

# NEWSLETTER



## NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB.

[www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk](http://www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk)



LOTTERY FUNDED



Aug 2010

## **Health & Safety Notice**

Woodturning can be dangerous! Always follow the manufacturers' instructions and safety advice when operating power tools. Never try the techniques shown at our demonstrations if you are unsure or the procedure does not feel safe. Always use the guarding and other safety equipment.

The Club takes reasonable care to operate and instruct in a safe manner and strongly recommends all members to follow the Club's Health & Safety rules and the guidance notes that the AWGB issue in their Revolutions magazine from time to time.

## **Data Protection**

Your personal details are held on a computer belonging to an officer of the North Warwickshire & Hinckley Woodturning Club. Your details are only for the use of the club, and will not be passed on to any third party. If you object to your name, address and telephone number being held on a computer belonging to an officer of the club, then please write to any member of the committee.

### **Committee Members:**

Mel Turnbull	Chairman	Tel: 01827 701682 E-mail: mtchaos@hotmail.com
Steve O'Brien	Treasurer	Tel: 01788 521527
John Thompson	Secretary	Tel: 024 76396118 E-mail: je.thompson@btinternet.com
Tony Skidmore	Events Organiser	Tel: 024 76334873 E-mail: skidmore1gs@btinternet.com
Rob Sheehan	Editor	Tel: 024 76329501 E-mail: robsheehan@virginmedia.com

Bob Heathman  
Brian Hartwell  
Barry Morley  
Tony Orlebar

## Chairman's Notes

After the snow filled winter that kept a lot of us out of our workshops, the glorious sunshine and high temperatures have been another distraction for us. So it was nice to see the variety and high standards of the work being produced by our members and displayed at our meetings.

I was particularly impressed with Phillip's Barley twist work and asked him for a demonstration, which he later gave me and it now remains for me to finish the piece which we started during the hands on. And we also now have another John doing segmented work, and a very impressive first go to boot.

We have seen our relationship with Axminster strengthen, the club can now get a 15% discount on items from the woodturning section with a combined total of more than £200. And with Terry's brilliant demo, how he managed to do the whole day single handed is beyond me, Axminster will now be putting on a demo for our club. The great variety and high calibre of the turning Terry can do is such that it kept people occupied for the entire day. The day was marred slightly towards the end, by the rudeness of one of our members who tried to compete for the attention Terry was being given. I hope that member is the first to come forward the next time a demonstrator is required.

We have been blessed by some wonderful demonstrations so far this year, many thanks to Tony for organizing them, I was particularly enthralled by our recent Sunday demo from Roger Foden, an amazing woodturner who only has one arm (more later). It would be nice to see more members supporting the Sunday demos, there are only 4 per year.

Mel Turnbull

## Editor's Jottings

The head stock of my 4 year old SIP lathe is broken. It happened when I tried to turn a large piece of wet cherry. It only cost £250 new and is not worth repairing, so I now have a shiny new Jet 3520B lathe (well almost new, Rolly Munro used it for his demo at Axminster Tools). Its bigger and better and, for the first time, I have electronic speed control. I can't blame my lathe for any poor turning from now on. The first piece on my new lathe was a simple bowl. It won't win any prizes but I'm happy with it. The blank looked like a dusty piece of old oak, but after turning, it has come up with a very nice grain pattern and looks more like elm than oak. Shame it then went bouncing around the workshop when I parted off.

I went to a demo by Mark Hancock at Craft Supplies last month. He used stick-on transfers to create a pattern round a bowl and then ebonized it using black paint. When he removed the transfers, it let the white wood show through the black paint. It was simple but very effective. The transfers are those used in creating home-made greeting cards. Unfortunately, my camera let me down and I don't have any photos of the result.

After Craft Supplies, I went cross-country to Turners Retreat and their shiny new showroom. Lots of tools and project kits. I bought several acrylic pen blanks in colours that I haven't seen before. Deep pink, purple & lilac. I can't wait to try them out. They also had a tiger-striped rectangular blank (not square cross-section, rectangular). I am now wondering how to turn an oval so as not to waste the extra material.

Peter Berry's carving demo at Axminster went well. I managed to carve my first leaf. It is on display behind the counter. Gordon's arbortech carving of his sycamore bowls was also very effective. I must have a go one day. Axminster have a bandsaw & morticer demo on 20th August, a clearance day on September 4th and a woodturning, tool sharpening, finishes and power tools demo on September 25th. Axminster is 1 year old on 16th October. Watch the website to see what events are being arranged.

