



West Midlands Wood Turners

MAY 2015

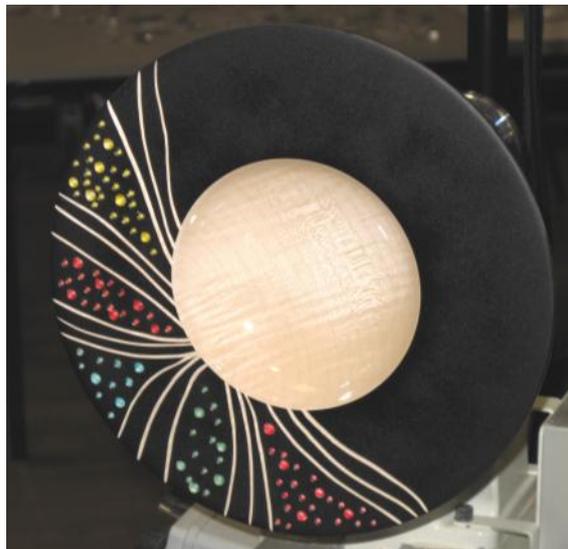
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PROGRAMME AND DIARY DATES

Date	Event
15th & 16th May	Tudor Rose "Woodworks"
17th May	Hands On
25th May	New Hall Mill Demo - Malcolm Caine
14th June	David Lowe Demonstration
19th July	Hands On
16th August	Les Thorne Demonstration
31st August	New Hall Mill Demo - Malcolm Caine
20th September	Hands On
4th October	Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens-Apple Day
18th October	Jennie Starbuck Demonstration
15th November	AGM and Hands On
29th November	Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens-Christmas Event
6th December	Mick Hanbury Demonstration and Christmas Lunch
Click on the demonstrators name to go to their website.	
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.	



Nick Arnall's decorated platter. See review for description of how it was made, in particular the high gloss (glass like) finish.

Daventry Show:

Please see last month's newsletter for the map and arrangements for parking on Friday 15th May.

If there are any display pieces that you would like to enter, please let Cliff Lane, John Hooper, Bob Rimmer or Malcolm Thorpe know **as soon as possible** and collection/delivery can be arranged.

Work submitted should be available for collection at the Hands On day on 17th May at Water Orton.

Ten club members turned up for the Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Easter event On the 4th April. The weather kept dry although it was cold early on, it warmed up towards lunch time and visitor numbers improved steadily. As usual our stand attracted plenty of visitors and raised £109.50 (£98.55 after giving CBHG 10%). As always, the proceeds will be used to boost club funds. The CBHG organisers see the attendance of West Midlands Woodturners as a great asset and always make us welcome (see copy of email from Sue).

The April meeting and demonstration by Nick Arnall is covered in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter so I will not say any more than that I enjoyed the day. There were 44 members and 2 visitors present and this included one new member that joined on the day, so a warm welcome to you. The Chairman's Challenge was well supported with 13 entries. The display table consisted mostly of items for Daventry so I am looking forward to seeing all of them displayed at the show.

Woodworks at Daventry Fri & Sat 15th & 16th May

This will be the sixth year that we have taken part in Woodworks, (where has all the time gone). Our attendance at these events is only possible because of the hard work of everyone involved in transporting, setting up and manning the club display stand and lathe over the two days, the volunteers for the turning competitions deserve a special mention. Please come along to support the club and help out on the stand. If you have not been to one of these outside events before it will be an ideal opportunity to see another side of the clubs activities and take part in what is always an enjoyable couple of days.

Hands-on 17th May

Because Daventry is a week later than in previous years it means that our hands on meeting is the same weekend. In spite of this I am sure we will see all of you there and we will have another thoroughly enjoyable day.

While out walking in the country, a man comes across a hole. Curious, he finds a small pebble and tosses it into the hole. He hears no sound, so picks up a slightly bigger one and throws that into the blackness. Again, he hears no sound. He picks up an even bigger rock, throws it into the hole, and again listens at the opening for some sound. Again, there is only silence. Looking around for something really big to drop into the apparently bottomless pit, he finds a huge boulder and hurls it into the hole.

As he is kneeling at the side of the hole waiting for some sound, a goat comes charging down the road towards him. He manages to scramble out of the way in the nick of time, and the goat falls down into the black hole.

A few moments later, a farmer comes across the hill and approaches the man.

