



West Midlands Wood Turners

SEPTEMBER 2014

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

25th Anniversary and Open Day Sunday 21st September

Attractions include:

The Frying Squad:

Fish & Chips for lunch. "Splades" will be available, but bring your own knife and fork if you wish. (Cost around £5.50 or less for pie, sausage etc.)
"Cheaper than a chip shop, but just as good" (So they tell me!)



Cliff's Cakes.

Soft and sicky, - I mean *sticky* things to have with your tea and coffee.



Retailers:

English Hardwoods

Nigel Fleckney is bringing a variety of woods, but contact him beforehand for special orders.

<http://www.english-hardwoods.com/news.html>



Mark Raby:

Get your polishes, accessories and free advice from a professional turner and demonstrator. Mark will bring a limited amount of stock, but special orders can be made beforehand.

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



Anniversary Cake with Afternoon Tea.

and

A full day of activities



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PROGRAMME AND DIARY DATES

Date	Event
13th September	Festival of Crafts. Coombe Abbey Country Park
21st September	25th Anniversary, Open Day and Hands On Day
5th October	Apple Day at Castle Bromwich
19th October	Mark Baker demonstration day
16th November	AGM and Hands On day
30th November	Christmas event at Castle Bromwich
14th December	Greg Moreton Demonstration and Christmas Lunch
2015	
18th January	Hands On
15th February	Gerry Marlowe Demonstration Day
8th March	Hands On
19th April	Nick Agar Demonstration Day
17th May	Hands On
14th June	David Lowe Demonstration
19th July	Hands On
16th August	Demonstration - TBA
20th September	Hands On
18th October	Jennie Starbuck Demonstration
15th November	AGM and Hands On
6th December	Demonstration and Christmas Lunch

Chairman's Challenge for September:

Lidded bowl
or
A bowl with a lid!

Committee Meeting Dates for 2014:

3rd October
5th December

If you have any issues to raise, please let any member of the committee know at least one week prior to the meeting date.

Deadline for October Newsletter:
Sunday 29th September

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.

Bold type for demonstrators names indicates a link to their website. Click on their name.

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 COMMENTS:

Our meeting on the 17th of August was unusual because as well as being a demo by Paul Jones we also had to fit in the EGM. I want to thank all of you that attended the meeting, and members that voted by proxy, for supporting the motion. Minutes of the EGM will be available at the hands-on day.

Paul Jones deserves a thank you, firstly for his enjoyable demonstration, and secondly for working around our slightly longer lunch break.

Over the 25 years that WMWT has been in existence the world has changed and the club has survived by adapting and working with the changes. The only difference now is that the changes are happening even more quickly and it is up to us to adjust and embrace them to ensure that the club continues to grow and survive for the next 25 years and beyond.

So far this year we have attended three outside events with three more still to come. Next year we have the potential to take part in even more. Although these events take an enormous amount of hard work by all concerned I see them as an enjoyable way of raising the profile of WMWT.

We have another busy few weeks coming up with two outside events and our Hands-on day.:

- Coombe Festival of Crafts 13th September 2014.
I hope that you have all decided on the pieces that you are putting in for this event either for sale or display.
- Hands-On Anniversary Meeting 21st September 2014
Please make every effort to attend and make the day a success, if you have not been for a while we would be really pleased to see you. I would ask everyone to bring pieces in for the Chairman's Challenge and display table so that we can have a photographic record of the high standard being achieved within the club. If you have no recent work bring in a favourite piece.
- Castle Bromwich House and Gardens 5th October 2014.
Your donations of turned work for the club to sell will be most welcome.
If you have not been to one of these events yet please come along to help or as a visitor to support the club.

A married man left work early one Friday night, but instead of going home, he spent the weekend partying with the boys. When he finally returned home on Sunday night, his wife really got on his case, and stayed on it. After a few hours of swearing and screaming, his wife paused and pointed at him and made him an offer.

"How would you like it if you didn't see me for a couple of days?"... The husband couldn't believe his luck, so he looked up, smiled and said. "That would suit me just fine!" Monday went by, and the man didn't see his wife at all. Tuesday and Wednesday came and went, and he still did not see her. Come Thursday, the swelling had gone down a bit and he could just see a little out of the corner of one eye.

See you all on the 13th and the 21st
Cliff

DEMONSTRATION REVIEW: BY PHIL STEVENSON

Not many had heard of or seen Paul Jones before today and it came as a surprise to hear he lived just around the corner from me just a few years ago – why was he never a member of WMW?! Paul is a very accomplished turner and a fine presenter who entertained and informed us for a full day with his easy manner and skilful tool use.

After a very few words of introduction it was straight to turning and the first project was a natural edged, long stemmed goblet made from greenish pear branch wood. The first question of the day was one we have all heard many times before – what is the right height for the tool rest? And Paul answered it carefully and (correctly in my opinion) – high enough to correctly position the edge of whatever tool you are using on to the timber and this will depend on the height of the lathe, your height and the tool you are using, so be prepared to change it!



