



Forthcoming events

Club Meetings

September 2nd

Richard Findley, spindle turning
masterclass

October 7th

Hands on evening

Club Competitions

**September
Challenge**

Bowl or platter with pierced features

**October
Novice**

Pair of matching tea light holders

Other Events

August 20th

Charnwood open day

see <http://www.charnwood.net/>

September 9th & 10th

Yandles Woodworking Show

Yandle & Son Ltd

Hurst Works, Hurst

Martock, Somerset, TA12 6JU

For more information click:

[Yandles show](#)

September 10th & 11th 10:00am

Festival of Crafts

Coombe Country Park, Brinklow
Road, Nr Coventry, CV3 2AB

<http://www.coombeabbeywoodturners.co.uk/>

Chairman's Notes

A quiet month for wood turning, being punctuated by holidays, etc, A first visit to Brest on a Sunday a few years ago whilst travelling to meet friends had not been the most exciting. There had been rain, a lack of secure left luggage lockers, and an apparent lack of restaurants open had meant a four hour sojourn in the station buffet subsisting on coffee, apples and Twix bars before a train journey further south.

This time, we had sailed into Brest avoiding a close encounter with a French nuclear submarine as we neared the port. The waves from the French Coastguard cutter were not the welcoming ones that we first thought, or the start of a visit to search for illegal immigrants but an instruction to change course, like now.

A bus trip into Brest the next day found us exploring a street market and even a small wood turning stand where the turner had a Jet mini lathe on a wheeled stand with power being supplied from a nearby junction box. A minimalist display to say the least. Quite why we have to take so much equipment to the likes of the SWT Christmas Fair is now beyond me.

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Which brings me nicely to the dates for the next Christmas Fair, being 19th and 20th of November. Vance has kicked off our preparations with a Conversion Challenge. Those members who attended the video evening have already been issued with their challenge packs. Vance has quite a few remaining and no doubt will have them ready at our next meeting. The products of the challenge will stock our shelves for the fair which has proved to be a useful earner for club funds in the past.

Philip Watts

Editors Scribblings

This month we did not have a demonstrator. The August meeting has traditionally only attracted a modest number of members, maybe due to holidays, so we have to do something "on the cheap"! Hence we tried something a bit different - a selection of downloaded videos from the internet. It was difficult making a choice as there are many thousands from which to choose. In the event, only a small selection of those that Philip and I had chosen were shown. For those members who were unable to come to the meeting (in other words more than half of you...) I have included the full list, with links, later in this issue of the Newsletter. I am considering including a list of interesting videos in future issues, so if any of you find something you think might appeal to others, then please send me a link to it.

At the risk of groans from you all, it's time to mention that dreaded word, Christmas! I know it seems a long way away but we will, as indicated by Philip, be attending the Christmas Craft Fair at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Wolseley Bridge, in November; so we will be needing things to sell. Obviously items with a seasonal theme tend to sell at that time of the year but historically a wide range of things have sold well. As Philip has said, Vance has started the ball rolling by issuing all those who attended the August meeting with a small piece of pine and (polite!) suggestions as to what to do with it. What we need are nicely finished articles (i.e. that you would be pleased to own yourselves). Items can be donated in order that the proceeds are split between the Club and the Wildlife Centre, or can be sold on behalf of the member with a minimum of 20% being split between the Club and the Centre. In this case items need to be clearly marked with the owners name and how the proceed should be split.

I know that November seems a long way away but we all know how time flies and there are only three Club meetings between now and the event. So please bring along any items as soon as possible.

On a different note, we have an odd situation with the Novice competition. At one meeting there were no entries and at the other three there was only one entry at each - so at present we have a three way tie of default winners. I can only hope this situation does not exist at the close of the competition!

Once again may I please ask you for contributions to the Newsletter. It needs contributions from other members to make it interesting! I also welcome comments or suggestions that would make the Newsletter more interesting to you.

