



# West Midlands Woodturners

## Wood Turning and Wood Art

### June 2023 Newsletter

#### Programme of meetings 2023

25 June	Demo	<b>Mick Hanbury</b>
16 July	Hands On	Work holding and jam chucks
20 Aug	Demo	<b>Martin Saban-Smith</b>
17 Oct	Hands On	Christmas ornaments
15 Oct	Demo	Margaret Garrard
19 Nov	AGM and Hands On	Colour and stains
17 Dec	Demo	Rob Till



**Demonstration Days:** Start at 9.15 and conclude about 4.30pm

**Hands-on days** start at 9.30 and conclude around 4pm.

Venue: Kingsbury Sports and Community Centre, unless otherwise stated

West Midlands Woodturners is a "not for profit" company limited by guarantee.

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# WMWT Committee

Chairman	Keith Lanchester	Chair@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Vice Chair	Vacant	Vice@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Directors	John Hooper Chris Jones Rob Huxley	director@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Secretary Deputy Secretary	Joe Rollings Peter Flint	Secretary@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Treasurer	Chris Jones	Treasurer@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Deputy Treasurer	vacant	
Programme and Events Manager	Cliff Lane	Events@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Equipment Man- ager	Malcolm Ed- wards	Equipment@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Membership Sec- retary	David Campbell	Member- ship@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Mary Dunne	Editor@wmwoodturners.org.uk

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## **Chairman's Comments:**

I have to start off this month by saying congratulations to everyone who was involved with the club's attendance at Daventry! From those who organised the stand to those who took part in the competitions and all in between, a huge 'Thank You' for keeping the name of WMWT well and truly in the frame.

Then on to our Hands On day and the Bring & Buy sale, another good day with many new members trying out different skills on the lathes and members trading unwanted items.

In June the club will be at Packwood House NT on Saturday the 3rd and Sunday the 4th then at New Hall Mill on Sunday the 18th (Fathers Day) so if you are near either of these venues please pop by and say Hello.

And finally our June meeting demonstrator is Mick Hanbury who is another turner whom I have known for over twenty years and has given very good demonstrations in the past so here's looking forward to another good day.

Keith

### **Outside Events 2023**

18th June New Hall Mill

6th August New Hall Mill

28th August New Hall Mill (Bank Holiday Monday)

Also Phil Stevenson and other club members will be demonstrating at Packwood House on 3rd and 4th June. Be aware that on the Sunday, the 4th, there is a fun run at Dorrige and surrounding roads will be closed from 9am until 12.

## **Important reminders**

### **DEPUTY TREASURER**

**Another reminder that Chris Jones's term of office finishes in October and that the club cannot function without a treasurer. Chris advises that it does not involve a great deal of work and it would be very beneficial if someone volunteers now as deputy treasurer so that they can learn what needs to be done as they work alongside Chris. Please contact Chris for details.**

### **PROGRAMME MANAGER**

In addition, Cliff would like someone to replace him as Programme Manager, which involves co-ordinating the themes for the Hands-On days and booking demonstrators for the year ahead. He has all the contact details to pass on.

### **PICK-A-PEG**

A reminder that items are always needed for outdoor events. We have plenty of light pulls at present but items such as mice, mushrooms, hedgehogs, bud vases for example are always welcome.

### **VISITORS**

Club members are reminded that it has been agreed that any visitors to the club have to pay £5 for a hands-on day and £15 for a demonstration. This is refunded against their fees if they subsequently join the club. Some members have been telling visitors that their first two visits are free. This is no longer the case.

## Decisions about newsletter

Do you read the newsletter? If you are reading this, then the answer is obviously “yes”. If you are not reading it, then you won’t know that you have been asked the question!

As a club, we need to consider the future of the newsletter:

- Is it useful?
- Should we have one at all?
- Should it continue to come out as an email to members?
- Should it only be available on the website?
- Should it be on the website as well as sent out by email?
- Should the newsletter just consist of a report on the demonstration/ Hands-On day as appropriate—as all other information is on the website?
- If it is put onto the website—which is open to the public—do we want all the information in it to be public or should the newsletter be in a members-only section?
- In which case, who will be responsible for maintaining a members-only section?

