



## WEST SUSSEX WOODTURNERS

### MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Our esteemed Chairman opened the meet in the usual fashion but he did appear to be struggling with the new sound system that had been installed.

The first order of the day was to distribute the engraved trophies to the winners on the Awards Evening. Gary Parkinson and Stewart Furini too their awards but Tom Goodwin was not present.

Ian then introduced our Turner for the day. This was Steve Heeley. Steve has visited us previously so his demonstration was awaited with keen anticipation.

The first item on the list was a candlestick to give us some ideas for our next competition. Steve said he had actually intended to start with a candlestick but somewhat larger than the one he was going to do.

First off Steve cleaned the thread on the headstock and the lathe bed. Having put the blank between centres and checked it span without hitting the tool-rest. Steve said to check 5 other important items:

1. Check the live centre in the tail stock is fully engaged with the blank.
2. Check the quill is locked.
3. Check the tail stock is locked.
4. Check the banjo on the tool-rest is locked.
5. Check the tool-rest is locked.

He turned the base of the candlestick using a screw-chuck and a bowl gouge. He was going to cut a small recess into the blank so he could turn it round and complete the reverse side. He marked up the size of the recess with his dividers reminding us all to only use the right hand side of the dividers if you wanted to avoid the lathe throwing them at you. He part cut the recess using

his parting tool and completed the turning using his skew and a bowl gouge. He left a small rim on the base to avoid getting too close to the chuck. He turned the blank round and cleaned up the face and drilled a hole to take the upright using a Forstner bit. If using a push cut Steve switches from a fingernail grind to a standard grind bowl gouge.



The bottom of the finished base.

He put the upright between centres having previously drilled a hole to take the metal cup. He cut a tenon at the headstock end, which was to go into the base. He also cut a couple of V cuts on the tenon to take the glue. Steve's advice is don't measure the drill bit to get the tenon size as drill bits have a habit of wandering and the tenon ends up the wrong size. Using his texturing tool he textured part of the up right. He tends to use an Oil finish on most of his turnings (in this case Chestnut Finishing Oil). The problem many people have with Oil finishes is that they put too much on at once.



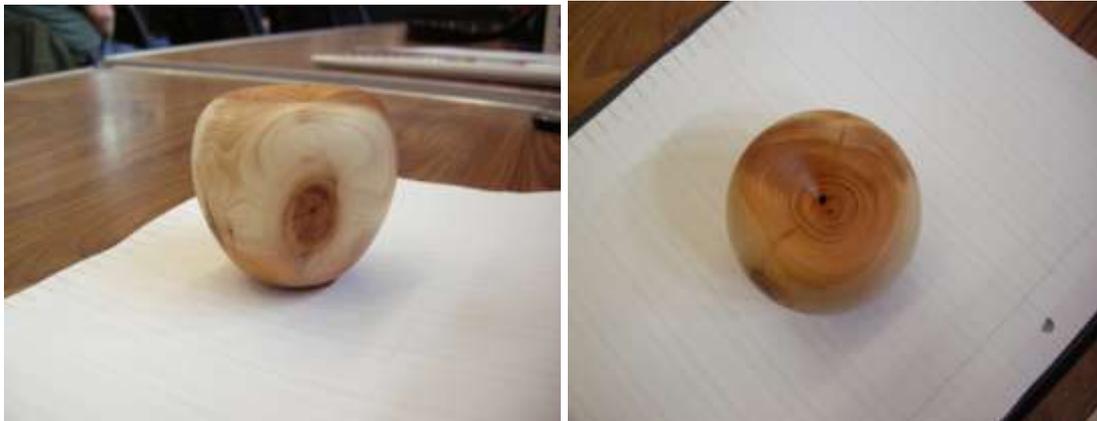
Next item was a platter made from Ash, which Steve was going to colour. Steve again used his screw chuck and brought up the Tail stock for safety. He put a tenon on the base and having shaped the base he turned it round to hollow the top. Steve sprayed the top with Methylated Spirit, which he burnt off. He sprayed both sides of the bowl with Acrylic Sealer to prevent the colour leeching through. He was using Chestnut Spirit stain for the colouring. He applied some blue stain and the cut it back with 0000 wire wool. He then applied red and green stains again cutting the back between coats. If you don't have wire wool Webrax or something similar will be fine. You could spray again with Methylated Spirit and set fire to it as this will give a sort of marbled effect as it gives black rings and lines as it burns. Steve advises that it is preferable to take it off the lathe otherwise the colours will run. You should apply Meths if you want to blend the colours. Steve then sprayed again with Acrylic sealer and cut back again with wire wool. He then finished turning the inside of the bowl. Steve ran a black Sharpie round the inner and outer rims to separate the colour from the natural Ash. He put a waste block covered with felt into the chuck so he could reverse the bowl. The felt should not be too soft as you would then have to put a lot of pressure on with the tail stock. He also placed some paper towel over the felt.

Steve finished off with Chestnut Finishing Oil. He prefers the Chestnut because it is fairly thin and does not require thinning and is a much lighter colour than some. You should allow 24 hours between coats.



Next up was an Apple, for which he choose Yew. He put the blank between centres and rounded it down with his Spindle Roughing gouge. He squared off the end and cut a tenon. He turned the blank round putting the tenon in the chuck. He squared off the end and cut another tenon. Using his Parting tool he cut the blank in half. He the shaped the timber into an Apple shape, making a small dimple in the top. He put his Jacob's chuck in the tail stock and drilled a small hole in the dimple for his screw chuck. This would be the top of the Apple. He then turned the bottom of the Apple again cutting a small dimple. He then drilled a small hole, which he puts a Clove in.

Steve normally finishes fruit by sealing with Cellulose Sealer and then applying wax. He prefers Liberon Bees wax. When the wax is dry he buffs it using a 3 wheel buffing system.



Knowing us to be a very democratic organisation Steve gave us an option for the final item of a Pear or a Box. Based on who shouted loudest the Box won.

Using a square blank Steve mounted it on his screw chuck. He cut a tenon on the base of the blank as this was to be the base of the box. Being a square he had to be a little bit careful so he did not catch on the wings. He then turned the blank and put the tenon in his chuck. He proceeded to hollow out the central part.

He then put another square blank between centres and again turned a tenon to go in the chuck. He then cut a small recess, which would be put in the chuck as this was to be the inside of the lid. He made sure that the lid would fit the base but not too tightly. He then turned the outside of the lid.

His original intention had been to have a small finial, However, as this was a bowl blank Steve felt it might be a little brittle for a finial so he made it into a button top.



**Some examples of Steve's work**





These are the items Steve turned during the day and kindly left for future club raffles.

## **NEXT MONTH**

The Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June includes a Competition for a Candlestick/ holder so get turning now.

Keith has told me he would like feedback on what's on the programme and any suggestions for new items to include.

## **AMBERLEY CRAFTS DAY**

Over the late May Bank Holiday (27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>) we are holding a 3 day event at Amberley. Anyone wishing to take part should contact Keith Greenfield.