Hugh Field



August Competition

This was for a lidded box with square features. The only entrant was John Meers, who entered two items, technically making him outright winner, but disqualified at the same time! However, we discovered that John had not been made aware of the rules of the competition so he is the winner this month.



Display table

There were many items on the display table this month. Vance had a selection of work; two manta ray bowls which he had started at his demonstration in June, a selection of spinning tops, three tea light holders (as demonstrated by David Lowe at the July meeting), and two large platters. Simon King had a natural edge oak burr bowl on display; and I had brought in some experimental hollow vessels (see article later) and my first manta ray bowl.





Simon's burr oak bowl (right) and below).





“Experimental” hollow forms (below) and manta ray bowl (below right)



Hugh Field

August video evening

The August Meeting has in the past taken the form of a DVD viewing. This year's meeting explored the depths of cyberspace to find some of the many wood-turning videos that have been up-loaded to the YouTube Channel.

In running order they were in the first part before the tea break:

A Bodger at Work – A film made at a Craft Museum in Surrey – A quiet reflection on the craft of pole lathe turning. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUv3OwY5Etg>

Understanding Wood Catches – Richard Raffan – A well made clip demonstrating the mechanics of catches with graphic demonstrations. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOvF5f1phhY>

Multi-axis Spindle Turning – Barbara Dill – An American turner producing some fascinating shaped spindles. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JK1EvP_NC10

Moroccan Wood Turner – collected by Stuart King – Using a bow lathe in one of the markets in Marrakesh, one hand, one foot on the chisel, the other hand providing the lathe power.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnv0DAR_gWA



The second part commenced with a mini-tribute to Reg Slack, who died recently, with an excerpt from an old video tape that he had made on Miniature Turning. One demonstrating the fine touch that Reg had in simple turning. It is hoped that we can add a copy of this video to the DVD library.

Finial Turning and Carving – A view of a production turner producing finials for curtain pole ends or the like, turning and carving the final product. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPLGa6UxBLO>

Turning Paint – A novel use for the paint build-up on the carrier bars in a spray booth. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rR68KuJq4t8>

4 x 4 Turning – Who needs a lathe when you have access to a 150 horse power SUV. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4qB6n1cm04>

The evening concluded with:-

One-handed turning – An interesting complement to the Moroccan clip and that of Richard Raffan's demonstration of tool control. Not a tutorial! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyskn2vx-U>

There was not enough time to show the following videos, but you might find them interesting!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnsInvQXUxM>

Long bowl gauge handles, finials and video facility we might aspire to!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKW0zl1Clew>

What not to do! (segmented bowl disaster)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6c7tQlzuUqo>

Square platter from scrap!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wJHqoO_UNM

Bandsaw bowl

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLSY1Nk9wq8>

“Doodad” toy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7h-W_4nVVaM

Turning aluminium in resin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pQIYfz9Pjw>

Big yew bowl

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlhWF4M9CO4&index=2&list=PL2D6D7931B8E8FDAD>

Bowl accident

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuG1oNRQnyl>

Pyrography with a difference!

We hope you enjoy watching them.