Rob Sheehan

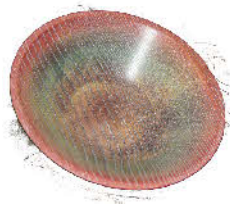
# Colouring & Finishing with Mark Raby

by Rob Sheehan

Mark first explained some common problems with finishing: sanding too hot, skipping grades and applying too much finish. For a perfect finish, Mark recommends sanding to 500 grit and using Webrax for finer sanding. Green (600 - 800 grit), red (800-1000), grey (1000-1200) and white (non-abrasive). Unlike sandpaper, Webrax gets finer with wear. White Webrax is used to apply waxes, oils and for buffing. Mark also uses a tack cloth before applying a finish and avoids handling the piece so as not to get oily fingerprints all over it. Mark explained how colouring enhances wood while keeping its character. Spirit based stains dry fast and you need very little stain. He uses Mylands gilt stains. White stain mixes with other stains to give a pastel effect. Stain should be applied with safety cloth. This is non-absorbent so it doesn't waste stain and it rips like paper towel so it is safe. Stain should be applied to bare wood, do not seal the wood first. When dry, it must be sealed using cellulose or acrylic sealer, not shellac. Wiping on a sealer can drag the colour. Using an aerosol wont drag and can be easier to use. The colour is only on the surface, so it can be sanded off.



Mark Raby showing a finished vase



Coloured and limed bowl



Metallic stain

## **Sealers**

Cellulose - popular and you can put anything on top of it. Cellulose + melamine - very good if the piece is handled a lot.

Acrylic - not as good with melamine.

Shellac - use friction polish & waxes on top, nothing else. Not hard wearing but a good decorative finish.

Only use virgin thinners. Others contain water that can cause blooming. After sealing, de-nib (light sanding) to give a key for the next coat. Webrax can be used for this. The finish can be melamine, acrylic gloss, paste or stick wax.

Then use burnishing cream. Don't use too much and don't press too hard. With the lathe turning fast, apply the burnishing cream from one end to the other, continuing until there is no more residue on coming off onto the cloth. Then use a clean cloth to buff the finish.

## **Finishes**

Melamine & Cellulose Sanding Sealer - Use for pens, key fobs, light pulls. Good heat resistance. It is still drying and curing after 10-12 days. \*\*\*Do not shake melamine lacquer\*\*\*. Two coats of melamine then burnishing cream.

Wax - 3 types: stick, liquid and paste. Carnuba wax is the hardest wax. Mark also mentioned an new fashion - Interference wax. I have no idea what this is and I couldn't find anything on Google either. Paste wax gives a softer, warmer finish. You can tint wax with spirit stain or colour. Liming wax is used on open grain, so use a soft brass brush to raise the grain. Apply liberally, work in and remove the excess using a cloth. Liming wax is not a finish, so put a clear wax or light oil (e.g. lemon, orange) on top.

BGF - two part finish. A water based cutting compound and a protective finish. Can be used over horn, polyester and acrylic. Used by John Berkely - see John's demo write up later in the newsletter.

Metallic stains enhance open grain. Must seal and apply gloss spray.  
continued on next page...

Oils - do not seal prior to oiling. Apply the oil and after 5 to 10 minutes, wipe off the excess. Leave 5 hours before the next coat. Apply a third coat after 24 hours.

Warning - all oily rags can self combust. Lay the cloth out flat to dry, put it in a close jar or put it in a bucket of water.

Tung oil - food safe oil.

Food safe oil - food safe.

Citrus oils - not food safe. Lose smell if open, so good for boxes.

Olive oil - food safe but can go rancid.

Walnut oil - food safe but watch out for nut allergy.

Vegetable oil - food safe but can go rancid.

Toy safe is NOT the same as food safe.

Melamine - toy safe, not food safe.

# Roger Foden Sunday 27th June

by Mel Turnbull

Roger had lost his arm when working on a farm and it was some years later when he started woodturning after buying a second hand lathe which had been advertised in his village. At the time he was a game keeper and managed to trade a shooting session with some woodturning lessons from a local professional turner. His occupation provided him with many contacts which provided outlets for his woodturning works.

