



# West Midlands Wood Turners

**MARCH 2015**

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| Date            | Event   |
|-----------------|---|
| 8th March       | Hands On  |
| 4th April       | Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens-Easter Event             |
| 19th April      | <b>Nick Arnall</b> Demonstration                      |
| 15th & 16th May | Tudor Rose "Woodworks"                                |
| 17th May        | Hands On  |
| 25th May        | New Hall Mill Demo - Malcolm Caine                    |
| 14th June       | <b>David Lowe</b> Demonstration                       |
| 19th July       | Hands On  |
| 16th August     | Demonstration : To be confirmed                       |
| 31st August     | New Hall Mill Demo - Malcolm Caine                    |
| 20th September  | Hands On  |
| 4th October     | Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens-Apple Day                |
| 18th October    | <b>Jennie Starbuck</b> Demonstration                  |
| 15th November   | AGM and Hands On                                      |
| 29th November   | Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens-Christmas Event          |
| 6th December    | <b>Mick Hanbury</b> Demonstration and Christmas Lunch |

### Show and event dates 2015

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 13/14th March        | Paskins - Kidderminster                                  |
| 27/28th March        | Midlands Woodworking and Power Tool show - Newark        |
| 10/11th April        | Yandles Woodworking show and sale - Martock              |
| 25/26th April        | Turners Retreat Spring Event - Harworth                  |
| 5/6th June           | Pen Tools Summer Show - Hereford                         |
| 25/26th July         | Toolshow 2015 - Brighton                                 |
| 12/13th Sep-tember   | European Woodworking Show - Cressing Temple Barns        |
| 30/31st Octo-ber     | Paskins Woodworking and Woodturning Show - Kidderminster |
| 20 - 22nd No- vember | North of England Woodwork- ing Show - Harrogate          |

**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.**

## Sad News

It is with deep regret that we have to advise members of the recent death of Brian Massey.

Brian had been a regular at club meetings and had given us access to his contacts at the local newspapers, allowing us to have articles published. There is no doubt that the club has benefitted considerably from those contacts.

Brian, we will miss you.

The February demonstration by Gerry Marlow is covered in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter so I will not say any more than that I thoroughly enjoyed the day and I am looking forward to seeing lots of spheres, pendant type ornaments and off centre pieces on the display table. Gerry took me by surprise with the auction but as Acorns Hospice is a good cause I did not mind. Thank you to everyone that took part and for your generosity.

The Chairman's Challenge was well supported again with a total of twenty excellent pieces entered. It was the second outing for the new judging system and it is still a work in progress. If you have any comments or observations about the new system please let one of the committee know

The Display Table is an important asset to the club because it gives us the chance to show visitors and potential new members the wide range of talent within WMWT. Please do your best to bring in a piece every month, it does not have to be a new piece as we have lots of new members who will not have seen them before.

Our March meeting is the last one before the Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Easter Event, any donations for the sales table need to be brought in to this meeting. Volunteers to help out on the day will be welcome. The date for this event is Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 11am to 4 pm.

There are only two meetings before Woodworks at Daventry which means that any entries for the display table have to be with us by the 19<sup>th</sup> April meeting. The only information that I have seen, so far, is that there will be a prize for the best display stand and an open competition for the best piece irrespective of whether it is decorated, segmented or whatever. Tudor Rose have said that they would like all pieces to be new this year (I would take this to mean not been seen at Daventry before). The display tables will be limited to a maximum of three pieces from any club member. I assume that there will be the usual turning competitions but have not seen details yet. Volunteers will be needed to help out on the display stand and talk to visitors and answer questions.