"Have you seen a goat around here?" the farmer asks, and the man, somewhat embarrassed that the goat had fallen down the hole while he was right next to it, answers that he hasn't.

"That's odd," says the farmer, "It must be around here somewhere because I left it tied to an enormous boulder."

Cliff

MESSAGE FROM CBHG

Hello All

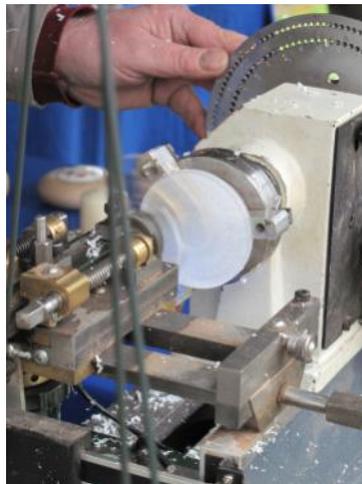
Please accept my apologies for the delay in contacting you but on behalf of the Trust I would like to thank you all for coming along to our Easter Fundraising Event. Your stand certainly looked good and we hope that you enjoyed your afternoon.

Looking forward to seeing you all again on Apple Day Sunday 4 October.

Kind regards. Sue

Castle Bromwich Hall & Gardens Trust
Chester Road
Castle Bromwich
Birmingham B36 9BT

PHOTOS FROM THE EASTER EVENT AT CBHG



AWGB REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

On Sunday 26th April, Cliff and I drove to a village called Lower Oddington to find the Village Hall, where we and about 20 other delegates attended the representatives meeting and the AGM.

It did seem an "odd" (*sic*) place to hold an AGM for an organisation with some 3,500 members but given the level of turnout, the village hall was certainly big enough with seats to spare.

The morning meeting was to pass on to clubs any relevant developments or announcements, and the following is a summary of that session.

Financial changes for 2016:

Individual members subscriptions will increase to £18. (Not changed for 6 years)

Associated clubs subscriptions rise from £40 to £45.

Demonstrator Grant to increase to £200.

Loughborough Symposium:

Places are still available and numbers already booked are lower than anticipated. Some comments about the lack of "international" demonstrators, timing of the event and other factors which may be affecting attendance.

Accommodation has been improved and is cheaper than the 2013 event.

AWGB Events:

"Let's Teach Turning" interactive course released on disc. One "hard" copy free to clubs, (I collected ours on the day) and will be downloadable from AWGB website (Resources), free of charge. This is a course leading to an assessment for tutors who wish to "teach" at AWGB events. Tutors will be required to be assessed (by AWGB) and will not be permitted to take part in AWGB sponsored events if they do not reach the required tutoring standard. Tutors will be required to be AWGB members.

It is not a training course to achieve competency in wood turning, but an assessment programme to ensure the quality of teaching at AWGB events.

AWGB Courses (free to members) are undersubscribed. Courses can be technique or demonstrator specific and can be from beginner to specialist, and all points in-between.

Communication:

Communication with members is a key issue.

Still asking what members want from AWGB and communication through Regional Representatives encouraged.

Members Information Sheet is being provided and will continue.

After the lunch break, the Annual General Meeting was held.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 2.00 PM SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2015

In addition to the AWGB Executive members, there were 20 members in attendance.

Apologies: Brian Gibbs (WMWT). Graham Lovett (WMWT).

Minutes of previous meeting: Acceptance was proposed and seconded. Extract from Trustees report circulated.

Treasurer's Report:

A loss of around £2000 had arisen because there was no symposium in 2014. However, a surplus was achieved after Gift Aid refunded by HMRC.

Grant for events, equipment etc, can only be made to support "public" events. Grants will not be made to same club/member in consecutive years.

Reserves: £54,392

Comprising:- Main fund £29,205
Development fund £12,187
Grant Fund £13,000

Chairman's Report:

The plea for assistance with AWGB Executive work had been slow to develop but some progress made.

The purpose of AWGB in terms of what it is and what it is for, remains undefined.

The Friday night auction at the Loughborough Symposium has been cancelled, and will be replaced by a presentation by Ray Key. The auction at the Saturday night dinner will include items based on the work of Pablo Nemzoff, who died recently leaving a large quantity of unfinished work. Samples of the work have been made available to turners to reproduce and finish, for the auction.

Trustee Ballots for AWGB (The Company and Charity)

Geoff Belcher, Ryan Davenport and Mike Glover proposed and seconded. No vote necessary.

