



West Midlands Woodturners

Wood Turning and Wood Art

February 2024 Newsletter

Programme of meetings 2024

February 18th	Demo: Richard Findley
March 17th	Hands-on: Natural edge bowl
April 21st	Demo: Emma Cook
May 19th	Hands-on: Turning fruit
June 23rd	Demo: Bryan Milham
July 21st	Hands-on: Barley twist—marking out and cutting
August 18th	Demo: Jason Breach
September 15th	Hands-on: Turning finials
October 20th	Demo: Darren Breeze
November 17th	AGM; Hands-on: Using a Buffing system
December 15th	Demo: Steve Heeley

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

What do weary woodturners do in the winter? Read woodturning magazines and eat biscuits!



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

Registered in England and Wales. Registration No: 9419165

WMWT Committee

Contents

Page No

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	Chris Jones Peter Flint	Secretary@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Chris Chambers- Sarah Norell	Treasurer@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Programme and Events Manager	Malcolm Thorpe	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

3	Chairman’s Comments; Pick-a-Peg; dates for outside events
4	Chairman’s Challenges for February and March
5	Chairman’s Challenge results January 2024
6	January 2024 display table
7– 9	Report from Hands-On day January 2024
9	Acknowledgements

Important reminders

Chairman's Comments:

January's meeting was a hands on day with the theme of inverted turning and we had two lathes demonstrating subtly different versions of this theme along with one lathe being used for some basic tuition and the fourth lathe allocated to Steve Heeley who once again did a fantastic job of offering one-to-one tuition to several club members as well as a group session on sharpening after lunch. Thank you Steve for once again coming along and offering your services.

We also had a lady bring her late husbands tools and wood for sale and I am informed she raised the princely sum of £480 which she plans on donating to charity so thank you to everyone who bought something and I hope you all got a bargain, I certainly did with my purchase!

Next months demonstrator is Richard Findley who was last here two years ago and has recently featured on the cover of Woodturning magazine so this demo promises to be a great day once again.

See you all on the 18th,
Keith.

Outside Events 2024

June 9th New Hall Mill

August 4th New Hall Mill

August 26th New Hall Mill (Bank Holiday Monday)

Volunteers to help on the stall are very welcome! Please see Keith.

Pick-A-Peg

Practise your turning on items for the PICK-A-PEG. A volunteer—or several—are needed to take over the PICK-A-PEG. It raises significant money for club funds. Talk to Cliff about what it entails.

A message from Malcolm Edwards re Keith Lanchester

“Please accept from myself and on behalf of WMWT membership my sincere gratitude for the wonderful job of adapting the wheel kits to the lathe stands.

The lathes are much easier to move, without the risk of damaging the newly refurbished floor.

Thank you again and kindest regards.”

WMWT Chairman's Challenge February and March

February 18th

Basic

Tea Light Holder



Intermediate

Candlestick



Advanced/Artistic

Pair of Decorative Candlesticks (Identical)



March 17th

Bowl 100 - 150 mm Diameter



Platter with decorated rim 150 -200 mm Diameter



Bowl: Cut and Reconstructed

Picture in next month's newsletter when I can find one! Any suggestions?

Results of Chairman's Challenge January 2024

Novice Group: A bird (4 entries)

1st place: Stuart Tresadern



Joint 2nd place: Rob Marlow and Alan Underwood



Intermediate group: A hedgehog (0 entries)

1st place: xxx



2nd place: xxx



3rd place: xxx



Advanced/Artistic group: Animated animal with moving parts (1 entry)

1st place: Keith Lanchester



2nd place: xxx



3rd place: xxx



JANUARY DISPLAY TABLE



Peter Hockley



Peter Hockley



Paul Greensmith



Malcolm Edwards



Malcolm Edwards



Rob Marlow



Rob Marlow

Hands-On day January 2024; Involved Turning (or in Keith-world “Inverted Turning”)

Alongside demonstrations, and practice, of involuted/inverted turning, the day offered one to one help from professional Steve Heeley who helped half a dozen members during the day with individual aspects of turning with which they were struggling. Having failed to produce a hedgehog that looked anything like a hedgehog for the intermediate Chairman’s Challenge, I asked Steve if he could help me to achieve the correct hedgehog shape. After an initial groan about “bloody Cliff and his bloody hedgehog obsession”, Steve showed me that my main error had been in not turning the snout section off-centre and in trying to get the main shape before turning the snout section. Obvious when you know how! This means that I should now be turning some hedgehogs for the Pick-A-Peg! Maybe hedgehogs were a general issue as there were no entries for the intermediate section this month.



