



# West Midlands Woodturners

## Wood Turning and Wood Art

### January 2025 Newsletter

#### Programme of meetings 2025

Date	Event
January 19th	Hands-On: Pen-making
February 16th	Demo: Richard Findley
March 16th	Hands-On: Spindle turning including Coves/Beads and Off-centre
April 27th	Demo: Rick Dobney
May 18th	Hands-On: Hollow Forms
June 22nd	Demo: Ian Ethell
July 20th	Hands-On: Bowls
August 17th	Demo: Paul Hannaby
September 21st	Hands-On: Texture and Colour
October 19th	Demo: Steve Gordon
November 16th	Hands-On: Gadgets and Gizmos and AGM
December 21st	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.

Registered in England and Wales. Registration No: 9419165

# WMWT Committee

Chairman	Keith Lanchester	Chair@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Vice Chair	John Outhwaite	Vice@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Directors	(John Hooper has resigned from November) Chris Jones Rob Huxley	director@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Secretary Deputy Secretary	Chris Jones Peter Flint	Secretary@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Treasurer Deputy Treasurer	Chris Chambers Vacant	Treasurer@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Programme and Events Manager	Malcolm Thorpe	Events@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Equipment Manager	Malcolm Edwards	Equipment@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Membership Secretary	David Campbell	Membership@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Mary Dunne	Editor@wmwoodturners.org.uk

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## Chairman's Comments:

It's still a week before Christmas as I type this but Mary has asked me to get my copy in early so she can have a well deserved break over Christmas and this is the least I can do to keep Mary happy :)

December's meeting saw a return of our old friend Steve Heeley and as always he put on a full day's demo and kept us entertained right to the end. We have asked Steve to join us for our Hands-On day in March when the subject is Spindle turning so if you need any help with your Skew or Spindle Gouge make sure to come along then and get some expert help.

And January's Hands-On is looking at Pen and Project Kit-making so once again if you need any help or want to pick up some valuable tips you know the score!

I'll finish this chat by saying I am going to the funeral of Bob Rimmer next Monday; it was sad news of his passing after a short illness.

Finally, may I wish you all a Happy New Year,  
Keith.

Editor: The best laid plans of mice and Mary defeated by technology. Time for a new laptop!

## A Further Message about Fees for 2025

A Happy New Year to you all and a quick thank you to everyone who has paid their membership fees for this coming year.

For those of you who haven't can I please remind you that, unless the committee is notified by 31st January that you no longer intend to remain a member of the club, your membership fees will still be due. The fees were agreed at the November AGM to remain the same at last year at £120 minus £10 for each completed and continuous year of membership up to a maximum of 5 years. Plus £24 for the AWGB membership.

Payment can be made by Credit Card, by Cheque (payable to WMWT), or by transfer to the Club's bank account, quoting your Initial and Surname as a reference.

The Bank Account details are:-

Account Name: West Midlands Woodturners

Sort Code 77 31 11

Account Number 28031960

I will be at the next meeting and can confirm what your fees are for the coming year or please email me and I can supply by return [treasurer@wmwoodturners.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@wmwoodturners.org.uk)

Kind regards

Chris Chambers (Honorary treasurer)

**Winners of the Club Awards for 2024: Congratulations to all!**

**Award for Club Member of the Year goes to....Cliff Lane**



**Winner of the Advanced/Artistic Chairman's Challenge Section goes to.... Keith Lanchester**



**Winner of the Intermediate Chairman's Challenge Section goes to..... Malcolm Edwards**



**Winner of the Novice/Basic Section goes to... Rob Marlow. Unfortunately he could not attend December's meeting.**

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## Chairman's Challenge 2025

