



# WEST MIDLANDS WOODTURNERS



## December 2016 Newsletter

### 9.15 am Sunday 11th December.

(Setting up from 8.30 am)

#### Mark Baker Demonstration,

Presentation of Competition awards and other trophies.

Christmas buffet and "Secret Santa".

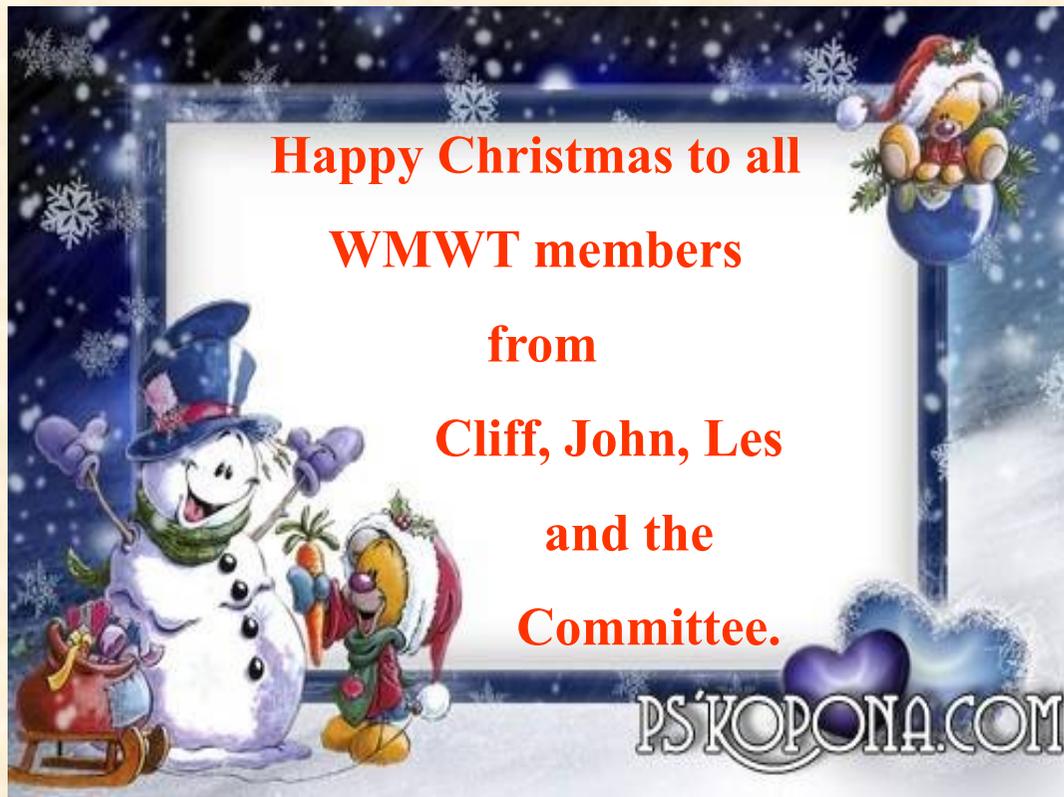
### 2017 Programme of meetings

Venue: Water Orton Primary School, unless otherwise stated.

15th January	Hands On: Platters
19th February	Colwyn Way Demo
19th March	Hands On: "10 turners"
9th April	<a href="#">Mark Sanger</a> Demo
21st May	Hands On: Finials
11th June	<a href="#">Paul Hannaby</a> Demo
16th July	Hands On: Natural edge bowls
20th August	<a href="#">Keith Fenton</a> Demo
17th September	Hands On: Fruit
15th October	Dave Atkinson Demo
19th November	AGM and Hands On : Spirals
10th December	<a href="#">Mark Hancock</a> Demo

*(Click on blue underlined text for demonstrators website)*

West Midlands Woodturners is a "not for profit" company limited by guarantee.  
Registered in England and Wales. Registration No: 9419165



