



# WEST SUSSEX WOODTURNERS

An Associated Club of the AWGB

The meeting began with the last and final presentations for annual awards.

This month, the committee was trying something different. (Successfully I believe). We had two tables set up with members show casing single topic matters. And a lathe at the front where three members braved the questions and observations of the seated majority. The lathe presentations were on members finishing techniques. In addition we had an unexpected special guest and a candle holder competition.

## Tables:

**Terry Hooper** brought in his **Automata items** which included frustrated felines. They are all toys which are animated by mechanical means. He even had a marble run that worked on a turn handle.

I enjoyed playing with them because I was sent back to my childhood. Terry can recommend where to get plans etc. but some are copyright.



**Barrie Fitch**, this absolutely charming guy, also had a table set up demonstrating his **Laser engraving machines**.

He has two different models with a third on order.

He showed how his initial machine could hold a round object like a pen after creating a jig for it.

The Metrek DK-BL 1500mW Mini DIY Laser engraving machine (may no longer be available online, but cost approx. £140)

His next upgrade was to enable larger flat engraving up to A5 size and again he has managed to make a homemade Perspex jig to enable pens to be engraved. This is an Eleks Maker A3 Pro 1600w Desk top USB Laser engraving Carving machine. Approx. £450

Ever searching for the holy grail of laser carving he has another on order to again enlarge his surface area available to engrave.  
3500mw Desktop laser Portable Engraving Carving machine DIY Laser LOGO mark Printer, working area 150mm.

I think it's safe to say if you need to get a laptop connected to a laser engraver, Barrie is your man. (p.s. of course there will be quid pro quo on the charming guy comment)

## **Lathe Finishing**

**Andy Heath** braved the first spot. With basic finishing of a tea light Holder. He asked us to think about how we are going to finish something before you start, to enable the holding of the work whilst finishing a piece.

He made a simple tea light shape.

As ever if you get your tool work correct it will save you great deals of sanding with glass paper and if you can master a skew .... Well he is hoping. Always go through the grades of paper.

Andy brought along a piece of ply board to protect the bed of the lathe and to save cleaning it. He used a 50 - 50 mix of sanding sealers and thinners. Wiped of with paper. He uses Chestnut sanding sealer and a cellulose thinners.

Next he buffs with paper in a pad to wipe off excess and parts the holder off. Remounting opposite way around on a jam chuck in the jaws of a chuck. Initially brings up tailstock and tidies up his base with a slight under cut for a step lipped which is his preference.

I remember he then said something that sent shivers down my spine.....

*AS a rule of thumb it takes as long to finish a piece as it does to make it.*

Note to self take longer to finish pieces they may look better.

And don't use fabric for buffing etc as it can catch and drag your fingers in and is considered bad practice.

Andy used a buffing wheel system with three buffing wheels and wax sticks.

There are three waxes and three grades of buffing wheel

These were acquired as a kit from Chestnut. The results had a good shine. And some conversation was had regarding high lacquer shine such as melamine on pens to prevent finger marks and Food safe oil.

Wheel 1- A brown Coarse wax with a harder wheel. Wax added to wheel prior to presenting work.

Wheel 2 -White wax and wheel B

Wheel 3- Carnauba wax and wheel C which is again softer



### **Alan Wesley**

He showed us a project with Black Lacquer and Gold leaf.

He uses black car lacquer from Halfords and cuts it back with Microcrystalline. A high shine is gained. The pieces are reminiscent of Chinese art

Other effects discussed/used:

- A very startlingly realistic spalted effect drawn with black pen on a sycamore piece. But make sure you put sand and sealer on before any other colour otherwise the pen will bleed.
- In addition you can use JO Sonja Iridescent paints to give a shimmer sheen. ( pen, sand and seal, colour, lacquer )
- He also adds acrylic paint on various colours added with a sea sponge and sealed.
- TIP of the week: Soft wood tear outs. Alan shows us a home made pasting wax which when applied prevents the tear out on cross grain. Beeswax and Baby oil, which contains paraffin oil and mineral oil. On occasions he has used lemon oil instead of baby oil.
- Discussion was also had on Yorkshire grit which is a wax compound and is an aid to the polishing process. (other people use T cut and burnishing cream)
- Carnauba wax can leave marks so possibly use it on buffing wheel.
- Food safe finishes ... food oil or Danish oil 2 coats cut backed and polished. Again a little extra information ... oil raises the grain slightly.