Philip Watts & Hugh Field



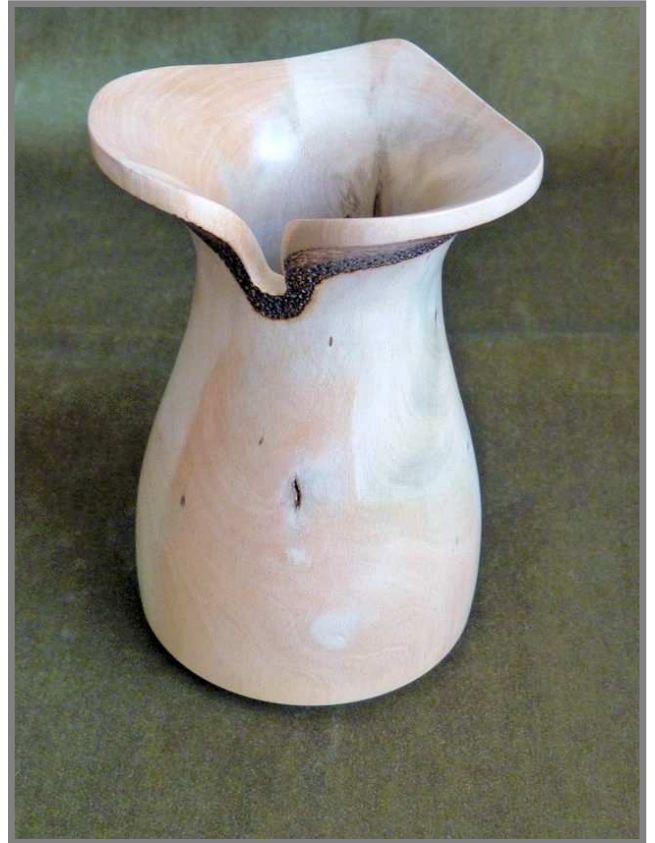
“Experimental” Hollow vessels

I take inspiration for my turned pieces from various sources, but often it is ceramic items that give me ideas. A recent purchase by my wife of a small porcelain pot is one example. It only stands about 2 ½” high, so whilst not impossible to make in wood, it really needed scaling up to make it a practical end product. The obvious characteristic of porcelain compared to wood is that although the initial process of throwing the clay on a wheel is akin to turning a piece of wood, there is then the opportunity to do some reshaping by distorting the clay prior to firing. I decided to make my interpretation of the piece from a small 4 ½” diameter holly log that I had “harvested” from Sutton Park a few years ago.



Unusually it had not split too much and I was able to salvage a piece about 10” long. The processes to produce the finished piece

were conventional and the top was shaped using rotary tools and hand finishing. The top shape was emphasised by an area of pyrography in a similar shape to the blue/green glaze on the porcelain original.



My second experiment was also inspired by a ceramic piece but, as we weren't purchasing, it seemed imprudent to photograph it! Again, the piece had been reshaped prior to firing but I felt that a reasonable representation could be achieved in wood, even though I could foresee that it would involve some extreme offset turning. The first “experiment” resulted in the vessel shown here (right), it is about 4” diameter and 8 ½” high. Incidentally the hole in the side was a fault in the unidentified piece of conifer which was invisible until I got close to the finished shape. It's effect is visible in the opening at the top and the discoloration extends through the bottom as well.

Not being happy with the proportions of this first one I decided to treat this as a prototype and risk an expensive piece of wood for a second try, and also took advantage of the opportunity to photograph the processes by which the vessel is made.



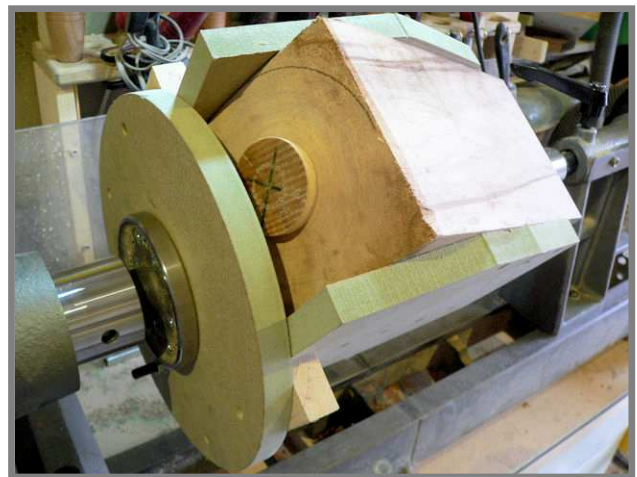
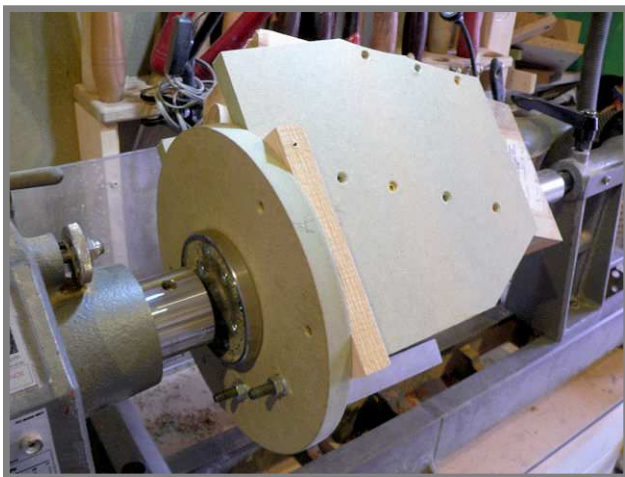