	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced/Artistic
<b>January</b>	Mushroom	Acorn	Fruit
<b>February</b>	Ring Stand	Pill Box	Earring stand
<b>March</b>	Basic pen	Pen or similar item	2 Part Pen
<b>April</b>	Trinket pot	Box with lid	Box with Decorated Lid
<b>May</b>	Door Wedge	Ball and Cup Toy	Decorated Egg in Cup
<b>June</b>	Mouse	Penguin	Novelty Toy
<b>July</b>	Weed Pot	Open Neck Vase	Hollow Form min 150mm high
<b>August</b>	Tealight Holder	Candlestick	Identical Pair of Candlesticks
<b>September</b>	Bowl 100-150mm diameter	Bowl with decorated Rim	Square Edged Bowl
<b>October</b>	Platter	Platter with Colour	Platter with Texture and/or Piercing
<b>November</b>	Mallet	Rolling pin	Salt and Pepper Mill
<b>December</b>		<b>No challenge</b>	

## Forthcoming Chairman's Challenges

Month

Basic

Intermediate

Advanced/Artistic

January

Mushroom



Acorn



Fruit



February

Ring Stand



Pill Box



Earring Stand



**DECEMBER DISPLAY TABLE**



Malcolm Edwards



Chris Jones



Malcolm Thorpe



Malcolm Thorpe



Malcolm Thorpe



Malcolm Thorpe



Peter Hockley



Graham Hunt



**DECEMBER DISPLAY TABLE**



Malcolm Edwards



Mike Brewer



Mike Brewer



Dave Hobbs



Malcolm Thorpe



Malcolm Edwards

## Report on December Demonstration by Steve Heeley



Steve started the day by talking us through the components he had made for a large half-tester bed, part turned and part-carved.

For his demonstration, Steve concentrated on establishing some crucial principles of spindle turning with the addition of some hollowing. For his first project he made a small scoop.



He emphasised how he cleans down the bed bars before starting to turn as well as cleaning any debris out of the chuck, using a toothbrush. The piece of ash was already round and before mounting it between centres, he double-checked the five lockdown points. He then added a tenon with a nick in it to accommodate the C jaws. He balanced the blank using a spindle roughing gouge and tested for smoothness with his thumb at the back rather than bouncing the tool on top. He demonstrated the sound of the cut at 1000 rpm and 3000 rpm showing a distinct difference and recommended turning at the highest speed with which one is comfortable. He next squared the ends with a parting tool.

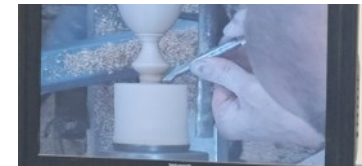
At about 50mm he marked a V cut with the long point of a skew before creating a rough ball shape for the scoop with a spindle roughing gouge in bev



el rubbing mode.

Steve then drilled a central hole in the tail stock end that was to form the bowl of the scoop before hollowing with a spindle gouge, again rubbing the bevel. This section could be done with a hollowing tool. He said that he prefers small scoops, the largest he makes being around 7 inches. He formed the inside shape without being too concerned about thickness at this stage. He pointed out that if the outside is turned to size first, then there will be vibration when hollowing the inside. Next he shaped the outside and sanded the inside after adjusting the length of the bowl. He incorporated a slight flat to the thickness before rounding the edge. Then he sanded the outside, sanding from behind the piece as this is quicker for production turners. He burnished with shavings and then reduced the width of the stem with a spindle gouge (or could use a parting tool).

He incorporated a decorative shoulder on the stem and added a bird's beak feature, emphasising the features with a skew. He sanded and then parted off the stem, curving the end of the stem. Because the bowl of the scoop was rounded, it was difficult to reverse-chuck so he sanded off the excess wood to form the open bowl of the scoop. He used a rubber abrasive cleaning block to clear the debris from the abrasive.



## Project Two: An acorn box in oak

Steve followed a similar process for Project two to show how the same techniques can be applied to different forms. Having rounded a 3—4” blank, he examined the blank carefully for flaws such as knots and shakes in order to determine how to position the various elements. Super glue and wood dust can be used to seal cracks before turning. He emphasised how straight grain is necessary for boxes. He flattened the end and created a tenon before creating a slight recess for the C jaws.