## Colin Willetts

Colin showed/ made us a small ash vase with black lacquer and gold detail. He started by drilling out the centre with a 1/4 inch gouge. Further enlarging with a 3/8 one. He then brought it into a basic vase shape on the outside having brought up the tailstock.

He used a coarse grade sanding paper whilst the piece was turning but finishes the higher grades on a stationary piece, sanding along the grain.

He left it bare with a wipe over with webrex. And a brass brush to raise the grain slightly.

Covering the lathe and chuck he then sprays the piece with black lacquer and leaves to dry overnight.

He then used Liberon Chantilly gold paste rubbed in followed by Briwax to polish to a fine shine. Parted off and tidied the base.

A discussion was had about the type of wood that had an open grain suitable for this project. Ash, Oak, chestnut, Elm were suggested.



## **Special Guest.**

Gill Arthur (2019 annual dinner guest Judge) arrived with a friend, Caroline Long. Caroline is a music therapist and has lived in the village for a number of years. She brought with her a Sounding bowl, which is an instrument of healing.

[www.soundingbowls.com](http://www.soundingbowls.com)

Unfortunately the maker is retiring but he has licensed his product and trained several turners across the world to carry on making them.

They are wooden turned bowls with music strings across the rim. They range in size from 10 - 28 inches and have differing numbers of strings. They are tuned and have a beautiful tone of music which is calming and soothing. The sound really was quite addictive.



## **Competition: Candle Holder June 2019**

Competition judges Ray Burton and Mike Root.

With thanks to Colin Smith for administration.

There was many shapes and sizes but they chose the following (see photo)

Novice: 1<sup>st</sup> Ray Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Burton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dave Tate.

Intermediate: 1<sup>st</sup> Stan Wright, joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Wallington and Barry Chitty.

Advanced: 1<sup>st</sup> Colin Willetts, joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Ian Rudge and Tom Bradbury.



Other matters:

We wish Val well as she again does Race for life on 23 rd June. She has asked for sponsorship.

Next months meeting Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July entitled Small Craft Items which may be subject to change.

The following hopefully will be of interest to some of our newer members who haven't got any kit or may wish to add to what they already have. The lady contacted me this week and her email is self explanatory. If you are interested please contact her directly on the number or email below.

Val Bellas. Thank you Ian for your swift reply. I am happy for the details of the lathe to be circulated. It is a coronet lathe on a stand. The bed is 48" in length and the stand itself measures around 72". It has all the equipment that came with it from new, as well as numerous tools, including many chisels. I live in Pulborough and can be contacted via the Club.

Finally Andy Heath has asked me to include the following that may be of interest to some of you. If you do attend to represent the club please do not forget the table cloths and our insurance.

## **Local Craft and Produce Sale August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

At Biarritz, Stane Street (A29), Codmore Hill, Pulborough.

Hello,

After threatening to do this for a couple of years, we have finally decided to go for it. This year we are holding our first Local Craft and Produce sale.

We invite any local crafts people and local (non trade) producers to come along and bring your goods to sell. There will be a 12m x 12m marquee to accommodate as many as we can but if you would like to bring your own stall we can accommodate that too.

We have a limited number of tables available so please bring your own if you can.

If you would like to demonstrate your craft while you are here that would be very welcome too. You will need to carry out a risk assessment, especially if you are using sharp tools. We ask that you also consider the need for Public Liability insurance and, if you are demonstrating, please provide us with a copy of your insurance cover certificate and a copy of your risk assessment.

We will not be charging a fee for a table / stall but we do ask that you be prepared to donate a suggested 10% of takings to a fund that will go to Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice.

We will be advertising the event around Pulborough village. Please do pass on details to friends, family and local groups you have contact with so we can get as many crafts people and attendees as possible to come along to buy your goods!

There will be parking available and a portable loo will be on site.