



West Midlands Woodturners

Wood Turning and Wood Art

July 2024 Newsletter

Programme of meetings 2024

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

“Your mission, Jim (Malcolms, Keith, Darren, Johns, K/ Chries, Grahams, Alans, Daves, Brians, Peters, Cliffs etc etc) should you choose to accept it.....

A little bit of fun on the lathe.



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

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Important reminders

Chairman's Comments:

Our demonstrator for the June meeting was Bryan Milham and he gave us a full day's demo incorporating many techniques and useful tips. At first the demo seemed slightly disjointed as Bryan started several pieces then put them aside to dry but all became clear as the day progressed. All in all a fantastic day's demo so a big thank you to Bryan.

June also saw our first outing of the year to New Hall Water Mill in Sutton Coldfield and we had a great day there with two lathes in use, one for club members to make items as a demo and John on the other letting members of the public have a go at Woodturning. The Mill had over a thousand visitors in the day so it seemed busy on our stand all day long. Thanks to everyone who came along to help and support us. The next open days we will be attending are the two in August, Sunday 4th and Bank Holiday Monday 26th. If you haven't been to 'The Mill' before then it really is worth dropping in to see us on those dates.

July's Hands On theme is Barley twists so come along prepared with some ideas and we'll see what we can do to help show you how to lay the twists out and cut them.

Also don't forget July's Chairmans Challenge is now a Mushroom, Penguin or Hat so look on the website for details.

That's all for now folks, see you on the 21st.

Outside Events 2024

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. Helpers are needed for the PICK-A-PEG, particularly on 4th and 26th August at New Hall Mill. It raises significant money for club funds.

“Ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club...” ie TURN ONE (or more) items for the Pick-a-Peg stall.

We need: MICE, HEDGEHOGS, PIGS, SHEEP, SPINNING TOPS, FRUIT,



WMWT Chairman's Challenge July and August

Basic

Intermediate

Advanced/Artistic

Mushroom

Penguin

Cowboy or Top Hat min 100mm in diameter

July 21st



Kitchen roll holder

Thin turned and pierced piece

Wall plaque decorated and coloured

August 18th



Results of Chairman's Challenge June 2024

Novice Group: A weed pot

1st place: Rob Marlow



2nd place: Alan Underwood



3rd place: Rick Nelson



Intermediate group: Vase with decorated and/or textured rim

Joint 1st place: Malcolm Edwards and Mary Dunne

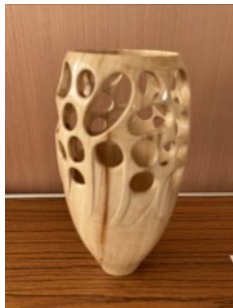


3rd place: xxx

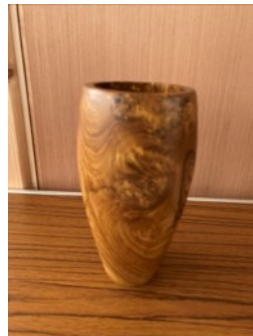


Advanced/Artistic group: Hollow form min 150mm in height

1st place: Darren Smith



2nd place: Keith Lanchester



3rd place: Graham Hunt



JUNE DISPLAY TABLE



John Hooper



John Hooper



Mary Dunne



Mary Dunne



Malcolm Edwards



Malcolm Edwards



Malcolm Thorpe



Peter Hockley

JUNE DISPLAY TABLE



Peter Hockley



Peter Hockley



Alan Underwood

Report on June demonstration by Bryan Millham

Bryan produced eight different items during the day, though concentrating on decorative techniques. He started the demonstration with some points about the benefits of the AWGB, of which he is secretary. He gave some safety points about using respirators and face protection as well as recommending steel toecaps in the workshop. He pointed out that what would be illegal in the workplace, turners do for a hobby every day!