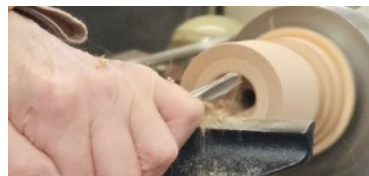
After mounting the blank in the chuck, he created another tenon at the other end. He uses this method to avoid creating a tenon too near to the chuck. He parted off the section for the upper part of the acorn before addressing the lower “bowl” section. As with project one, he drilled a hole in the centre of this section and hollowed it out using a Simon Hope hollowing tool with a round carbide cutter. He next refined the outside shape, finishing with a little shear scrape at the top. He flattened the top edge as a platform for the top section.

He used wax/oil or a mixture rubbed in before sanding to keep the dust down. Especially in ash or oak, this acts as a grain filler. Then he burnished with a cloth. Next he applied a beeswax/carnauba 50:50 mix and burnished for heat.. He took the base off the chuck but left the tenon on for later refinement.

Then he mounted the top part of the box—the acorn shape acting as the box lid. He created a recess on the lid to fit snugly into the base before hollowing out this section and refining the shape. He often uses Chestnut finishing oil or with textured boxes, spray lacquer.

He fitted the base onto the lid (using tissue where necessary to increase the fit) and created room for a “tail” on the lower section. He then used a Robert Sorby texturing tool to apply texture to the lower section with both little stabbing motions and gliding up and down.

He refined the shape of the whole and explained that at home, he would leave the tenons on to allow for settling of the fit. The fit was not to his satisfaction so he lengthened the tenon on the lid for a better fit. He then refined the end of the box leaving a nub to be cut off. He made a stalk for the bottom end and carved it a little for authenticity before spraying the whole with acrylic sanding sealer.



### Project three: a natural edged goblet in Yew

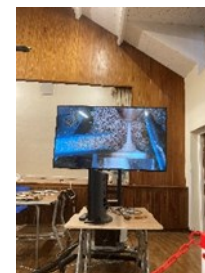
Steve commented on turning a larger, out-of-balance log by keep altering the centre hold at the tail stock end while truing up until it is balanced. He trued half of it and put a tenon on it and mounted it then trued the other half. He marked reference points for divisions into the various sections (base, stem, bowl) . Next he shaped the bowl of the goblet (the “flower”) and the outside with emphasis on the need for tight control, especially as the rim became thinner. He recommended putting a white paper plate on the bed bars so that the emerging shape could be clearly seen. He gradually widened the top curve, drifting into it to locate the bevel.



He padded a “cushion” of tissue into the neck of the bowl and brought the tail stock up for support. He thinned the outside of the bowl, moving his body right around it. He removed any tool marks and at this stage swapped from a spindle gouge to a bowl gouge. Whilst shaping, he supported the bowl with his fingers, backing off the cut when there was vibration. He removed the waste below the bowl along the top of the stem and added a bird’s beak detail under the bowl before sanding and waxing the bowl.

Next he removed the bulk of the waste along the stem using bevel-rubbing cuts as extra turning practice rather than just rapid removal with spindle roughing gouge or parting tool. His main focus was on achieving the appro-

priate length of the stem to balance the bowl rather than on the thickness of it. He also focused on appropriate diameter for the base to balance with the bowl. He cautiously thinned the stem a little more and added some decorative features above the base.



Next he turned away waste material beneath the foot to create space so that he could refine the base. He wanted the thickness (thinness!) of the bowl to be reflected in the base. He sanded the stem (carefully!) and then undercut the base to allow for removal from the lathe. Finally he sanded the base flat. In practice, he would apply WoodWax 22 or similar to the piece.



Club members seemed to have enjoyed the reinforcement of spindle-turning techniques with many helpful tips and reminders. We look forward to Steve’s “clinic” at a hands-on later in the year.

**Acknowledgements:** Thanks to Chris Chambers for the photographs of the demonstration and Keith for the Chairman’s Comments.