A word of warning, this is definitely not a project for the faint hearted! It used the full swing capacity of my Nova 3000 and variable speed was essential.

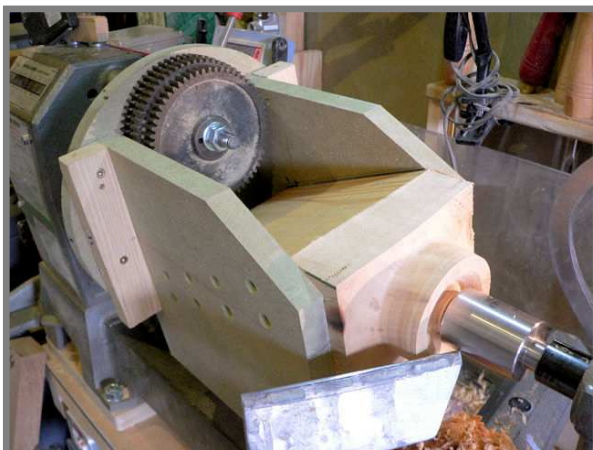
I started with a piece of Sweet Chestnut 5" square and 12" long. Whilst it is possible to use a log (indeed the first one had been, but turned to a cylinder first) it is much more difficult to mount for turning the top shape than is a square blank; also the marking out is more difficult.

Some design work was required to establish where the offset centreline needed to be. I felt that the angle of the top on the prototype looked about right at 25° and plotting this onto the blank and allowing sufficient offset stock for the top meant that the centre of the offset opening was about 3/8" away from the true axis of the finished vessel. I mounted the blank between centres and turned a chucking spigot at one end before removing the 25° "wedge" on the bandsaw .

The blank was mounted on an 18mm MDF faceplate, bolted rather than screwed, to a 4" faceplate. To this faceplate were fastened MDF "angle" plates with the blank fastened between, as shown below. The screws holding the blank were carefully positioned and of appropriate length that the resulting holes would be turned away later when shaping the outside. Incidentally I use water resistant MDF whenever possible. It's more dense than the standard stuff and is identified by having a slight green tint. It is more toxic than the standard product so lung protection is essential.



Even though some of the turning could be carried out using tailstock support, the extreme amount of offset dictated that some degree of counterbalancing was needed. I made use of several of the change wheels from my metalworking lathe as this would give me a selection of different weights. I made no attempt to achieve perfect balance and just aimed for the assembly to remain static in any position. Slowly increasing the speed from zero suggested that turning at about 450rpm was possible, slightly slower without the tail centre.



The face was trued up and a 1" hole bored about 1 1/4" deep with a Forstner bit. This would enable me to flare the opening whilst still using the tail centre for support.