The first items he made for us were a salt and pepper mill. He explained how he had been asked to produce a pair of mills for an exhibition of work and had been told that what he had produced were not a pair. He used a plywood template for the markings on each mill, the blanks had been prepared with holes drilled. He used a wooden drive piece fitted in the metal chuck and for most of his turning he used a Skewchigouge. He said he finished the inside of the mills with sanding sealant and the outside with two coats of spray acrylic lacquer. The tops were mounted to a screw chuck and turned. The finished mills were in the form of a King and a Queen chess piece and he explained how to him that was a pair and that they matched, so they were a matched pair of mills and the audience agreed.



King and Queen  
salt and pepper grinders.  
Roger Foden.



Next he said he was going to make an egg shaped box. He had with him a polystyrene egg measuring about 6", which he had procured from a garden centre, and explained how he had examined this egg to discover that the high point was only about 1/8" off centre. He then marked up the blank and shaped it demonstrating again how the Skewchigouge can be used as a shear scraper. He parted off the top and turned out the inside finishing with a multiscraper, a tool which he said if it digs in he gets a smack in the mouth.



Egg-shaped box.  
Roger Foden

Next he mounted a bowl blank on a screw chuck, turned a recess foot onto the bottom stating that he would normally leave this in place unless it was an extremely good piece. He finished the bowl by firstly hand sanding, stating that this was the only way to get rid of the rings on a bowl, and then applying a coat of oil.



Platter.  
Roger Foden

## Thread Chasing by John Berkley 20th July

John is the author of the “Screwpleles” books, that show how threads can be used to create wooden puzzles. John started off with a health and safety lecture, outlining the benefits of turning ‘plastic’ rather than wood. He is particularly affected by wood dust and needs to use a respirator when wood turning. ‘Plastic’ dust is heavier than air, so it doesn’t float about in the air like wood dust.

John’s first project was a cast polyester resin box with a screw lid. John used 3 tools: a square ended scraper, 1/4” point tool and a combination tool (as used by Eli Avisera, double bevel and very swept back "wings", enabling them to be used for planing cuts). He also uses a Unichaser, which can cut both the male and female threads. While hollowing and chasing threads, John uses an Armrest - a hook ended support for his tool. After parting off the box top, John hollowed the base & created a recess after the position of the thread, to allow the thread chaser room to exit the material. He then sanded and polished the box base. John then slowed the lathe down to 450 rpm and cut the thread, starting at about 45°, gradually reducing the angle as the thread was cut, but leaving a slightly tapered thread. Some paste wax on the thread makes it screw better. A toothbrush removes any excess wax from the thread. The box lid was then hollowed and the male thread cut using the same Unichaser rotated through 180°. The box base was remounted in the lathe and the lid screwed on, so the top of the lid could be finished. For this, John used an Axminster multi-tool to grind scallops around the edge of the lid. He also used a nail with a shaped head to carve the lid. He then used silver cream to highlight the carving. The box was finished with BGF (see Mark Raby article).

Applying silver cream



Screw lidded box



Carved box lid



John's second project was a pill box made from casein. This was turned similar to the first project, cutting a screw thread on the box lid and base. A third thread cut on a scrap piece of wood was used to hold the base while the bottom of the box was finished off.

John then showed us several puzzles that use threads. A ball in a barrel puzzle, lighthouse puzzle, politicians delight and the obedient sphere. These are based on puzzles in Louis Hoffmann's book *Puzzles Old And New* 1893.

Woods that are good for threads are olive, fruit woods, box, santos rosewood, cocobolo, iroko. Woods that are not so good for threads include oak, ash and pine. Threads can be cut on unsuitable woods by using superglue. Cover the thread area with superglue and cut the thread until wood shavings appear. Then apply more superglue.

Finer threads are easier to cut than coarse threads. 16 or 20 teeth per inch (tpi) are a good place to start.

To sharpen a Unichaser, hollow grind the top and bottom surfaces. In between grinds, use a diamond credit card to touch it up.



## **Events Around the Area.**

### ***Coombe Abbey Woodturners.***

See website <http://coombeabbeywoodturners.webeden.co.uk/>

### ***West Midlands Woodturners.***

See website <http://www.wmwoodturners.org.uk/>

### ***Axminster Nuneaton***

August

7 - Routing: create kitchen cabinet doors

14 - Mafell power tools

21 - Bandsaws & Morticers

September

4 - Clearance Day

25 - Woodturning, tool sharpening, finishes and power tools

October

16 - Spindle Moulders

16 - 1st Birthday Open Day

## ABRANET FOR SALE

ABRANET MINI SHEETS. 70 x 125mm, low dust.