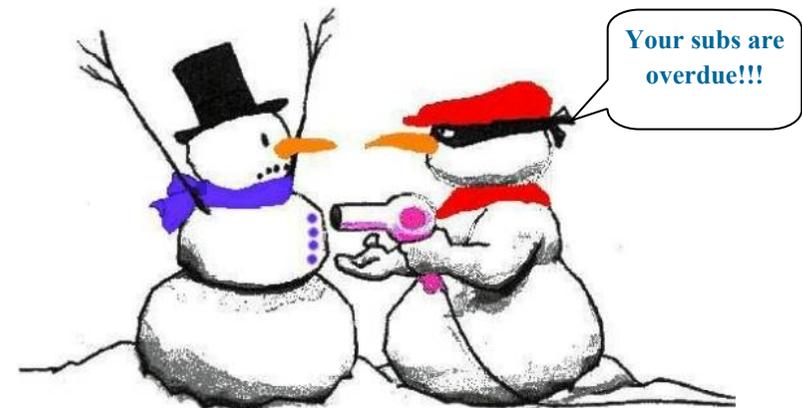
## WMWT Committee

Chairman	Cliff Lane	Chair@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Vice Chairman	Wolfgang Schulze -Zachau	TBA
Secretary & Director	John Hooper	Secretary@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Treasurer	Les Saunby	Treasurer@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Programme Manager	Malcolm Thorpe	TBA
Equipment Manager	Steve Simmons	TBA
Membership Secretary	Helen Lees	TBA
Newsletter Editor	John Hooper	Secretary@wmwoodturners.org.uk



## Contents

Page No	Item
3	Chairman's comments
3	Cliff's Christmas Crackers
4	AGM Report
4	Announcement about Axminster discount
4	Hands On Day Report
5	Chairman's Challenge: November Results
6	2017 Chairman's Challenges
7	Display Table : November
8	Diary of a Woodturner
9	Hollowing tool offer
9	Christmas Dot to Dot competition.



## Chairman's comments.

Thank you to everyone that attended the November meeting and AGM. The Committee was able to report another successful year with membership numbers up, an exceptionally good weekend at Woodworks at Daventry achieving overall first and in the first three in all categories, and the four new outside event venues all exceeded our expectations.

The Hands On that followed the AGM was soon in full swing. There were 45 members and 5 visitors at the meeting with 2 new members joining on the day. The theme for the meeting was Hollow Forms and many of those present took the opportunity to try out the range of different hollowing tools that members had brought in. There were 7 lathes set up and all of them were kept busy all day.

The raffle raised a magnificent £72.

The final Chairman's Challenge of the year attracted 11 excellent entries. The Display table was well supported with over 25 high quality pieces on show. The winners of the three Chairman's Challenge shields will be announced at the December meeting.

There is no Chairman's Challenge for December so please make an extra effort to bring in something for the display table.

The list of Chairman's Challenge projects for 2017 is included in this newsletter.

Thank you for the Donations for the "pick a peg" at the November meeting.

We are always looking at ways to make Hands On days even better so please tell us what you would like to see.

Our December meeting will include the Bring and Share Christmas Buffet. If you have not been to one of these before we all bring in some food either savoury or sweet, as a guide bring in as much as you would eat yourself plus a little extra. Food should be things that you can pick up with your fingers and does not need a knife, fork and spoon. Why not bring a turned plate to eat your food off.

Each year at the Christmas meeting we have a Secret Santa where members that want to take part can wrap a gift, usually turning related. These are placed on a table and at the end of the meeting you take a gift for yourself from the table. We would suggest a value of around £4.

