

WEST SUSSEX WOODTURNERS

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

An Associated Club of the AWGB



The chairman opened the meeting with a few announcements. There was an article in Revolutions (the magazine for the AWGB) about the Cumbrian Woodturners Association doing some turnings, which they sold for their local St Johns Hospice. They apparently got the idea from the article about us doing our bit for St Barnabas.

We now have more details about Wizardry in Wood. Ian has a list for people to put their names on if they are interested in going.

If you are interested in our Awards Evening dinner and competition there are still places available, Contact John Stepney for details.

And thus we came to the main event a demonstration by Andy Coates. Andy is a former Chairman of the AWGB.



The first project for the day was to be a lidded box made from cabinet grade plywood (you won't get it at your local B & Q and a quick Google search did not really help). Andy had cut the piece in 2 and put in a sheet of veneer. He stuck the 2 pieces back together with Gorilla White glue. If turning it's a good idea to turn the lathe speed down a touch in case the plywood delaminates. When starting up the lathe, stand to one side just in case the timber comes off. He was using Steb centres in both the head stock and tail stock (actually the Axminster version which is much cheaper). Having trued up the blank he then put tenons on either side. Ply will blunt your tools much quicker than standard blanks due to the glue in it. He was using a long grind Bowl gouge. He would normally make the foot about a third of the diameter and it will be slightly concave so that it sits in the chuck properly. He had to part off the part that he was going to make into the base. He started off with a very thin parting tool and then went in again at a slight angle to widen the cut. If you do not do this you stand a chance that the tool will bind up in the cut. He trued up the lid and put a small decorative centre on the inside of the lid. He then made a v cut and using a piece of Formica made a burn mark in it.

He then took the piece that was to be the base and put the tenon in the chuck. He then scribed a line to mark up where the lid would fit. Andy's preferred method of scribing a line is to use a Vernier calliper. He made a cut with his Parting tool on the line before hollowing out. He filled some small gaps using CA glue (Superglue) and some shavings. I won't repeat Andy's story on the dangers of superglue but will repeat his warning to be really careful and keep some debonder handy. (note to self get some debonder). Having hollowed out the base he put the lid on it and brought up the tail stock to keep it in place. He said most Woodturners go for a really tight fit but over the years he has found that most customers prefer to have a lid they can easily remove. He used his 3/8th Spindle gouge to shape the top. He used a piece of Spectra ply (the picture will show what this is) as a handle, which he glued on using CA glue. The handle was not quite concentric so Andy re-turned it and brought up the tail stock as support.



The 2nd project was a bowl made from Wenge (although as the turning went on Andy decided it probably wasn't Wenge but could possibly be Madagascan Ebony or a Rosewood) with a pewter ring.

Some of you may remember Richard Findley doing a turning with pewter in November last year. Andy did an article in Woodturning magazine in the November issue.

Andy is not very keen on exotic timbers as they tend to be rather oily and hard. He turns bowls in what many would consider the wrong way round starting at the top and working down to the foot. Most people tend to work the other way round. Andy switched to a Carbide cutter. Carbides are not a tool he is keen on but they do cut exotics better than a gouge in his opinion. He also used a Scraper as these also cut exotics well; the other tool he was using was a Negative Rake scraper. He was looking to do an Ogee shape, which is basically a lazy S. He flattened the top of the bowl before turning it round. He was going to use a pewter ring. If melting your own you need to keep the temperature between 230 – 260 degrees to avoid black in the pewter. Avoid old pewter beer mugs etc as they will almost certainly contain lead. To cut the pewter Andy used a small raked scraper. The ultimate tool would be a carbide cutter as they are designed to cut metal. Andy suggests that you clear the lathe of wood savings before cutting the pewter and put a piece of paper down to catch the pewter shavings so you can melt them down again. To shape the rim he used a 3/8th Spindle gouge. Having stuck the pewter in with CA glue he turned it down using a Negative Rake scraper. If you find any Cuttlefish skeletons on the beach they are worth picking up as they make good mould for pewter. Andy uses MDF for mould as the mould needs to be dry when casting, as ordinary timber can retain moisture.

As a couple of asides Andy said if using colour or stains it's a good idea to cover with artists UV protector as they will fade. The dust from cuttlefish is a fine abrasive and can really bring up the shine on acrylic pens and if mixed with glue makes a really good white in filler.





An example of a pewter cast using cuttlefish bone.

The final project was a sphere. Andy started with a blank approximately 100 x 74 x 74, which he put between centres and rounded it down to approximately 74 mm diameter. He flattened each end with a parting tool. Mark the centre and then mark it up to 74mm in total length. Andy had a jig supplied by Hackel Sphere jig (I found pictures but no prices on Google).



There are numerous of ways to make spheres, either with purchased jigs or you can make your own. The final bit was to turn the sphere into something slightly different.

Andy had a homemade doughnut chuck. When making the chuck he used a Beall Tap to drill a hole and put a thread in. The tap is available from Toolpost at £29.41 (no doubt there are other stockists).

He placed a sphere into the chuck at which point you can drill it out with a Spindle gouge or an ordinary drill whichever you are most comfortable with. To hollow it out he was using a specially ground tool made from an old straight headed screw driver, he also had a Swan-necked hollowing tool.



Always ensure you clear the shavings from inside the vessel. Andy had forgotten his small compressor but fortunately up stepped our gallant Librarian, Peter Corcoran, with a tin of compressed air.



Andy says do not try and shape the rim until you have finished the hollowing.

MEMBERS SHOW AND TELL TABLE:

This month we had a bumper bundle of items for the table.



The figure and the hedgehogs are by Terry Hooper. The vase is by Stewart Furini.



The yew platter is from Jim Harris.



The goblets are by Gary Parkinson, who thought they might help people come up with a design for next month's competition.



The Banksia nut turnings are from Alan Wallington and the lighthouse is by Terry Hill.

Awards Evening Competition Rules

Open to **all** members who may enter up to a maximum of 4 items.

Any item incorporating turned elements can be entered, including those entered in previous Club competitions, though items **must not** have been entered previously in an Awards Evening competition.

The invited Judge will not be a practising woodturner. There will be a First, a Second, and a Third prize based on the Judges' assessment of which items he or she would most like to own in order of priority. The Judge's decisions will be final in all matters and will not be the subject of discussion, apart from that of a general nature for the benefit of the Club members generally. They will give reasons for their preference.

DIARY DATES:

See the sheet previous sent out for Amberley.

A quick reminder that the workshop at Amberley Museum is for all members of the club.

NEXT MONTH:

It's competition time again.

em length (from the bottom of the bowl to the top of the foot is 50mm (2inches) for Beginners, 100mm (4 inches) for Intermediates and 150mm (6 inches) for advanced. These are **MINIMUM** lengths.

AND floor demos of Involute turning.