A tenon was cut and the timber securely mounted in O'Donnell jaws; the end was squared off, a pilot hole was drilled with a gouge and the centre of the goblet hollowed out to Paul's satisfaction, then sanded and finished with Tung Oil.



The outside of the cup was finished to about 1/8 inch thickness and then Paul moved on to the base.



His preference is always to finish the cup and the base to near completion, then do the stem; in this way he can visualise the whole piece before it is too late to alter the stem design. After Paul's favourite ogee-design base, the stem was finished to a rather formal, classical design. The base was undercut with a skew and a line burnt in with a piece of Formica to show the underside wasn't forgotten.



Paul is meticulous in his attention to detail, whether it be shaping, finishing, sanding, etc, which may not always result in riveting viewing but his finished turning is beyond reproach. I personally am not sure that the natural edged cup paired all that well with the classical design of the stem and base, but we all have our own opinions on design.



The afternoon session was devoted mostly to a candlestick, composed of three assembled parts – top, stem and base, held together by tenoned joints.

There did seem to be rather a lot of kerfuffle sizing the pieces to fit each other and the lathe but eventually we got to the fun part – shaping the candlestick. Paul showed his customary attention to detail in shaping the stem and base, ensuring that the joints were always disguised in turned features.





The base was completed with a different set of cutting techniques as we were now cutting a cross-grain piece of wood. The stem of the candlestick was again a fairly classical shape which matched the overall design perfectly, and the top was completed.



In view of our discussion about Elf & Safety and product liability, I suspect most of us would have put a metal insert where a burning candle was going to be placed ... Overall, a beautifully turned item.

The finishing materials Paul used were interesting and not ones I am familiar with but they resulted in an excellent finish. [Ultrashine](#) and [Shellawax](#), available from [Toolpost](#), for your information.

The last 10 minutes produced a rather nicely formed mushroom made from a little piece of yew branch.



It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and Paul is a very skilled demonstrator. He showed great attention to detail, explained everything he did well and patiently answered all the questions chucked in his direction. If I had one criticism, it would be that things moved rather slowly in places and I did hear one or two snores, especially after lunch, but I'm sure that wasn't all Paul's fault!

(Links to the finishing products are available by clicking on the [blue](#) text above, or here:

<http://www.toolpost.co.uk/pages/Finishes/Shellawax/shellawax.html>). *Ed.*

CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE RESULTS FOR AUGUST:- CANDLE HOLDER

Premier Group (5 entries)

1st place
Malcolm Thorpe



2nd place
Tim Davies



Joint 3rd place
Don Lawrence



Cliff Lane



1st place
Steve Simmons



2nd place
Tom Badger



Joint 3rd place
Ken Berresford



Dave Hobbs



Basic Group (6 entries)

SKILLS CHALLENGE FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING:

The Skills Test will be to turn a small bowl from an octagon, approx. 8cm diameter by 4.5cms thick, using a *standard grind bowl gouge (i.e., not a fingernail grind)*.

Judges will be looking for uniform wall thickness as thin as possible, maximum size, quality of workmanship. No callipers or sanding allowed.

Entrants will need to provide some form of chucking for the blank, i.e., screw chuck.

If required, there will be one-on-one tuition.

Websites on Grinding Gouges (mainly bowl gouges, but others included):

<http://www.peterchild.co.uk/info1/sflute.htm>

<http://www.americanwoodworker.com/blogs/tools/archive/2009/10/22/bowl-gouges.aspx>

<http://www.woodturningvideosplus.com/bevel-angles.html>

http://www.sdwt.org/support_docs/techniques&tips/sharpening.pdf

<http://azwoodturners.org/Sharpening2.pdf>

REMINDER FOR MEMBERS ATTENDING THE FESTIVAL OF CRAFTS ON SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER.

The Festival opens to the public at 10.00 am but we will be there earlier for setup.

Entrance is free but there is a car parking charge (£3.70 approx). Latest news is that there will be some 55 traders so this looks to be a very popular event.

Report to Phil Stevenson on our stand when you arrive if you have volunteered to help out and we will work out a rota to ensure everyone gets plenty of time to look around the fair.

Any questions, call Phil on 0121 705 9794 or 07711 857261.

Note from the Chairman:

In view of parking charges, it may be a good idea to car share. It may also leave additional spaces in the car-park for customers wanting to give us their money.

Cliff

EVENTS FOR 2015.

There are several reasons why WMWT might attend external events, and these include:

- being part of the woodturning community;
- supporting other clubs;
- being part of the local community;
- building general awareness of the craft of woodturning;
- to recruit new members;
- to raise funds by selling donated items or selling on commission for members.

Any one or more of the above may apply to a particular event, and to make the effort worthwhile, we should be reasonably clear which apply, so that we can plan accordingly. There is also the problem of planning the calendar, and attending two or three such events in a short period might be something that we cannot easily achieve.