I hope to see you all on the 11<sup>th</sup> December but as this is the last newsletter of the year can I take this opportunity, on behalf of myself and the committee, to wish everyone a

Merry Christmas and happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

—oo—

## Cliff's Christmas Crackers

*Stan's wife had been dropping hints all weekend for him to tell her what he was buying for her Christmas present.*

*Eventually he relented and said.*

*"It was supposed to be a surprise, but do you remember that pink Mercedes that you saw in the car showroom and liked so much?"*

*Hi wife could not believe her luck and, with a big grin on her face said "Yes I remember it was absolutely gorgeous"*

*Stan said.*

*"Well, I have got you a toothbrush in exactly the same colour"*

*Stan's wife asked him what he was doing on the computer that took so long.*

*He told her he was looking for cheap flights.*

*"Oh, I love you!" she said, and then she got all excited, and hugged and kissed him.*

*This seemed odd to Stan because she's never shown an interest in darts before.*



## **Annual General Meeting Report: (summary of elections and decisions)**

The AGM took place on 20th November 2016 and since the meeting met the quorum requirements, an Extraordinary meeting was not required.

The current officers were re-elected and the committee was elected as follows:

Chair: Cliff Lane

Secretary: John Hooper

Treasurer: Les Saunby

Vice Chair: Wolfgang Schulze-Zachau

Programme and Events: Malcolm Thorpe

Equipment: Steve Simmons

Membership: Helen Lees.

Publicity: *Vacant*

Peter Timms and Ken Beresford both stepped down from the committee, and the members thanked them for their many years of committee work.

Officers and committee members reports were received which variously highlighted the activities, issues and events during 2016 and looked forward into 2017 for our demonstrator programme and aspects of the clubs activities and outside events.

Subscriptions are to maintained at 2016 levels, and the annual payment discount scheme is to be continued.

Contingency plans are to be formulated in respect of the impact of HS2 and other more local factors which may affect us in the future.

WMWT will remain an affiliated club to AWGB, and there are a few insurance related issues to be resolved.

The next AGM is on 19th November 2017.

## **STOP PRESS:**

Axminster have announced that the discount scheme for equipment will reduce to 5% from 1st January 2017. If you want to order at the current discount levels, contact Les and place your order before the end of the year.

(Is this a Brexit effect?)

—————oOo—————

## **Hands On day report:**

Our last HOD on open hollow forms was technically probably the most challenging that we have tackled for some time. Thanks to everyone who brought in their own hollowing tools.

When you see all these variants in one place you get an idea how much head scratching and invention tool makers have invested in the subject over the years, and I question whether anyone has found the ideal answer yet! It was interesting for me to look at one tool maker, Woodcut for example, and see how much their designs have evolved over time. More practically, it was great to see - again - so many of our members of all levels of experience roll their sleeves up and have a go with tools they have never touched before. Well done!

Working a decent hollow form to completion is usually a time consuming task so I'm not sure we saw that many finished pieces on the day but we'll be watching the display table over the coming months for the fruits of our labour.

I must also thank the members who brought in their own equipment for general use and acknowledge the demonstration and hands on guidance that takes place both on our theme-of-the-day projects and general turning techniques.

Phil Stevenson

## Chairman's Challenge Results November

### Novice Group: Apple (2 entries)

1st place: Paul Brown



2nd place: Darren Smith



3rd place:

