



# West Midlands Wood Turners

**JULY 2016**

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## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

## PROGRAMME AND DIARY DATES

Page No	Description	Date	Event
2	Chairman's Comments	10th July	<b>New Hall Mill</b>
3 to 6	Review of Tony Walton Demo	17th July	Hands on - cylindrical boxes
7	Water Orton Carnival Report	14th August	<b>Fillongley Show</b>
7 and 8	Baddesley Clinton (National Trust) Report	21st August	<b>Steve Heeley</b> Demonstration
8	Fillongley Show Competitions	29th August	<b>New Hall Mill</b>
9	Chairman's Challenge: June results	18th September	Hands on - pen turning
9	Chairman's Challenge: July Competition	10/11th September	<b>Festival of Crafts, Coombe Abbey</b>
10	June's Display Table	16th October	<b>Sue Harker</b> Demonstration
		20th November	AGM and Hands on - open hollow forms
		11th December	<b>Mark Baker</b> Demonstration and Christmas Lunch

**Hands On Day**  
**17th July**

**Theme: Cylindrical Boxes**



**Demonstration days** start at 9.15 am and conclude around 4.30 pm. (Setting up from 8.30 am)

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### ADVANCE NOTICE

**Coombe Abbey**  
**Festival of Crafts**  
**10/11 September**

We have been advised that the car parking at this event for exhibitors will be based on vehicle registration numbers. This will affect our arrangements for members who are helping with the stand and demo's. As soon as the details are clear we will let members know what they are, but please note that parking passes will not be issued by the organisers this year.

### **Committee Meeting**

There is a meeting scheduled for Friday 15th July.

If members have any suggestions or issues, please let the Chairman or Secretary know as soon as possible.

It's hard to think that we are well past the longest day and still waiting for the decent weather to arrive. The only clue that we are in the holiday season is slightly lower numbers at club meetings. In spite of this, we still had 36 members for our June demonstration by Tony Walton. The 36 included one new member that signed up on the day, so a warm welcome to him.

There were 12 extremely good entries for the Chairman's Challenge and the raffle raised £48. The display table looked very bare compared to what we have become used to so I would ask everyone to bring in items for display. If you do not have any new recent work, bring in one of your favourite pieces. Remember that our newer members will not have seen it before.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> June eight of us represented WMWT at the Water Orton Carnival. There had been heavy rain in the days leading up to the 18<sup>th</sup> and the bridge at Water Orton had been closed for two days beforehand due to the road from Minworth being flooded. On the Saturday the weather was kind and we even had sunshine in the afternoon. It was an enjoyable day with lots going on and high numbers of people attending. Business was brisk and there was some interest from potential new members.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> June (the next day!) four of us were at Baddesley Clinton for the day. This was a totally different event for us so I did not know what to expect. As it turned out we were made very welcome, there were reasonable numbers attending and steady sales through the day. As an added bonus the rain kept off in spite of threatening us a few times. We also had interest from at least one potential new member.

Water Orton Carnival and Baddesley Clinton were new events for the club and therefore a bit of a step into the unknown. Thanks to the hard work of members that attended the weekend was a success and around £180 will be added to club funds.

To round off a busy few weeks the club will be at New Hall Mill on the 10<sup>th</sup> July. This is another new venue for the club although Malcolm Caine has been successfully demonstrating his skills there for some time.

Our stock of items for the sales table and Pick-a-Peg has fallen, following recent outside events. Please support the club and donate some turned pieces. There are still three outside events booked for this year and if we do not have sufficient stock it will affect our income.

I have purchased a small amount of J Flex abrasive on behalf of the club and hope to have this to sell by our next meeting.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

### What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

(This months joke was sent to me by Les Wilkes.)

*Ron Chester, 89 years of age, was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and they asked where he was going at that time of night.*

*Ron replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."*

*The officer asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"*

*Ron replied, "That would be my wife."*

## Tony Walton and Texturing tools

Reviewed by Malcolm Thorpe



Tony Walton was a new name to most of the audience but he had been to the club some years previously. He did not have a display of his own items. He started by making two spinning tops which showed he had excellent tool skills but since he had not brought a chuck with him, he relied on the club equipment, which was not quite what he wanted.