The committee would like members to consider these questions and make some response. This could be by email to Mary at [mdunne103@gmail.com](mailto:mdunne103@gmail.com) or in person at the next meeting.

## NEW/INEXPERIENCED MEMBERS

All club members are reminded that if you are helping a new turner on the lathe on hands-on days, they should not be left on their own on the lathe. If a break is needed, then stop the session or ask another experienced member to help supervise.



## JULY MEETING

Steve Heeley, a local woodturner who has visited the club on a number of occasions, will be joining us for the Hands-On day in July. He is offering some coaching on specific issues that members have, eg using the skew, texturing, turning beads and coves. Members who wish to have a slot of about 30/35 minutes with him will need to sign up at the June meeting so that Steve can be informed in advance of what issues he is looking at. (Let Cliff or Mary know if you can’t attend in June but would like a slot). If two or three members wish to explore the same issue, then a joint 40 minute slot could be allocated. It will depend on numbers. The issue will have to be something that can reasonably be dealt with in a 30 minute slot and be something that Steve feels he can tackle.

## Daventry

The club had a very successful two days at Daventry. We gained: First Place for Best Overall Stand, which exhibited a wide range of over 50 pieces from a variety of club members and was very well-laid out; second place in the competition to produce a darning mushroom (Congratulations to Malcolm Thorpe) and second place overall out of the clubs competing. The Village Turners, who are based in Peterborough, came first overall by quite a large margin. Phil Stevenson represented the club in the Platter competition and Keith Lanchester and Joe Rollings took on the pair of candlesticks competition. Congratulations to everyone involved.



Phil entertained himself and the visitors turning finials as a warm-up for the competition platter on the Sunday.



The AWGB had a stall exhibiting items including a set of “glasses” by Ted Gill.



As well as the club stands, there were trade stalls selling wood and tools as well as demonstrations of turning by Rob Till , Emma Cook and Steve Heeley and a number of people demonstrating various approaches to decoration and selling the relevant paints.

Although there is no longer a café at the Leisure Centre, which left Cliff without lunch, Daventry Women’s Institute sold drinks and a variety of tasty cakes.

Thanks to Sarah Norell for the photographs from Saturday.

## WMWT Chairman's Challenge 2023

Month

Novice

Intermediate

Advanced (artistic)

June

Spinning top

Ring stand

Toy with moving parts



July

Goblet—100mm maximum height

Decorative goblet—150mm maximum height

Drinking vessel for a party



## Results of Chairman's Challenge May 2023

Novice Group: a bowl 100mm in diameter (2 entries)

1st place: Sarah Norell



2nd place: Peter Flint



3rd place: xxx



Intermediate group: A 150mm bowl with incised decoration (2 entries)

1st place: Steve Jones



2nd place: Chris Chambers



3rd place: xxx



Advanced group: A bowl with decoration (3 entries)

1st place: Kris Cietak



2nd place: Keith Lanchester



3rd place: Graham Hunt



MAY DISPLAY TABLE



Brian Goodall



Brian Goodall



Steve Jones



Peter Hockley



Dave Nash



Dave Nash



Dave Nash



Dave Hobbs



MAY DISPLAY TABLE



Malcolm Edwards



Rob Marlow



Malcolm Thorpe



Malcolm Thorpe



Malcolm Thorpe



Phil Stevenson

## Report on the May meeting: The Mystery of Thread-Chasing

The May meeting started with a successful Bring and Buy. Club members laid out their pre-loved items and milled about happily, soon beginning trading in wood, tools, books and assorted equipment.



Then the plot thickened! The theme for the Hands-On day was “Box-making and Thread-Chasing”. At least two of us had borrowed or unearthed thread-chasers from their pile of hardly-used tools and at least one of us had prepared a couple of box carcasses with the appropriate tenons. Alas..... What was transpiring? In one corner of the hall: a lathe and an operator turn-

ing bud vases. In another corner, a lathe and an operator preparing to turn a box. In a third corner, a lathe and an operator preparing to turn another box. And in the fourth corner, a lathe where the operator was preparing to initiate a beginner into the joys of the spindle roughing gouge.