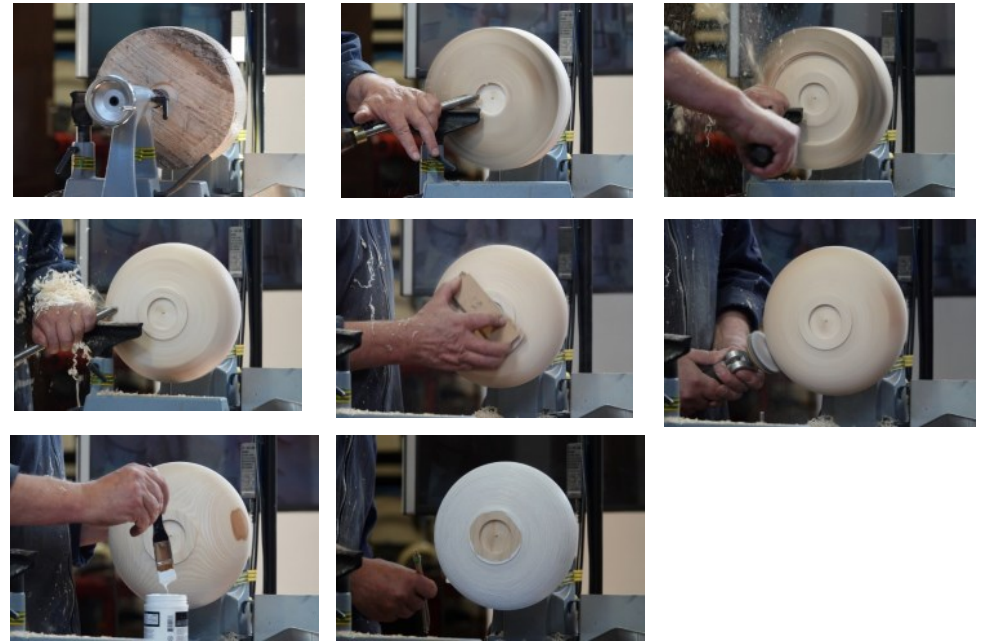
Project 1—texturing and colouring the underside of a bowl

For this he turned the underside of a 10 inch bowl; the underside was to be decorated with texture and colour.

Whilst forming the underside, he revised some key points—A (anchor the tool on the rest), B (engage the bevel), C (lift to make the cut) and D (direction of cut). He emphasised that it is the body that should move whilst making the cut while the chisel remains anchored to the body. He uses his finger against the tool rest to control the depth of cut. He talked about the design of bowls with information about types of what are generally known as ogees but are in fact “cymos”. He illustrated two types of curves - one based on two round circles and one based on ellipses/ovals or “stretched” circles. He made the point that beginning turners often struggle when the piece they are attempting is too big for their skills, or the tools are not sharp enough or there is insufficient attention to appropriate design.

Whilst shaping the underside of the bowl, after forming a recess so that the piece could be fitted in the chuck later, he drew attention to the types of cuts he was making, using crayon or chalk to highlight any defects emerging so that he could return to them. Having created a flat around the recess for

the bowl to sit on, he used a piece of hook-and-loop attached to a wooden block so that this would be sanded flat before using an inertia sander of the outside of the bowl.



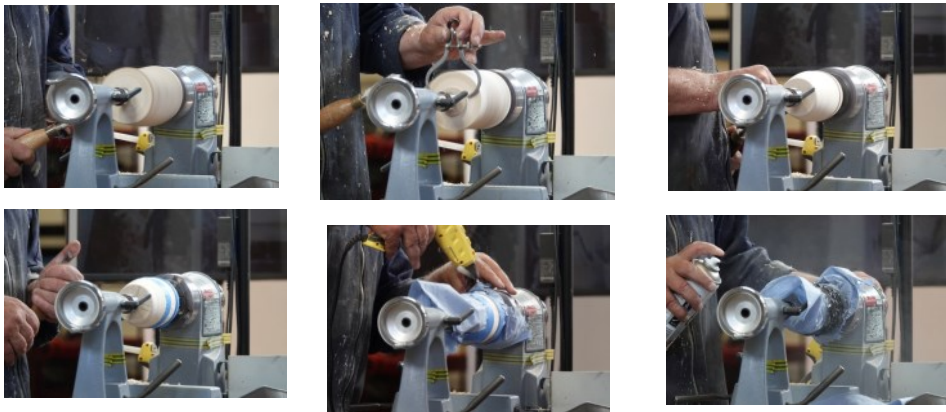
Then he applied white gesso in a thick layer to the underside, before texturing it with a bunch of wooden skewers taped together and dragged over the surface with the lathe turning slowly (or a dog comb could be used). He left this to dry for about 20—30 minutes.