Cliff

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*With a screech of brakes an ambulance pulls up at the casualty department of the local hospital and a hippie is wheeled in on a stretcher. The doctor questions his long – haired colleagues. "So what was he doing then?" says the physician, "Acid? Cannabis?" "Sort of".*

*Replies one of the hippies, nervously thumbing his caftan. "But we ran out of gear, so I made a home-made spliff."*

*"And what was in that?" replies the doctor.*

*"Um, I kind of raided my girlfriends spice rack," says the hippie. "There was a bit of cumin, some turmeric and a little paprika."*

*"Well that explains it," the doctor replies, looking at them gravely. "He's in a Korma."*

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WITH ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS BY MALCOLM CAINE

## A Yorkshire Woodturner comes to Water Orton

There was a good turn out to watch Gerry Marlowe entertain us with his Yorkshire wit and turning skills. He certainly came prepared and kept our breaks to a minimum with his enthusiasm.



He started with the first of 3 off-centre candle sticks. This one, nicknamed his 'Dog bone' style, was made from a 3 inch square by 8 inch blank of spalted sycamore. It was prepared with a counter bore in one end for a candle sconce and placed between centres. All he did, whilst between centres, was trim each end at about 10 degrees. He then

removed the blank and repositioned it with the centres on opposite corners.

There was a discussion with the audience as to the speed that this wild looking out of centre arrangement should be turned, but as



he pointed out the piece was actually in balance and the higher speed helped with the intermittent cut. He started to turn middle away keeping it in balance by alternatively cutting the left and right sides of the cove. This was done with a traditional grind bowl gouge with about a 70 degree bevel and was done both and left and right-handedly. The final cut was done with great care to reduce the amount of sanding. Sanding was done with care, bearing in mind the corners flying around. The blank was put back between the normal centres, and then the top and bottom were shaped with a long grind spindle gouge, taking care to keep a sharp edge to the transitions. It was now 8 minutes past 10 o'clock, and after a late start the first piece was done.



The second project was a LED illuminated Christmas decoration made from lime as a light (in weight) timber. The main globe was made from a piece 3 inch square by 3 1/2 inches long, which was turned round and a chucking point added, then mounted in a chuck. His method of hand turning a sphere



was to mark the centre, making an allowance for the top having a flat, then marking a couple of points 42% of the diameter, about the centre. He used these lines to cut off the corners at 45 degrees finally rounding the sphere by hand. The inside of the sphere was removed with a spindle gouge and finally finished to a 4 mm wall with a round shear scrapper. He made his own tips from 1 inch Silver steel bar drilled and parted off as a thin disk and



fully heat treating by heating to cherry red heat and plunging into oil. I would probably have tried to temper them a little concentrating on the centre as fully hardened silver steel can be very brittle but Gerry would no doubt say the cut should never be heavy enough to cause a problem. The outside of the globe was then decorated with a Sorby Elf rotating burr tool. The entrance to the globe was prepared for the LED insert then reverse mounted on this diameter on a jam chuck with the tailstock for support. The final shaping was done and the texturing completed. The surface was lightly sanded and burnished with a stiff brush ready for three dyes purple, blue and yellow to be applied in a random pattern. A layer of liming wax was then generously applied and cut back to the effect he wanted.

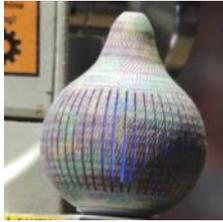


During the break he set up a slitting saw attachment which he used to cut 48 slots in the hollow globe. An 8mm hole had been drilled and a long bar held in the tailstock used for support.





The finial was made from a 1 inch square by 5 inch long blank held in a chuck with tailstock support. It was turned down to a slender point which opened out to a slightly heavy bulb shape. Then a large bead to an 8mm register sized with an 8mm open ended spanner. The top was made from a 2 inch square by 3/4 inch thick blank which was first turned round and chucking point cut by using the chuck jaws and the tailstock as a friction drive. It was then mounted in the chuck and using a specially modified



spade bit, the surface for the other half of the LED insert was cut. The edges of the piece were turned to match the globe shape on the inside and then turned over and cut to a wall thickness of 3 mm. An 8mm hole was drilled in the top and a hole 4mm for a button to operate the switch drilled at a slight angle. The edges of the top were scalloped using a 2 inch drum sander and polished with a buffing wheel, as was the finial. First using Tripoli paste, followed by China White



then finally Carnauba wax. The button and cord holder were quickly made, then it was all assembled.