120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600 grit.

5 sheets of any grade           £1.90

6 sheets, 1 of each grade       £2.00

10 Self sealing plastic bags 100 x 140mm.           0.15p

PURCHASE AT CLUB MEETINGS.



## Club Badges

Badges to sew on to your  
Turning Smock or Sweat-  
Shirt.

£3.50 each.

Steve Obrien

## Video Library

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
Carving techniques & projects	Sam Bush/Mark Headley
Carving the human head	Michael Painter
Getting started in carving	Michael Painter
Natural edges & hollow forms	Chris Stott
Turning bowls	Chris Stott
Turning boxes	Chris Stott
Inlaid & novelty boxes	Chris Stott
Decorative effects & colouring	Chris Stott
Finishing for woodturners	Chris Stott
Turned boxes	Ray Key
Shear magic	Robert Sorby
Focus on Sorby tools	Robert Sorby
Hollow turning	John Jordan
Woodturning-A foundation course	Keith Rowley
Spindle turning	Ray Jones
The mini chair	Ray Jones
Elliptical turning	David Springett
Hand thread chasing	Allan Batty
Turning green wood	Michael O'Donell
Wet turning	Stuart Mortimer
Shop secrets from master craftsmen	USA Craftsmen
Basic routing	Roy Sutton
Advanced routing	Roy Sutton
Routing jigs & gadgets	Roy Sutton
Router jigs & techniques	Roy Sutton
Advanced routing (2)	Roy Sutton
Turning between centres	Dennis White
Twists & advanced turning	Dennis White
Small shop tips & techniques	Dennis White
Woodturning	Richard Raffan

# ***TOOLS FOR LOAN***

The Club has a number of tools for club members to use during our 'Hands On' evenings and many of these specialist tools can be hired by members for use in their own workshop. The tools available for hire are listed below.

Please note that the tools must not be used for business purposes, they are for private use only.

Club members will appreciate that there will be some wear & tear when these tools are used, to enable the Club to purchase / replace the tools as necessary there will be a hire fee of £1.00 / month first month & £5.00 / month second month. It is the intention of the committee to invest the hire fees in the purchase of new tools if possible. The month will run from one 'Hands On' to the next, we realize this may not be a 4 week period. In addition there will be a £20.00 deposit to be held by the Club for the hire period (a personal cheque may be a convenient way to leave the deposit).

Club members are expected to return the tools at the beginning of each 'Hands On' evening.

Before taking tools on loan, members must satisfy the committee that they are competent to use the tool being hired

Club members must sign the disclaimer .

## **Tools Available for loan to club members:**

Thread Chaser Set	Sorby Texturing Tool
Bowl Saver (Kelton)	Bowl Saver (Woodcut)
Axminster Acc.Mounting Jaws	Type H Med Gripper Jaws
Type A Dovetail Jaws	Sorby Eccentric Chuck
Pyrography Woodburning Station	2MT 2 Prong Drive Centre
2MT Hollow Live Centre	5/16" Long Auger
Arbortech Woodcarver PRO-4	Arbortech Mini Carver
Multi Tool Kit & Stand (Dremel)	Woodcut Hollowing Tool

Please see:

John Wilkinson or Terry Coombes

**NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY**  
**WOODTURNING CLUB EVENTS 2010**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Demonstrator</b>
August	3rd	Hands on	
	17th	demo	Guy Ravine
	<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	<b>demo</b>	<b>Steve Heeley</b>
September	7th	Hands on	
	21st	demo	Stuart King
October	5th	Hands on	
	19th	AGM	
November	2nd	Hands on	
	16th	demo	Bob Neill (pyrography/colouring)
	<b>Sunday 28th</b>	<b>demo</b>	<b>Keith Lanchester</b>
December	7th	Christmas Social	
	21st	Hands on	

**Please note: -**

**The events highlighted in red are all day demonstrations**

**The next Sunday Demonstration will be on:**  
**Sunday 22 August 2010 10.00am - 4.00pm.**  
**Demonstrator Steve Heeley**  
**Tickets £10.00**