He used a mouth atomizer with blue and red spirit stains to blow sections of colour onto the underside of the bowl in loose stripes so that they overlapped. When this was dry, he cut it back with very fine abrasive. It could be finished with acrylic lacquer spray.



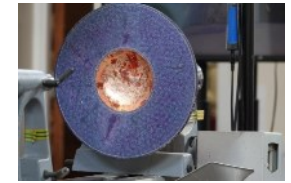
Project 2: decorating a vase using ebonising lacquer, hot melt glue and gilt cream.

For this project, Bryan turned an ash log between centres to round, removing all the bark before creating a tenon and mounting it in the chuck. He shaped the outside of the vase into a simple curve roughly the same diameter at the base and the top. In roughly the centre of the vase, he created a wide groove which he masked off thoroughly on either side. Next he applied random squiggles of glue into the groove using a hot melt gun creating raised, swirly patterns. Then he sprayed the glue/groove with ebonising lacquer (or could use black gesso). When this had dried, using his finger, he applied gilt cream/wax (he uses Peebo or Chestnut) to the upper surfaces of the squiggles of glue to highlight the contours. He made a V cut at the edges of the groove to ensure a sharp edge. He advised that when using hot melt glue for decoration like this, the trigger has to be pulled hard continually and making random squiggles is harder than it would seem. Rather than hollowing out the inside, he left the vase to be finished by a member of the club. He would finish by spraying with acrylic lacquer.



Project 3: Decorating the shallow centre of a wide-rimmed bowl with gold leaf

For this project, Bryan used a piece that he had previously made which had a decorated rim. He cleaned off the inside of the bowl before spraying it black and then applied a glue (size) all around the inside before applying flakes of gold leaf which he pressed onto the glue before burnishing it with his fingers with the lathe speed turned down. The piece would then require a covering of lacquer to embed the foil.



Project 4: Using air-dried clay

Bryan demonstrated a variety of materials that he uses to enhance his work, for example air dried clay which he uses as alternative box lids.



Materials used:

- Jo Sonja Artists Flow medium – <https://www.josonjas-ukshop.co.uk/products/flow-s-medium-237ml-bottles-js-3707>
- DAS Air Drying Modelling Clay – <https://www.hobbycraft.co.uk/das-white-air-drying-modelling-clay-1kg/5012811000.html>
- Aleene's Tacky glue – https://www.amazon.co.uk/cart/smart-wagon?newItems=b195c1a7-1fc4-4b51-a931-3e7d38fb4949,1&ref_=sw_refresh
- Gilding flakes – <https://craftyflair.co.uk/8-gilding-flakes>
- Gilt Cream – <https://chestnutproducts.co.uk/product/gilt-cream/>
- Spirit stains – <https://chestnutproducts.co.uk/product/spirit-stain-rainbow-colours/>
- White Gesso – <https://www.hobbycraft.co.uk/pebeo-studio-white-gesso-250ml/6281491000.html>
- Spray Diffuser – Mouth Atomizer – <https://www.pegasusart.co.uk/pegasus-art-supplies-spray-diffuser-mouth-atomizer.ir>

He makes patterns on them with leather punches. He showed a vase of wood but decorated with ceramic roses and leaves.