So where was the thread-chasing, you might ask? I-Spy a man who had previously shown an interest in thread-chasing - indeed had created his own steady from a coach bolt to assist. He expresses disappointment that no-one seems to be demonstrating the thread-chasing that he has so been looking forward to. We go on the hunt together (spot the pun!) Perhaps the box-making was a prelude to later turning a thread? “Oh no, life is too short to master thread-turning. I tried it once and I didn’t like it. Try Duncan\* (\*real names protected).” We ask Duncan . “Oh no. I know in theory how to do it but I have never been successful. Try Bernard.” We track down Bernard. Alas. The same answer with the variation of “Try Alistair”. To cut a long thread short, we eventually trap a likely candidate in the kitchen. “Ah....I know how to do it in theory but I was hoping that someone would show *me*.” Cue in a hero.... “I know how to thread chase. You....” followed by an explanation. Great. Come onto a lathe and show us. “Well....” but at least he agreed. He was saved from the actuality by one of the earlier refuseniks changing his mind and we formed an orderly queue to try to turn a thread. They were all correct! It was very challenging. A thread was begun. We took our turns to extend it. A thread was ripped out. A thread was formed. A thread was shredded. A thread was formed. A thread was..... You must picture the scene by now.

Enter another thread-chasing hero, one who has never been seen on a lathe at club but who produces amazing pieces in the privacy of his workshop. What brought him into the spotlight? I suspect that it was seeing our inept thread-stripping! Patiently, he demonstrated a near perfect thread, emphasising the position for approach, the lightness of cut, the need for a low speed; how to engage the second tooth of the tool with the emerging thread in order to grab the tool and deepen the thread.

The rest of the session passed in him cutting threads that would screw together followed by we learners systematically stripping them as we largely failed to master the technique. Understanding the theory did not lead to mastery. We were advised to lock ourselves in a workshop for a week and practise, practise, practise.

The reluctance of even the more expert turners at the start of the session now made sense—but we enjoyed ourselves. We discussed alternative ways of introducing a threaded section to a turning: cutting the top off a milk bottle; using a toothpaste cap; using the 3D printed screwed rings that Phil introduced us to; using a tap and die.

Meanwhile, around the room, other club members were producing lovely little boxes with tight-fitting lids and not a thread in sight!



## How to make the Daventry Darning Mushroom By Malcolm Thorpe

### Materials:

Head – Beech Block 65mm Sq by 30mm

Handle – Beech 30mm dowel by 85mm long.

Plug - Hardwood 30mm Sq by 50 mm long

### Tools

16mm Forstner bit

8 mm twist drill

### Method

1. Mount the head between centres (1), ideally a 'Steb' centre and ring running centre. Turn the square down to 62 mm and add a chucking point(2).
2. Mount the head in a scroll chuck and turn the face flat. Then drill a 16 mm hole 12mm deep (3). Radius the corner and cut a shallow cove on the face leaving a small flat area in the centre. Sand to 400 grit and polish (4).
3. Mount a scrap piece in the chuck. Make a 16mm jamb chuck (5). Fit the head on the jamb chuck, with the tailstock for extra support (6). Turn the head to a smooth dome 25mm wide. Remove the tailstock for the final shaping and sand and polish (7).
4. Mount the handle in the chuck. Turn and polish the end smooth and flat, then drill 8 mm 50 mm deep (8).
5. Mount the hardwood square in the chuck and turn to 25 mm diameter for at least 30 mm. Turn an 8mm jamb chuck 10 mm long keeping the shoulder flat and keeping a good fit so it can be used as plug (9).
6. Assemble the handle on the jamb chuck with the tailstock for support (10). Turn the handle down to 25 mm and add a 16mm spigot 10 mm long to fit the head. Add some grooves to hold glue. Chamfer the shoulder and profile the handle from 23mm down to 15 mm as photo 11. Decorate the hardwood plug with two burn line and partially part off the plug. Sand and polish.



7. Part off the handle and either finish the plug by hand or make a jamb chuck and turn and polish the end (12). Glue the handle to the head.



## **Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter, particularly Chris Chambers for the photographs of the Chairman's Challenge, Sarah Norell for the photographs from Daventry, Keith for his Chairman's Report, Malcolm Thorpe for his article on how to turn a darning mushroom and Brian Goodall for distributing it.