



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB

NEWSLETTER May 2022

www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk

Notes from the Editor

Inside, you will find the hands-on demo of a Pole Lathe by Phil Steele. Phil made his own lathe and managed to demonstrate just how quick and effective they can be. He even managed to get a couple of volunteers to have a go.

After Peter Carless' demo of a lidded bowl, I decided to have a go. My first and third attempts, done at home, were reasonably successful. Some of you will have already seen my second attempt at the hands-on evening. Peter made it look so easy!

I also had a go at turning a three-cornered bowl after having seen one done by Paul Loseby. Watch out for those three sharp points rotating at 800 rpm.

Don't miss Charnwood's open day on Friday May 27th or the demo by Wolfgang Schulze-Zachau on June 7th. And start making pieces for the Hinckley market stall on July 9th.



Regards
Rob Sheehan

Phil Steele's Pole Lathe 17/5/2022

By Rob Sheehan



Club member Phil Steele brought in his home-made Pole Lathe. It is a copy of one found in the book *Living Wood* by Mike Abbott. Phil also said there is a YouTube video of a full build by Harry Rogers titled "Rapid Build Pole Lathe".

The pole lathe's origin is lost in antiquity. It is known that Vikings used them from the archaeological finds at Jórdvík, the Viking settlement discovered beneath the modern city of York. The use of pole lathes died out in England after World War

II. The Pole Lathe comes in several pieces that are bolted together. This enabled them to be moved to wherever trees were being felled. The piece to be turned is first prepared by splitting wet timber with an axe and further refining with a draw knife. The blank is mounted between two lubricated metal points. On Phil's lathe, these consisted of 10mm threaded bar with sharpened ends lubricated with Vaseline. A vertical cord comes from the overhead bungee, is wrapped twice round the piece to be turned and goes down to a treadle lever under the lathe. Forward rotation of the piece is achieved by the operator pressing a treadle with his foot. Reverse rotation is provided by the springy bent branch (bungee cord). The tools are traditional (usually home-made) carpenters carbon steel chisels. Modern HSS gouges don't work as well. A wide shallow-fluted gouge is used to rough out the piece and a flat chisel (not skew chisel) is used bevel down, to give the finished surface. Abrasives are not traditionally used. A professional would take no more than 6 minutes to turn a chair leg. Phil was not quite as quick but still impressively fast.



The child's chair, shown below, was turned by Phil during lockdown. The technique is to apply pressure on the forward stroke and lift off on the reverse stroke. Looking at the speed and large shavings coming off the tool, Phil had mastered this action. Two club members who had a go showed that it wasn't quite as easy. Phil turned several garden dibbers as demonstration pieces. These were ready to use straight from the tool. No sanding needed. Bowls can also be turned on a Pole lathe, despite the lack of a chuck to hold the piece as it is hollowed. Most of the bowl is shaped off the lathe using axe and draw knife. A special mandrel holds the bowl on the lathe for the final hollowing and shaping. A double edged hook tool is used for hollowing.



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB EVENTS 2022

June	7th	Demo	Wolfgang Schulze-Zachau
	21st	Team Project	
July	5th	Team Project continued	
	9th	Hinckley Market Stall	
	19th	Hands-On	

Charnwood Open Day

Friday 27th May 10am - 4pm LE67 1TU

Tea, cake and Bargains

Demonstrations by Trent Valley Woodturners

Axminster Nuneaton

Saturday July 9th Coombe Abbey Woodturning Club

Events at Other Clubs

Please contact the club to check times/dates/locations before attending

Coombe Abbey (Walsgrave Baptist Church)

Saturday May 28th Philip Stephens 10am - 4pm

Saturday June 18th Roger Gilbert 10am - 4pm

West Midlands

Sunday June 26th Joey Richardson 9:15am–4:30pm

Events at Axminster Tools, Nuneaton

Saturday 9th July Coombe Abbey Woodturning Club