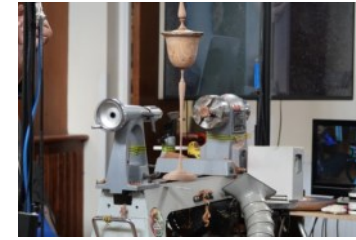
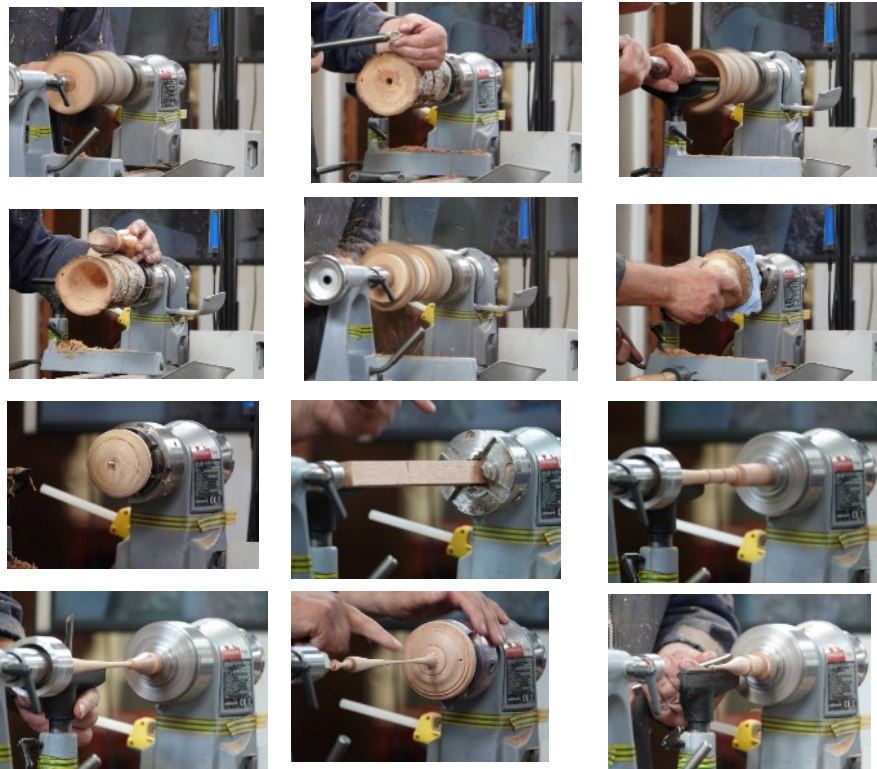
To decorate his turnings, he makes use of nail varnish, glass painting outliners, silicone chocolate/cake decorating moulds that can be filled with air dried clay which is then hardened and glued to the wood. Opposite is a list of the materials that he referred to during the demonstration and the suppliers. He discussed the differences between JoSonja paints and Chestnut paints. JoSonja paints use a white medium with coloured mica powders added, whereas Chestnut paints use an iridescent carrier with plain mica in it and then add acrylic colour.

Project 5: A natural-edged goblet with a lid, finial and long stem

Bryan took us through the process of making a natural-edged goblet but with focus on turning a very thin stem (at least, as long as the lathe would allow). Having rounded the log, he mounted it on a tenon and then marked out a portion for the lid, maintaining tailstock support. He used push cuts with a bowl gouge to ensure that the surfaces were even and adhered to the golden ratio for proportions. He drilled a hole with a large drill down the centre of the cup of the goblet to start off the hollowing. He discussed various kinds of hollowing tools, including a shielded ring tool and mentioned Rolly Munro as an innovator in hollowing tools. Bryan favours the Woodcut hollowing tools.