No entry

### Intermediate Group: Apple and Pear (5 entries)

1st place: Brian Bateman



2nd place: Kris Cietak



3rd place: Rob Huxley



### Advanced Group: Small Hollow Form with Open Twist (4 entries)

1st place: Don Lawrence



2nd place: Tim Davies



3rd place: Malcolm Thorpe



### Chairman's Challenge for 2017

The list of projects for the Chairman's Challenge is given in advance in order to provide Greater preparation time and encourage more members to participate. All of the projects have been selected to help build your skills month by month. If you have any questions please feel free to ask me at meetings or phone me at home. Enjoy your turning and I look forward to seeing your input each month.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Novice Group</b>	<b>Intermediate Group</b>	<b>Advanced Group</b>
<i>January</i>	Bud Vase	Open Neck Vase	Box with decorated lid
<i>February</i>	Miniature Birdhouse	Egg and Cup	Any piece turned thin and pierced
<i>March</i>	Plain Bowl	Lidded box	Bowl with wide decorated rim
<i>April</i>	Mushroom	Pomander	Goblet with square rim and a lid with finial
<i>May</i>	Lidded Box	Bowl, cut and reconstructed	Small segmented hollow form. See Sue Harker Demo report June 2012
<i>June</i>	Spinning Top	Platter with decorated rim	Oriental style box. See Steve Heeley Demo report August 2016
<i>July</i>	Babies Rattle	Goblet with twist or spiral stem	Splash bowl
<i>August</i>	Acorn	Natural edge bowl	Manta-Ray bowl
<i>September</i>	Xmas Tree Decoration Snowman	Xmas tree decoration - free choice	Inside out Christmas Ornament. See Sue Harker Demo report October 2016
<i>October</i>	2 Flowers	Off centre candlestick; See Report on Simon Hope Demo, May 2016	Small Hat. See report on Andrew Hall Demo, March 2016
<i>November</i>	Candle Stick	Discus bowl	Bowl with 4 different types of Fruit ( cherries and grapes count as 1 piece)
<i>December</i>	No Competition	No Competition	No Competition

## Display Table November:

The individual items on the display table can be seen on the clubs website, together with the identity of the turner and other details.



## Diary of a Woodturner - Not a WMWT member (Or is it?)

**January:** Start of a new year and I have promised myself that I will enter a piece in the Chairman's Challenge every month this year. The cold weather stopped me getting into the workshop this month but I am still determined to enter the Chairman's Challenge from next month.

**February:** Too cold to be in workshop, the lathe and tools were freezing to touch. You would have to be mad to spend more than two minutes in there. I must look for a heater the next time I am in B&Q.

**March:** I did manage to get a couple of days in the workshop this month. Cleaned the rust off the lathe, tidied up the tool rack, sorted out my stock of blanks and had a general clean up. I didn't get any turning done as it seemed a shame to make a mess after all that work cleaning up.

**April:** The lady next door had asked me in February if I could make her a new light pull for the bathroom. Did get half a day in workshop this month and managed a reasonable light pull after only three attempts. Took it next door and neighbour was pleased and insisted on paying me, so I asked her for £1.50. I wonder if I should think about turning professional.

**May:** Did not get chance to do any turning this month. Spent a day at Woodworks and brought couple of bowl blanks, so can't wait to get into the workshop and see what I can make with them.

**June:** Did not manage to get into workshop this month as there was lots to do tidying up the garden ready for the summer, it was a pity because I really fancied getting some turning done.

**July :** Did not get any turning done this month as the weather was too hot. Also been really busy month with appointments with Doctor, Chiropodist, Optician, and my Hospital appointment.

**August:** I had a good couple of days in the workshop. I did my piece for the Chairman's Challenge for this month and next. I also made several pieces to donate to club for the sales table Then I woke up and realised that it had all been a dream.

I am refreshed from my two weeks holiday. I am now raring to go and planning to spend every spare minute on my lathe for the rest of the year.

**September:** I had half day free this month so had chance to spend some time in the workshop. I could not decide what to make because all of my blanks seemed to be the wrong size, so I decided to go in the house and have a tea break while I thought about what I could do. I don't know where the time went and I must have shut my eyes for a few minutes because when I looked at the clock it was 4.30 and I remembered that I had promised to pick up my wife from the hairdressers and I was now late.

**October :** I was really looking forward to turning my piece for this months Chairman's Challenge, but I had to give up on the idea because I have dislocated my shoulder playing squash.

I should be ok in time for next months challenge, and, if not, definitely the month after.

**November:** Too cold and wet to get in the workshop this month, I wish I hadn't put off buying that heater when I thought about it in February.

I spent an enjoyable day at Harrogate Show and treated myself to a new spindle gouge.

Tried my new gouge at the club Hands – On. There must be fault with the gouge because I tried and tried but could not get a decent cut with it. I asked one of the more experienced member to give it a try and he said the tool was fine and it must be me not getting enough practice. I didn't say anything but the man is a fool because everyone that knows me will tell you that I spend loads of time on my lathe so the last thing I need is more practice.