Those (about 6 members) who took up the opportunity to work with Steve said that they had greatly benefitted.

In the afternoon, Steve led a session on sharpening which was attended by more than a dozen members and this is clearly a key area of concern for members. The committee have discussed introducing more guidance for members about effective sharpening - more information to follow.



In addition to these activities, a woman whose husband sadly passed away recently, brought to the session a number of his old tools, blanks and information about larger equipment. These were eagerly snapped up by members and earned £480 with which the family were very pleased.



Meanwhile, there was some help taking place on one lathe in relation to newer turners improving their basic techniques, particularly with trying to improve their use of the skew.



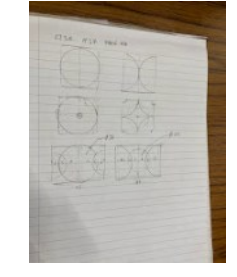
On the two remaining lathes, Keith was demonstrating and guiding members in turning some small, inverted decorations in acrylic, using the same basic principles as Malcolm was introducing in the other corner, but this time in wood.

Keith showed a selection of small acrylic decorations that he had made using a kit from Axminster with the inverted acrylic body turned around a brass tube and with brass finials. He exhibited the principles using four wooden blocks joined with a paper/glue joint for turning a curve on the outside. The four blocks are carefully marked so that the grain pattern and fit are consistent. When the outside curves (which become the inside curves by inverting the blocks in the correct order) have been completed, the glue joint is knocked apart and the four pieces reglued with a permanent joint so that what has become the outside can be shaped.



The acrylic decoration proceeded in the same way, with the four blocks being lightly glued, a hole created in the ends for the barrel which then supported the piece on the lathe. The curves were created using a 6mm carbide round cutter which I and other members had not thought about as a tool for such a purpose, seeing it only as a hollowing tool - but as Keith demonstrated, it worked well in this function on acrylic. The four pieces were then separated, reglued and the external shaping carried out, before going through the grits and polishing pads, finishing with burnish-

ing cream.



Keith shared the detailed drawings he makes to ensure that the curves are accurate and consistent.

In the opposite corner, Malcolm demonstrated and supervised three of us having a go at producing an involuted/inverted ornament in wood. However, he showed us a jig he had made which removes the need to glue up twice. Stage 1 of the shaping (ie the inside curves) is done by supporting the four blocks within squared jigs held on a tenon in the headstock end and supported by the tailstock. Having shaped the inside curves, these were coloured with gilt cream rubbed carefully onto the curves only.



The four pieces were then removed from the jig and the ends marked for realignment. The pieces were glued and clamped ready for stage 2 — shaping the outside of the piece. Malcolm gave advice about aiming for a consistent thickness along the curves and how to shape the top and bottom of the piece. A hole can be drilled through the bottom of the piece to accept a finial which sits within the centre for added effect.



Acknowledgements

Thanks to Sarah for the photos and Malcolm, Keith and anyone else who helped on the lathes.

The three of us who undertook the attempt were pleased with what we had learned and were encouraged to try for ourselves at home, although one piece turned into a pair of tulips in the endeavour to go as thin as possib..... oops! Too far! Still, the principles were understood. Many thanks to Steve, Malcolm, Keith and the other participants who helped to produce an informative and entertaining club day. I would encourage other members to “have a go” on hands-on days. The experienced turners are very supportive and although it can seem daunting to try out techniques with a crowd watching, you soon get used to it and mistakes are part of the learning process. And anybody mocking won't get any biscuits!