The next project was made from a piece of sycamore 4 inch square by about 6 inches long mounted on a button chuck with the long axis at right angles, making it one inch off centre.

Two points of note; the buttons were home made with a 25 mm diameter conduit thread giving a very strong and adjustable hold. Also the chuck had two adjustable discs fitted to the outside of the chuck boss to counter balance the off centre blank.



A convex curve was turned into the front of the blank and a hole 'drilled' with a gouge all through the piece. This was then turned over and the hole expanded with a similar convex curve. Stephen Hawking would have approved of the wormhole like result. The blank was then turned through 90 degrees and side to side and two further convex curves were cut into the block. The button chuck was replaced with a 2MT (Morse Taper) extension with a 4 prong drive and with tailstock supporting the piece that mounted between the centres. The corners of the block were turned away until the outside diameter matched the length of the block (with some allowance for waste). A sphere turning jig was then fitted to the bed of the lathe. The jig had a tool-post on a slide that could hold a gouge instead of the usual square lathe bit so the finish was superior to most other jigs I have seen. The result was a sphere with two double ended convex holes which was a piece of art rather than a function piece and was made to stimulate ideas.



Keen to show us more eccentric turning techniques Gerry made the stand for the globe by rounding down a blank and then after putting a normal dovetail chucking point. He said he would be turning his chuck into an eccentric chuck. This he did by turning the chucking point into a curve and as long as the eccentric angle did take the curve outside the support of the chuck jaws it worked. The middle of the blank was gently turned away with an asymmetrical curve. It was placed back in-between centres and the top was turned to the shape of the globe and the base much the same as the first candlestick.





The finished sphere and stand.



Two additional examples, from Gerry's display.



The next project was something completely different; metal spinning. A nylon former was placed the chuck and trimmed true. An aluminium disc was held against the former by a pressure pad (also nylon) in the running centre and a little wax applied. There was a square bar in place of the normal tool rest with several holes to take a fulcrum post. When the lathe was switched on the aluminium was pressed on to the former by a highly polished bar. The object was a candle sconce and looked like a small top hat. The brim tidied up with a parting tool and levered off the tapered former. The disc needs to be pure aluminium and was around 0.5mm or maybe 24 SWG. Other ductile metals could be used but they would need to be in soft condition. Materials like copper and yellow brass work harden and need to be annealed (heated to red heat and quenched). The newly made sconce was made into, you guessed, it an eccentrically turned candle stick. This candle was a little more delicate so he had the tailstock giving light support.



As Gerry had an odd 20 minutes to fill he made yet another off-centre candlestick.



Gerry certainly gave us a very interesting and informative day and there was yet another first when he asked for the items he had made be auctioned off for the Acorn Children's Hospice Charity. Our Chairman responded well and raised over £60 for the five items. He came well prepared with at least 3 of every tool he used to obviate the need to sharpen tools during the day. Keith Lanchester kept the cameras well focused and the addition of the remote controlled dust extractor worked well.



Gerry wishes to acknowledge the inspiration gained from the work of Barbara Hepworth in his pieces, and the pyrography of Bob Neill.

We aim to continue our high level of activity at our next Hands On Day. We had six lathes running at our last session and we hope to do the same again, together with the sharpening station. Feel free to bring your own tools for sharpening if you would like a bit of help, and of course to have a spin on one of the club lathes, with or without the support of one of our more experienced members.