The first top was a standard design and was textured with a Sorby mini scroll tool and coloured with felt tips.



The second top had a ring of Corian added which added momentum to the top when spinning. The pre-drilled Corian was glued on to a spigot with superglue. The excess glue was set using activator but he still had the sense to stand to one side when the lathe was switched on.



Good quality eye protection is a must if superglue is used on the lathe.

When asked where he obtained the Corian it transpired that his brother was in the trade and one of Tony's lines was to make handles and doorknobs to match work surfaces.

*(Hint; tops are the very thing we need for our away days.)*

Tony's next projects used the Axminster Deluxe adjustable pen mandrel (£39.96) and the Quick chance pen revolving center (£25.96). These are not needed for small batches of pens; a simple mandrel is all that is needed.

The elm burr blanks had been predrilled and Tony stated that he preferred using Titebond instead of superglue to fix the brass tubes in to the drilled blanks. He roughed the blanks down using a roughing gouge and finish turned with a Skew chisel down to the guide bushes.



Anyone who has made a slim line pen would have been intrigued by the shaping as it appeared to be too fat. Another intriguing point was the Skew chisel had convex bevel which did seem an idea worth trying on small diameter turning. Personally I use a flat honed bevel for the same job.



Since the blanks tapered in opposite directions Tony suggested all turners should be ambidextrous - easier said than done. The pen was sanded from 320 to 600 grit and then the surface was further improved using Micromesh up to 12000 grit. His preferred finish was two

coats of superglue smoothed on to the surface with a paper tissue and after setting the sanding was repeated up to 12000 micro mesh.

The pen was assembled using a deluxe assembly press.  
(Available on eBay for £99.99)



The reason for the fatter shape was demonstrated when Tony discarded the slim line central collar and replaced it with a larger diameter one to match the fatter shape which certainly produced an impressive pen. The spare rings can be found on eBay.

The next project was an atomiser in acrylic. He said that, in his experience, customers preferred pens in wood and atomisers in acrylic. He advised that the acrylic should be turned warm as it can be brittle when cold. The actual turning of the blank was very simple using a roughing gouge as there was no shaping. The item was finished, as with the pen, up to 12000 micromesh, followed by polishing with burnishing cream. My own preference is to use chrome cleaner. The atomiser was then assembled in the press and made a very saleable item.



After morning tea, Tony starting making a box from a piece of Maple by turning a square blank into a cylinder with one chucking point. He made the point that his preferred method of making this type of box relied on wood with little or no grain. The reason being that he started turning the inside of the lid from the top of the cylinder, which means when the lid was fitted to the base the grain is unlikely to match.



A register was turned into the lid and the outside turned into dome shape and parted off from the base.

The inside of the base was hollowed out with a spindle gouge and the lid fitted to the small register. During the day Tony made several good attempts at fitting two parts together, but the fit for the box did not work as well as might have been expected.



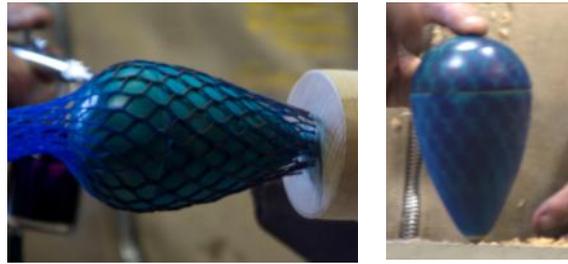
The outside of the base was then turned down so the box resembled an elongated egg. He then made the classic mistake of not checking the depth of the hollowing and cut through the wall.



He quickly turned a register and glued the pieces back together. Tony finish turned the egg shape almost to a point and then set up an air brush.



The box was then sprayed blue with spirit dye, being the reason he did not mind that the grain did not match.



A piece of flexible plastic netting that had been protecting a Simon Hope turning tool was stretched over the box and then sprayed with purple. This produced a pleasing snakeskin like effect.