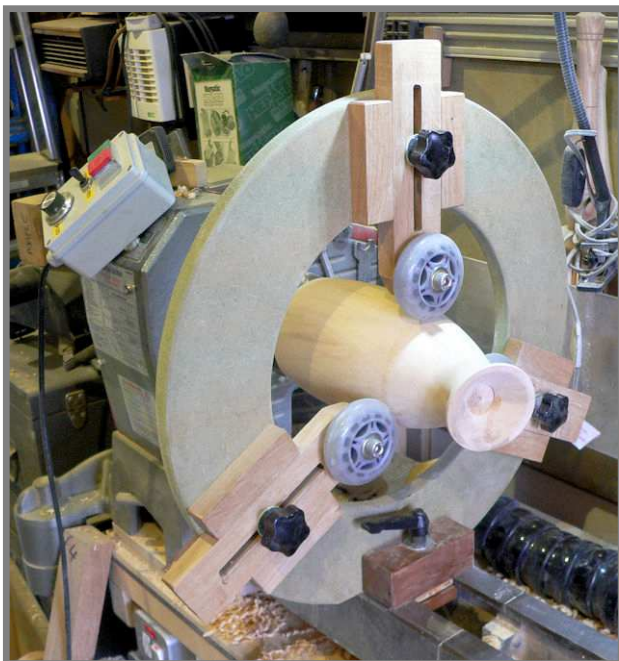
After sanding, the piece was removed from the jig and mounted in a chuck to allow the outside to be turned. This is the extent (right) that the shape can be achieved on the lathe. The unwanted material was then removed by use of chisels, "Microplanes", files and abrasive to achieve the final shape (below).



For the hollowing process I decided to use my home made steady. Although the hole already made in the top was about 1 1/4" diameter it was offset to the true axis and I felt that the risk of my hollowing tool rubbing on this eccentric bore might increase the risk of a catch. The steady would reduce the risk of this damaging the piece. note that the angle of flare inside the opening dictates the access available for the hollowing tool. It was on the limit for the 16mm shaft of my hollowing tool.

access available for the hollowing tool. It was on the limit for the 16mm shaft of my hollowing tool.

This is the finished piece, below.



Will I make any more like this? Maybe not, but it was an interesting exercise!

Hugh Field



Hints and tips

This section is for any tips or advice you would like to pass on to other members. If you have discovered something you found useful, that you think may benefit others, please pass it on.

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Custom Toolrests – David Fields

David is an ex member of MSWA and his grandson is able to make tool-rests, similar to the Robert Sorby system, out of round steel bar. These can be tailored to suit your requirements i.e. tool-post stem and length of the actual tool-rest. At the moment he is only doing straight tool-rests but bowl rests may be feasible in the future.

And if you have a Record lathe and do small spindles, he has developed a cranked tool-post, allowing the tool-rest to get close to the work, without the banjo dropping off the front bed bar.

If you would like to see one, or want to discuss your requirements, please have a chat with David on 01283 229072.

Carnauba wax polishes – Paul Bellamy

Following the favourable reaction to the polishing kits Paul started earlier this year, he has established a supply of carnauba wax flakes. These can be used to make your own 'sticks' or mixed with other components to make a range of polishes. He is selling these in 250g bags but could do larger quantities if you need it. He also has some ready-made wax blocks, comprising 60% beeswax / 40% carnauba. These are softer than most 'wood-turning sticks' but he prefers this as it doesn't score your work.

He also has more of his 'Buffing kits', similar to Chestnut's system. For more details, e-mail him at paul@pnbellamy.co.uk

[David and Paul are members of Derwent Woodturning Club, as am I, so I could act as "go between" on these if required - Hugh Field]



Abrasives and other items

Mirka Abranet 70 x 125mm Sheets:

5 x Mixed Grit Pack (120, 180, 240, 400 and 500) = £2.00 per pack

Mirka Abranet 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £1.50 per pack

Rhinogrip 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £0.90 per pack

Flexipad Sanding Pads (for above discs):

50mm Velcro Conical Spindle Pad with 6mm shaft = £8.82 each

J-Flex Sanding Paper:

5 x 1m lengths mixed grits 120, 180, 240, 320 & 400 = £9.50 per pack

Screwdrivers:

Various sizes donated to club = £1 each

BondFix Superglue:

50g Bottle of Medium Viscosity = £3 per bottle

Donated Items:

Various Books and Magazines = 50p to £2 each



DVDs

I haven't published the list of DVDs this month, please refer to a previous issue.

If any members have DVDs which are not on the list, but which they would like to donate to the Club, they would be most welcome.



Club information

Your club committee for 2016 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts;

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Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.