We have been notified of the Newark show (27th & 28th March), but so far there is no offer of free exhibition space. Last year the cost was £56/sq m + VAT, with further costs for electricity supply, tables, chairs etc. We were able to negotiate our way out of any charges, and obtain free car parking, as it was evident that the organisers, a commercial concern, needed woodturning clubs to attend to attract customers.

For 2015, the charge has risen to £70/sq m + VAT, together with additional costs as above. Unless a similar offer, i.e. free, is made, it is unlikely that we will attend because the cost, on the face of it, cannot be justified if met from club funds. However, if revenue of around £500.00 was achieved, we could break even on the event. (£320 for a 2m x 2m space, £170 for electrics, incl VAT).

Kingsbury Water Park are arranging an event in September 2015, but we do not yet have any details. There will almost certainly be a cost for attendance, meaning that we will have to consider selling items, if we wish to cover the cost. This is a new event, so it will be difficult to know what we should be selling.

Water Orton Village hold a carnival every year in June. This is something that we could attend to raise our profile in the area and perhaps have another opportunity to sell some work. We have been added to the Carnival exhibitors circulation listing, and as soon as details are known, a decision as to whether to participate can be made.

Woodworks at Daventry is an event that brings many turning clubs together in the spirit of friendly competition, and WMWT will plan to attend the 2015 event. As soon as details become available they will be passed to members.

There are three events expected at Castle Bromwich House and Gardens in 2015 and it is expected that we will continue to support this local organisation.

The Festival of Crafts (Coombe Abbey) has led us to consider issues around selling items made by members, but we have little experience in pricing such work and knowing what to sell when and where. Although we have been given a discounted price for the "stall" at Coombe, we are reliant on donated items and commission sales, to meet the costs involved. Although the cost is only £50 (discounted because we are taking lathe/s), a commission sales basis of 10% alone would mean that we would have to sell £500.00 of items to breakeven. Given that the Festival is open for 6½ hours, this could be a problem. However, as some work has been donated, Phil is reasonably confident that we will cover our costs on the day.

The difficulty is clearly having sufficient stock to sell to more or less cover our costs, and this will mean that members could be asked to make a range of items. These can be large or small, but it may be unrealistic to expect members to donate the raw material (wood) as well as the time and expertise that are brought to bear. With that in mind the Chairman has suggested that members might be willing to look in their off-cut boxes, select some pieces and donate them so that items can be made, either at hands on days or in members own workshops, for sale at shows and fairs.

Of course selling things is not the only reason for WMWT to attend shows, but it does make sense to try to cover our costs whenever we can, to avoid draining club funds. Please let Cliff know if you have any materials that you might like to donate.

WOODEN TOYS

The world is getting to be a more complex and rule driven place day by day. Members can be forgiven for thinking that there is a conspiracy to stop us doing what we want to do, by tying us up in Health and Safety rules, EU and UK legislation. It certainly seems that way at times.

The latest issue to consider was raised by Phil Stephens at the EGM, when he indicated that the sale of toys was subject to extensive EU legislation and requirements. Phil has advised the following:

The sale of wooden toys needs to comply with the current EU toy safety regulations under EN-71. As the UK is a member of the EU any toy sold to the public in the UK must comply with the current Toy safety regulations 2011.

This applies to any organisation and any form of sales outlet, including craft shows, fund raising events for charity, and any web or postal sales.

The Toy that you intend to sell must comply with the safety regulations under EN-71 part 1 /2 /3 where applicable. The product must also bear the mark of the CE Directly on the product itself or attached to the product by the form of a removable label/packaging by the buyer. The label packaging must also bear the name of the manufacturer and their address. Finally the packaging should clearly accommodate any agreed warnings where necessary under the EN-71 regulations.

There are a number of exemptions in the regulations. For example :

- *a product can be sold as a Christmas decoration, if the labeling clearly identifies to the buyer that this product is not a toy but a Christmas decoration.*
- *or the product is to be used for educational purposes. Again the product has to be labeled to state that it should only be given to a child under parental supervision and guidance.*

(For members who wish to know what the regulations are, [here are some of them!](#))

In order to give us time to consider the implications of this, we will be selling everything at Coombe on the basis that they are for ornamental/decorative purposes only. There will be notices on the table which should be drawn to the attention of all purchasers.

FINISHES:

The following products have been licensed by the manufacturers as:

Food Safe: (only if it says so on the tin!)

- Rustins Danish Oil
- Chestnut Food Safe Finish
- Mylands Acrylic Lacquer

Toy safe: (only if it says so on the tin!)

- Rustins Danish Oil
- Mylands Acrylic Gloss Lacquer (Aerosol can)
- Mylands Acrylic Lacquer
- Auro ECO Paints

This is a report from a demonstration by Mark and Lisa Raby at Sheffield dealing with finishes. <http://www.sheffieldwoodturningclub.org.uk/Pages/ClubNightReports/2011Demos/MarkRaby/MarkRaby2011.html>

There may be many other products available—perhaps we need a “technical” file on these issues.

Any Volunteers?