The base was parted off to point so, as a box, it did not stand up. To solve this design issue, a curved stand with a hole was made. A rectangular blank had been pre-drilled and using the waste in the chuck to produce a spigot, the blank was hammered on to a very effective jam chuck.



The outside was carefully turned into a curve and the piece reversed on the jam chuck. The inside curve was turned producing a curved stand for the egg box.



In the afternoon, Tony mounted a large roughly shaped piece of ash on to a screw chuck. He demonstrated the draw cut to flatten the front face by setting the gouge and then rocking his whole body backwards giving a flat surface.

Tony's method of producing an ogee shape was first to make a concave curve on the last third of the platter by rotating the gouge around about a point on the toolrest. To finish the ogee, a convex curve (length about 1/3 of the distance to the centre) was blended into the concave curve producing the classic ogee shape.



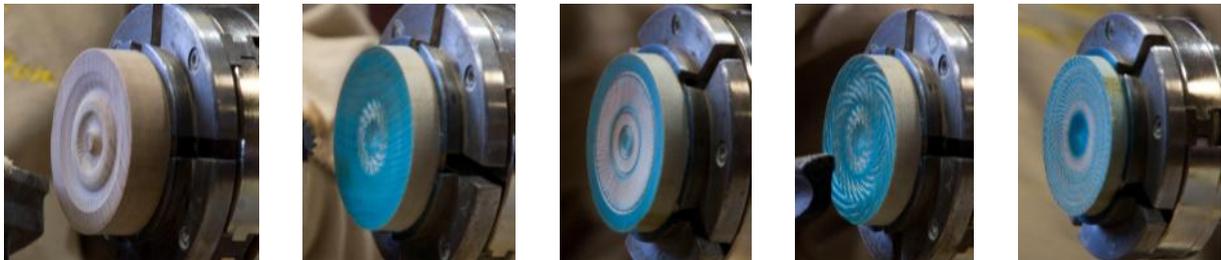
Tony then produced a large range of Sorby spiralling/texturing tools and proceeded to demonstrate how they were used on the underside of the platter. The tools were angled at different directions to achieve slightly different patterns. This was then sprayed black which I thought did nothing to improve the effect.



Reversing the blank, which was quite a bit thicker than needed, he commented that this could be used to practice different effects. The face was cleaned up with a gouge and then showed several methods of decorating the edge of the platter. Partly by using French curves and the airbrush, then using shapes cut out from artists 'Frisket'. Finally he finish turned the platter cum shallow bowl without any decoration.



For the last part of the day Tony demonstrated a seeming endless number of texturing tools. Starting with the aptly named chatter tool, the Sorby Elf (three different heads) and those that he started the day with on the spinning top. There is a place for this type of texturing but it has relatively few applications, though it can be improved with techniques such as spraying and then sanding or liming.



No demonstration is totally without merit and Tony did give us some useful tips but overall the demonstration lacked the level of preparation and "sparkle" that we have come to expect. Tony did have excellent tool skills and more time spent facing the audience and explaining his use of the bevel would have been of benefit to members.

Our chairman sent everybody home with a smile with his final summing up:

“We learnt to rub the bevel; on spindle work turn from high to low;

and if you are doing boxes aim to get the inside smaller than the outside!”

Despite the club being based in Water Orton for many years we had never attended the carnival, and so this was a completely new event for us.



We arrived between 8 and 9 am to set up and were ready by 10.30, the stated opening time. We had a display of items, some of which were for sale, and the "Pick-a-Peg" tombola, but because power was not available to us, we did not have a lathe for demonstrations.

The morning was relatively quiet, due to the parade of the floats through the village during the morning, but things picked up considerably after mid-day and a surprising number of people came on to the field.

There was good interest in our display, and the "Pick-a-Peg" did its usual of attracting people to the stand and raised over £120 for the club. Some sales were made from the display, so financially the day was a success. However, of greater importance was opportunity to come into contact with people who live in and around the village, most of whom did not know that we are based at the school. We were able to talk to many Water Orton residents and we hope that some will visit, with a view, hopefully, to becoming members.