**December:** Did not get into workshop this month, the weather in December is really miserable and it gets dark so early in the day.

I am really looking forward to the New Year and I have picked up lots of ideas for things to turn from watching YouTube.

I will definitely enter a piece in the Chairman's Challenge every month next year.

## Hollowing tool

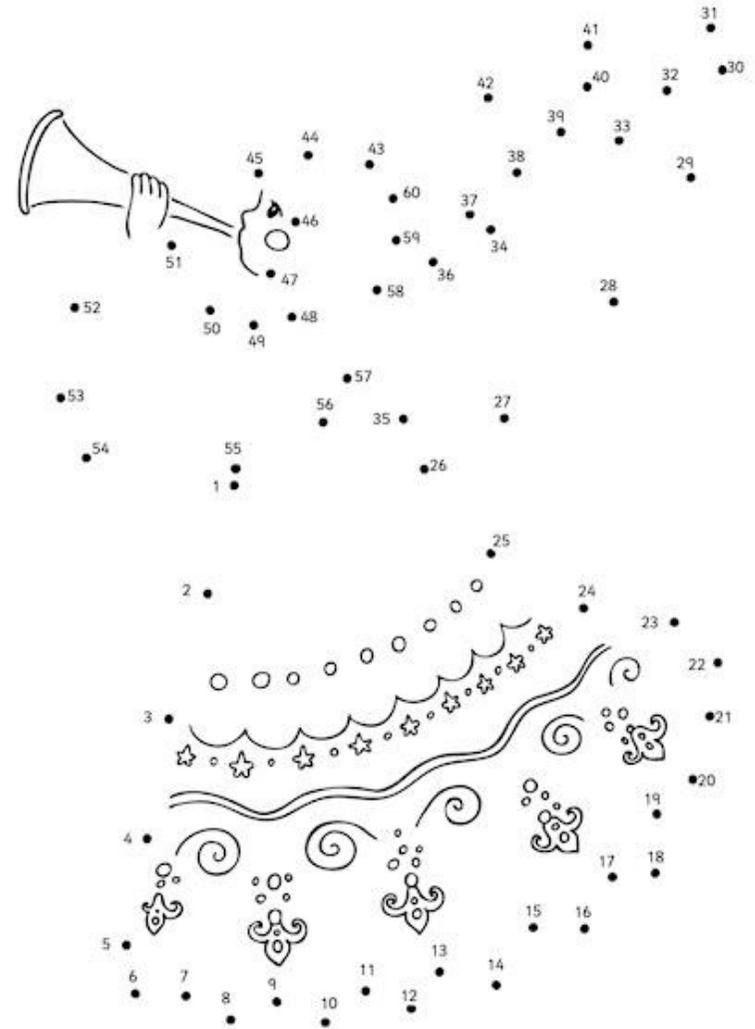
Many people had the chance to try out the home-made hollowing tool which I, Tom Badger and others have made. It consists of a machined steel bar with a circular polished carbide tip mounted on it at a fixed 45 degree angle.

The tool has proved extremely effective at cutting endgrain and is very easy to use (I hesitate to say completely idiot-proof!) We were asked by a number of people if we could make some tools up for club members so we have done just that. Please note that sale of these bits are not done under the official umbrella of West Midlands Woodturners (legal liability and all that stuff) but as a kind of favour among friends.

I will however be making a donation to club funds for each tool sold. The tool will come unhandled so you will need to do some simple turning to get it ready for use. You will get the steel bar, 8mm carbide cutting tip, special mounting screw and a torx bit to fit the screw.

There will only be a limited number of these tools made and I hope to be able to bring them to the next club meeting on 11th December. If you want to reserve one contact Phil Stevenson at [phil@stvnso.co.uk](mailto:phil@stvnso.co.uk) Price will be £17 including a contribution to club funds.

## Christmas “Dot to Dot” and colouring in competition.



© www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Activity  
village