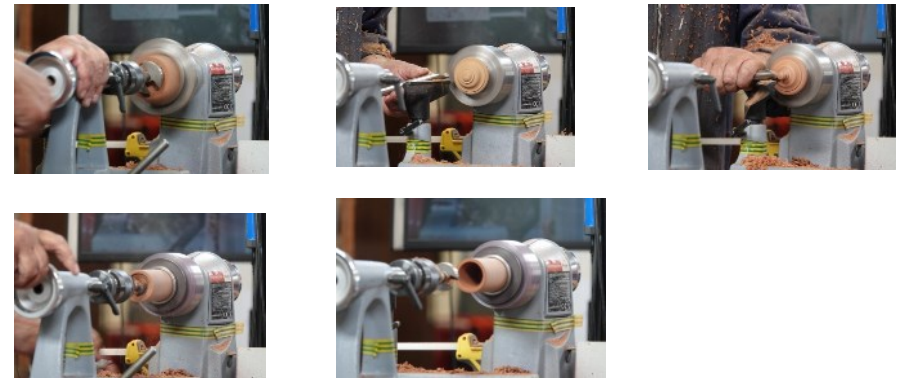
He shaped the lid, fitting it into a recess he had made in the cup and made a jam chuck to reverse the cup into to finish the outside of the bottom. Using a drill bit in a handle with a collet, he drilled a hole for the finial to fit into and for the stem. He left a flat on top of the lid so that the finial would sit flat.

Next he shaped the stem, using the skew to pare it down as thin as possible, supporting it as he went. He supported the block from which he made it with chucks at both ends to keep the stem under tension. He left a lump of timber at each end of the stem while he was turning it, for extra support. When he had finished all the sections, he stuck the bowl and the stem together, refining the shape at the end of the stem. He glued the stem into the base and fixed the finial into the cover.



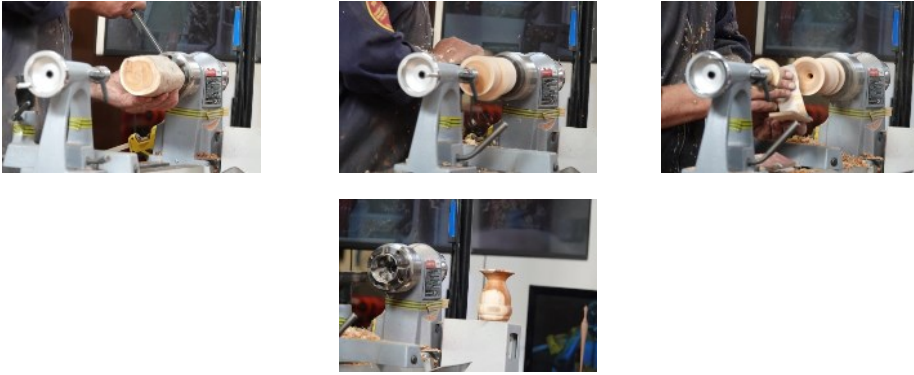
Project 6: hanging decoration incorporating a photograph

This was a small hanging piece, consisting of a hollow cylinder topped with a decorative lid and a shaped bottom piece which the cylinder sat between. He added a drop finial to the bottom piece. The photograph is printed onto Waterslide (de-cal) paper and lacquered before being fixed around the cylinder and sprayed with acrylic lacquer (for smaller items; Plasticote for larger ones).



Projects 7 and 8: A weed pot with flowers

Lastly Bryan demonstrated a weed pot with some “sunflowers” that he turned using the skew. Having mounted the blank between centres, he created a tenon and then shaped the outside of the weed pot before drilling a small hole in the top of it, sufficient to take several “stems”.



Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Keith for Chairman's Comments and John for the photographs.

The flowers were made by mounting a small circular piece of wood into the chuck and then using the skew to "slice" down into the end a number of times to create a frayed effect before spraying them using the mouth blower used in project one.



There was certainly a variety of pieces produced during the day with a number of ideas for decoration and information about products that could be used. The demonstration was well received by members and there seemed to be something on offer for everyone to take ideas from.