In addition to ourselves there was a wide range of trader stalls, food and drinks stands and a number of fun fair rides (which were, at times, a bit noisy). There were gymnastics, dance and related displays in the central arena together with competitions, including a tug-of-war.

Overall, members thought that this was a good day for us and a good day out for visitors. The weather was kind to



us, and combined with what appeared to be very good site organisation, this is an event that we should consider repeating.

Thanks to those members who set up the display, and those who came to help during the day, especially Chairman Cliff and Malcolm Thorpe who transported all the kit to the site (and took it away at the finish).

**BADDESLEY CLINTON**

By Phil Stevenson

Our first official demo at a National Trust property took place on 19th June at Baddesley Clinton and it proved to be an excellent day. We weren't quite sure what to expect in terms of visitor profile or numbers but we set our stand and gazebo up bright and early in what was certainly the most picturesque setting we have ever attended. Malcolm Thorpe, Tom Badger, Chairman Cliff and I had everything ready as visitors started filtering in at 9.00am.



Things got progressively busier and we had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day, a good mixture of families, kids, adults and, ahem, folk of more advanced years, much like ourselves. The display and sales tables were very well received and the turning demo attracted all the attention we could have hoped for.

## WEST MIDLANDS WOODTURNERS

We are definitely getting more experienced in events such as these, and the way to catch the attention of the public is to turn lots of simple, 15 - 20 minute items and make as many shavings as possible! We were fortunate to have a good supply of green oak from the Baddesley Clinton estate (always good to tell the story of the wood we are using) so we banged out quite a number of bowls and plates without bothering with sanding and finishing, as well as a few more polished pieces. The National Trust staff were very appreciative of our attendance and are keen to have us back, so watch this space.

### Message from the National Trust Organiser

Dear Phil,

Thank you so much for coming over to Baddesley Clinton on Father's Day and demonstrating your epic skills in Wood Turning! It was brilliantly fascinating and wonderfully engaging (not to mention utterly mesmerizing!).

Please extend my thanks to your band of merry men – you really are incredibly talented individuals! If any ideas spring to mind regarding doing something similar at Packwood then do just get in touch with myself and Oli – it would be great to work with you again!

Many thanks  
Best wishes

**Holly Poncini**  
Programming & Family Engagement Officer  
North Warwickshire Portfolio  
National Trust

### FILLONGLEY HORTICULTURAL SHOW WOODTURNING COMPETITION.

By Malcolm Thorpe

Axminster Power Tools is sponsoring a Woodturning competition at the Fillongley show on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August.

The five classes are:

- 420 Four Egg Cups
- 421 A turned large bowl- over 200mm
- 422 A turned wooden item with multiple Captive rings
- 423 An item turned from 1 or more Banksia nuts –metal fixing allowed ( Banksia timber only)
- 424 A pair of candlesticks (minimum 150mm high)

If anybody is interested in entering one or more items I (Malcolm Thorpe) will collect them at the July meeting or receive during the week before and organise the entries and deliver them to the show.

I assume both Coombe Abbey and North Warwicks have been informed so there could be a chance to show off our craft to the general public.

The closing date for entries is 7<sup>th</sup> August and there are small cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places.

**Novice Group (5 entries): Mouse**

1st place: Gavin Morrice

2nd place: Paul Brown

3rd place: Dave Lees



**Intermediate Group (3 entries): Pedestal Bowl**

1st place: Brian Bateman

2nd place: Graham Hunt

3rd place: Dave Reynolds



**Advanced Group (4 entries): Pestle & Mortar**

1st place: Tim Davies

2nd place: Malcolm Thorpe

3rd place: Don Lawrence



**CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE - JULY**

**Novice Group**

Door Wedge



**Intermediate Group**

Box

**Advanced Group**

Off Centre  
Candlestick



Please send materials for the newsletter to :  
*Secretary@wmwoodturners.org.uk*