste for parting off. Marks 'go to' tool was a long grind bowl gouge. He said this tool gave him five cutting techniques; push and pull cuts which could be fine or very aggressive, scraping and shear scraping, holding the tool either horizontal or tangentially and finally a finishing tool used in a similar way to a skew chisel. The long grind was formed with a Sorby grinding jig (see link).



This tool is ideal for professional woodturners who do not want change tools unless they have to. Undoubtedly the long grind bowl gouge is the modern utility tool for wood removal and shaping; inside, outside or across, but I think that for a novice a more normal grind which gives better bevel contact should be used for finishing cuts. Mark did make a cursory mention of the more normal grind.

The chucking point was tidied up with a parting tool to give a good firm contact with the gripper jaws of the scroll chuck. The tailstock was used to give further support while the outside shape was formed. Mark is a great believer in thirds, so the bottom third was rounded towards a small base and the top two thirds given a shallow cove. The base was left quite thick to give support for the hollowing. The tool marks on the finished outside shape were removed with an indexable scraping tool on a round bar. Mark put on a micro bevel using a diamond stone. I personally doubt there is a bevel, just a very sharp edge.



The hollowing was started by 'drilling' with a spindle gouge and opened out from the centre with pull cuts as it was a par-



allel grained blank. He soon changed to a carbide type ring hollowing tool, with which he took the first inch or so to a finished wall thickness of about 3mm. He would have continued going deeper inch by inch but he declined to finish the hollowing as 'it would be boring watching him grind out the wood'.



The shape of the base was refined and the pot reversed on to a rubber sheet (mouse mat) fixed to a flat plate in the chuck with the tailstock to apply pressure. An acute angled spindle gouge was used to finish the base apart from a small stub. The stub was removed with a Lidl power carver. An ebonising solution of vinegar and steel wool was applied to the oak which goes black due to the high tannin content in the oak. A finishing coat of Danish oil was applied, to keep down the dust and act as a grain filler when abrasives are used.



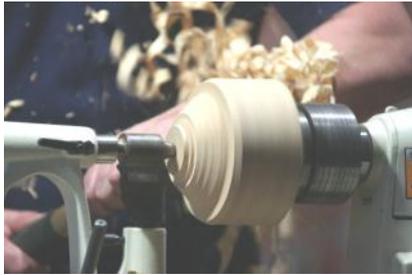
A couple of interesting comments Mark made; first on turning wet wood he said if finishing a piece wet, the wall thickness should be 3 to 5mm and consistent all through the piece. There would be an inevitable distortion as the piece dried, the amount depending on how wet, what wood and where in the tree the blank was cut. If a true shape was required then the wall thickness should be about 10 mm, then placed in a plastic bag. I find this quite tedious as the bag needs to be reversed often to stop a build-up of water which can lead to discolouration due to mould. The process can take several weeks. Keep taking the weight or use a moisture meter to judge when the piece is ready for final shaping.



A couple of other tips on turning wet wood; clean and lightly oil your tools after use and clean up the wet shavings.

Mark's second comment involved form versus function. If the pot was to sit on a shelf and look good, then the base could be a small diameter and the wall thickness impressively thin, but if the piece was to be functional then the base needs to be wider and some weight left in the base.

The second project, a noodle bowl was an example of a functional piece. It



was made in much the same way as the first, apart from the hollowing which was done with a bowl gouge. The wood was delightfully marked and the plain



shape suited it, with just a couple of lines burned in with a piece of Formica. Mark went through his methods of finishing; after sanding to 320 grit the piece was polished with a buffing wheel, then finished with Renaissance wax. Although



Mark said he was not a slave to accepted practice when the piece was functional, I thought the noodle bowl was a little heavy.



The third project was a tall lidded bowl; this proceeded much the same way as the first two projects. The outside was shaped with three large and two small beads. The obvious difference was the lid and Mark has his own unique method of fitting the lid. A large parallel tenon is cut with a 6mm parting tool. The lid is cut off with a thin parting tool, leaving a witness on the base. The base is removed



from the chuck and the inside of the lid shaped, sanded and finished. The base is returned to the chuck and hollowed out almost to the witness mark. A slight taper was turned from the witness and the lid pushed into hole. This leaves a shiny line on taper and Mark then



turned the taper away from the back to this line, normally leaving a good fit first time. In this case he needed to firm up the fit with a piece of paper towel, to give the firm joint for finally finishing of the lid. I didn't think he was particularly happy with the final shape which was based on an oriental pagoda.

The final project was a hollow form that was made from a cube of Sycamore. The outer form was based on the largest diameter being a third down from the top and base diameter being a third. The top had a slight uplift around the hole giving the piece a pleasant shape. Using this formula the final shape is dictated by the original blank size.



Mark started the hollowing explaining his method of finishing in stages from the top down. He recommends using a vacuum rather than compressed air to remove the shavings to stop blowing dust into the air.



Mark was a late replacement for the original demonstrator and had done two days demonstrating at “Yandles” but I think this was only noticeable to those who know this work well. There was plenty to learn from his methodical approach to wood turning albeit beginner or experienced woodturner.