Exec Committee exercised their right to co-opt Sheila Hughes (Editor of Revolutions)

Development and Training Report:

Assessors required for tutor assessments.

Certificate in Woodturning (based on City & Guilds level 1 programme) to be delivered on a wider basis, including the midlands. Venues and tutors are being sought.

A.O.B.

Proposed that Campbell Wilson ACA ATII of Howard Wilson Chartered Accountants be re-appointed as Auditors. Carried.

Date of next meeting

Sunday 24th April 2016.

DEMONSTRATION REVIEW: NICK ARNULL

By Phil Stevenson.

Once again we welcomed a professional turner familiar to many of us. Familiarity brings it's own level of expectation from the audience and we had a great turnout waiting to see what Nick had in store ...

Nick came well prepared and I for one feel reassured when a pro has his work table well arranged in readiness for the day's work. Introductions completed, Nick's first project was to be a decorated dish made from a rather nice piece of quilted sycamore. Mounted on a screw chuck and rough shaped with a long ground bowl gouge the piece soon took shape.



Having cut a spigot for holding the bowl to hollow out, Nick used a specially ground skew chisel to refine and finish the outside. I've seen a skew used like this before (most notably by Ray Key) it can seem a bit intimidating, but with the lightest of touches a beautiful finish can be achieved, as Nick showed. His skew was ground with a slight curve along the edge to mitigate the risk of dig in. Finally, he sanded through the grades starting with a very coarse 80 grit. Nick's rationale was that the tool was ground on an 80 grit wheel so that's where he starts sanding ... hmmm.. After sanding Nick uses spray acrylic sanding sealer – several thin coats rather than one fat one – as he often uses acrylic paints etc, rub down with 0000 wire wool and a final coat of acrylic lacquer. Very nice finish indeed.



The bowl was turned over and work started on the top rim. Gouge then shear cut with that skew chisel, sand seal as before then a couple of light coats of acrylic matt car paint. At this point thanks to one of our members (Malcolm James) for “magicking” up a hair dryer so that Nick could hurry along and get the rim ready for carving. Grooves were cut freehand with a power carver then dots were placed with a couple of different sized countersink bits – quite effective. The dots were hand coloured with a Sharpie pen and with the decoration finished, the centre of the bowl was finally hollowed out to reveal the contrast between the black rim and the white sycamore centre of the bowl. Finishing was as before but with a final burnish (half T-Cut, half burnishing cream) to get a really sparkly, shiny finish. Piece complete.



Nick's second piece was a box with a decorated lid. The morning included rather a lot of conversation, chat and various verbal musings but after a few judicious words from our Chairman, things moved rather more quickly from this point onwards and Nick's woodturning ratcheted up a gear.

The cherry blank was mounted, rounded and the lid and body separated with a fine fluted parting chisel. The inside of the lid was hollowed out and the edges squared with a box scraper. A simple pattern was placed inside the lid (to be repeated elsewhere on the box) with an Ashley Iles bead-forming tool and the skew chisel. The body was then mounted and hollowed out in exactly the same way, with the same pattern on the bottom. To finish the outside of the lid it is mounted on the body of the box, carefully adjusting the fit.



WEST MIDLANDS WOODTURNERS

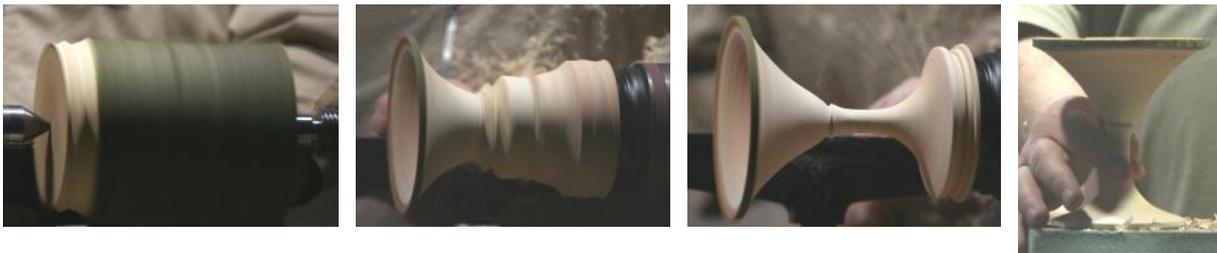
In case anyone missed it, there are two sorts of fit – the French fit (Toulouse, if it's not tight enough) and if it's just right, Russian (Popov – geddit?) Finally the body was reverse chucked and for a third time the same pattern as inside was place on the bottom of the box.