*Chainsaw demonstration*

We are pleased to say that we will again have a chain sawing demonstration by Graham Hunt. Graham is a fully qualified chainsaw operative and has done a couple of sessions in the past; he's kindly agreed to do another session and will gladly answer any questions about chainsaw use and maintenance, particularly on their safe use. Not to be missed! Got a massive lump of wood too that's too big for your lathe or your bandsaw? Bring it along and Graham might, just might, cut it to more manageable proportions!

*WMWT Website*

Brian Goodall will be doing a short session on our website and the regular mini-demonstrators will have a variety of projects to show, share and encourage everyone to have a go at.

*Stock items*

We still need to build our stocks of small items for sale / raffle at outside events so this will be the focus of a fair proportion of the day. Please make a special effort to take a brief turn on one of the lathes - the more the merrier!

*Projector and camera equipment*

Finally, we probably need to further our breadth of experience on the camera equipment so expect to witness some more micro demos under the direction of Steven Spielberg (sadly just too late to be considered for this year's Oscars).

A personal apology from me for missing the last meeting and failing to deliver the cellulose thinners and the sanding sealer to those members who expressed an interest in taking some. Flu (you don't want to hear any more details, honestly). I will have the materials at the Hands On Day and still have a few cans available. See me if you are interested. Cellulose Thinners £4.50 and Sanding Sealer £6.50 for 500 mls; I remind you that this is not a public sale of these materials, but strictly among club members.

*Phil Stevenson*

STOP PRESS - we may have some wood for sale - don't forget your piggy bank!

**CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE: MARCH 2015**

**Novice Group: Dibber**



*(April: Meat Tenderiser)*

**Intermediate and Advanced Groups: Novelty item**

*(April: Lidded Box)*

CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE: RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY 2015

**Novice Group**

1st Place:  
Wolfgang Schulze-Zachau

**Honey Dipper**

2nd Place:  
Les Saunby

**9 entries**

3rd Place:  
Peter Blakey



**Intermediate Group**

1st Place:  
Kris Cietak

**Discus Bowl**

2nd Place:  
Brian Batemen

**4 entries**

3rd Place:  
Bob Rimmer



**Advanced Group**

1st Place:  
Malcolm Thorpe

**Discus Bowl**

2nd Place:  
Cliff Lane

**7 entries**

3rd Place:  
Steve Simmons



DISPLAY TABLE:



**INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS**

*Tool Loans*

We have tools available for loan to members (free of charge), with a 2 month loan period. The loan can be renewed provided that a reservation has not been made by another member. (Just the same system as the lending libraries). Loan items should be booked out (and back in) with Ken Beresford or Steve Simmons.

*AWGB International Symposium*

We have 8 members attending the symposium which is being held at Loughborough University from 7th to 9th August 2015. The cost including accommodation and all meals is £375, which is less than the previous event 2 years ago. Any member who has not already booked in should do so through Peter Timms, to ensure that we get accommodation in the same block. The campus is large and the accommodation buildings are fairly widely scattered across the site. There are clearly opportunities for car sharing and as a result the opportunity for some liquid relaxation in the evening!

**COMMISSIONS:**

Mrs M Bennett of Chasetown, Staffordshire has asked if any member would be able to make a child size "Captains" chair. She has had one made previously for a grandchild and now has another grandchild for whom she would like to have a matching chair. The original chair is available for use as a pattern. Anyone interested in this work can get contact details from the Secretary.

**SALE ITEMS:**

Record Coronet No 2 Lathe.:  
30" between centres, 10½" over bed, swivel head.  
Speeds: 450, 950 and 2000 rpm.  
Weight: 64 kgs  
Selection of gouges and related tools, chuck and various fruitwood blanks.

Located in Fazeley. (B78)

Contact details from the Secretary.

**WHO'S WORK IS THIS?**

Can you identify the professional turners who made these pieces?

| Item No: | Turner  |
|----------|---|
| 1        |  <hr/>   |
| 2        |  <hr/>   |
| 3        |  <hr/>  |
| 4        |  <hr/> |

**Deadline for April Edition:  
30th March 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.