Keith Lanchester did a fine job with the cameras.

Links:

<http://www.robert-sorby.co.uk/universalsharpsys.htm>

<http://www.marksanger.co.uk/>

Hands On Day: 18th May

PORTABLE APPLIANCE TESTING:

PAT testing will be undertaken of club and members equipment. Mr Smith has been asked to test club equipment first so that we can set up for the Hands On activities without too much of a delay.

This link may be of interest: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/electricity/faq-portable-appliance-testing.htm>

TIMBER SUPPLIES:

Nigel Fleckney of English Hardwoods will be present to sell his kiln dried timbers. Bring your wallet and negotiate with the “keeper of the purse” and budget holder for an appropriate allowance, so that you can produce work for sale at upcoming shows!

Nigel's website is at: www.english-hardwoods.com

SKILLS TEST:

Continuing this theme, the blanks produced at the Hands On in March will be used to progress the skills test. The only chisel permitted for this part of the project is a SKEW. Sharpen it up and get practising! (*I know that I need to - Ed*).

One to One tuition and support in the use of the skew will be available on the day. Contact Brian Goodall to make the arrangements on: briangoodall@gmail.com

GADGETS AND GIZMO'S:

A table will be set up for your gadgets and gizmo's. This activity brought in a large number of exhibits when first run and provided members with useful and practical ideas. Please provide a short description of your gizmo, in writing, if possible, so that the idea of a handbook of our gadgets can be produced for members (David Hope volunteered to do this for us). Photos will be taken to assist with the handbook production.

SALES TABLE:

There will be a sales table for members to sell their pre-loved tools and equipment. This is a negotiation between members and any agreement to sell/buy do not involve the club itself.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Brian Goodall is looking for members who are prepared to undertake (short) demonstrations of skills and techniques for future Hands On days. If you are able to do so, please let Brian know. The areas to be included are not restricted to turning skills and projects only. Demonstrations of finishes, piercing, stains, paints and other media (eg pewter, acrylics) would be welcomed.

Phil Stevenson is asking members to “show and tell” their other hobbies. Phil has already shown his steam bending skills and equipment, so I'll show you mine, if you show me yours.

External Events

DAVENTRY

Plans for this event are well advanced, and we have many items for the display. We have also nominated members to enter the competitions at the show, on our behalf. Having won the show twice, it would be fantastic if we could pull off the triple, so good luck to everyone involved. A number of members have volunteered to watch the stand, but if you will be attending and can spare an hour or so, enabling other members to get a cuppa and have a sit down, please let Bob know.

We are pleased to announce that West Midlands Woodturners have accepted an invitation to participate in Coombe Abbey Woodturners inaugural autumn show on Saturday 13th September. Phil Stevenson will be the key organiser for our club at this show. Please put this date in your diary as it promises to be a great event right on our doorstep and the presence of our club will be a significant part of it. We will have a demonstration lathe, an ornamental lathe, a display area and a sales table. As well as selling lower cost items we hope to have some higher priced gallery pieces for sale, with the proceeds being shared between the club and the maker. Let Phil Stevenson know if you have any items you would like to present. More details will be made available over the coming months.

CASTLE BROMWICH HOUSE AND GARDENS

The Easter event raised £34.00 for club funds. This was a little disappointing, but was in part due to the relatively poor weather, hence low public attendance, and an earlier than expected finish time of 3 pm, and not 4 pm, as was expected. We had a fairly large number of items for sale as shown in these photos:



We were able to get visitors to “have a go” on our lathes, and although this was a bit impromptu, those that did enjoyed what they did, and a number of names and e-mail addresses were collected for follow up after the event.

Special Events

LADIES DAY

Ladies day is on 22nd June, only six or seven weeks away. A poster has been produced for members to place in shops, clubs, libraries and where ever else potential members may frequent. Arrangements are being made to contact local woman's organisations and Water Orton School to display the poster. If any member can place a poster please let John Hooper or Peter Timms know as soon as possible.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

The committee has decided to hold the anniversary event in September, separating it from Ladies day. Members are asked to let us have any stories about the club and things that have happened over the last 25 years, with a view to compiling a history.

The September meeting is a Hands On day, and if there is any particular activity, appropriate to the Anniversary, that you would like, please let a member of the committee know. Anecdotes from members with 25 years standing will be particularly welcome.

Chairman's Challenge April 2014:

There were 15 entries in all for the open neck vase challenge, 6 for the Premier Group and 9 in the Basic group. The standard of work was very high in both groups and the outcomes were "close run things".

Premier Group Result:

1st: Tim Davies



2nd: Malcolm Thorpe



3rd: Keith Lanchester



Basic Group Result:

1st: Tom Badger



2nd: Ken Beresford



3rd: Steve Simmons



Display Table:

The display table was in effect the collection of articles for display on our stand at the Daventry show



Identify the function of these turned pieces

Item 1:



Item 2:



Item 3:



Item 4:



Answers to this quiz will be available at the Hands On meeting in May.

Submission deadline for the June edition:
Saturday 26th May 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.