The last job was the carve and decorate the lid and for this Nick used a Microplane to cut castellations on the rim of the lid. Texturing was done with a high speed carving burr powered with a Fordham Micromotor K10-70, if you must know. Quite quick and, to my mind, really added to the unique look of the box.



At this point Nick very generously donated both the decorated bowl and the box to the club to do with as we wish – this was a very kind and much appreciated gesture as Nick's work can sell for serious money and whoever ends up with these pieces will have something quite special to treasure.

We had a little bit of time left and just to build the pile of shavings a little bit more Nick offered to do some green wood turning – a goblet from a freshly cut log (Sycamore? Not sure). This is a good practise piece and fun to do – I know, I do them often! The centre is hollowed out with bowl and spindle gouges and the fun then is to turn the wall as thin as you dare, with little to lose if you go too far – go on, give one a try!



We have had quite a number of demonstrators who have decorated, coloured and carved turned pieces and to my mind our reaction is usually the same. The workmanship and creativity are admirable but a common reaction is “not really my cup of tea”. I feel like this but I still enjoy watching and learning as there is always something to be gained, some little technique or idea that I will use some time for something.

Nick told us his mission is to inform, educate and entertain and I feel he did a pretty good job. He is an engaging character and a very accomplished turner – our nearly full house was kept well informed, educated and entertained.



Check out Nick's website: <http://nickarnullwoodturner.co.uk/>

If you are a member of WMWT and have read this newsletter, please send “WMWT Reader” to:
Secretary@wmwoodturners.org.uk

Responders will be rewarded with a free cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE RESULTS FOR APRIL:

Novice Group: 4 entrants: Meat Tenderiser

1st place: Les Wilkes



2nd place: Dave Reynolds



3rd place: Peter Prior



Intermediate Group: 4 entries : Lidded box

1st place: Brian Bateman



2nd equal place: Bob Rimmer



2nd equal place: Wolfgang Schulze
-Zachau



Advanced Group: 5 entries: Lidded Box

1st place: Tom Badger



2nd place: Malcolm Thorpe



3rd place: Tim Davies



CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE FOR MAY 2015

Novice: Bud vase



Intermediate and Advanced:

Bowl - Cut and Reconstructed.

DISPLAY TABLE:

WEST MIDLANDS WOODTURNERS



HANDS ON DAY 17TH MAY

Our recent Hands On Days have been a great success and we expect our next meeting to be just as engaging. Please feel free to bring your own lathe if you are one of our regulars, and of course the club lathes will be in operation. I hope also to have our usual sales table, calamity corner (I have an especially sad tear-jerker to share ...), and a gadgets and gizmos table. Let me know at the beginning of the day if you want a bit of a helping hand with anything, and do please bring your own tools for a sharpen and a fettle with one of our more experienced members. Many of us will just have arrived home from one or two bust days at Daventry so there will be lots to talk about! I look forward to seeing you at another great day.

I will again have Cellulose Thinners and Sanding Sealer for sale at the next Hands On Day - £4.50 for thinners and £6.50 for sealer, both 500ml tins. I have also acquired a limited quantity of Mirka Abranet abrasive sheets which will be offered at significantly lower prices than available at a big local store whose name starts with Ax and ends with minster.

Finally I also have some sheets of ultra-fine Webrax-type material (not Webrax brand) at £1 a sheet. If you want to reserve anything, email me in advance at phil@stvn.sn.co.uk . I will make sure I keep some of everything to be available on a first come, first served basis at the meeting. Again, remember this is not a public sale of these items, but strictly "among friends". As usual, a slice of your monies will go to club funds.

Thanks
Phil Stevenson

ARTICLES AND ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

It would be very useful if members could produce some articles or items for the newsletter. Whilst these can be on any wood or turning subject, articles which describe what worked and what didn't are equally useful, especially for members new(ish) to our craft. Photos to go alongside the articles are very helpful, and a picture is worth 1000 words (so they say!)

If you do have something but have not written anything before, help will be available, from the Editor and experienced writers in the club, who are to be asked to help with this very soon.

If you have something for the next edition the deadline is:

Wednesday 3rd June 2015

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

If you want to send paper based materials, give me a ring on 0121 354 8464 to make arrangements.