



Beautiful Bowls with Bob

Following several hiccoughs with the programme for the March meeting, Bob Hollands stepped up and led the demonstration on bowl turning. Although mainly aimed at the novice turners, we all found the demo very interesting as Bob has his own individual method of shaping and hollowing, using scrapers which he shapes and profiles to his own design. Using his favourite timber, spalted beech, Bob took us through the processes of shaping and finishing the back of a bowl and turning a recess for mounting in the chuck. This recess would also accept a tenon as Bob was turning a separate pedestal for the bowl. The work was then removed from the lathe.

Next the piece for the pedestal was mounted between centres and prepared for and mounted in the chuck. Then Bob turned a tenon at the top of the pedestal to fit the recess in the bowl, offering the bowl up to check fit and shape as he worked. A recess was turned in the tenon to enable Bob to reverse mount it to finish the underside of the base. The pedestal was then sanded and finished and removed from the lathe. Bob then remounted the bowl and turned the inside, still mainly using his modified scrapers and checking by feel for a good finish, not always easy to attain with spalted timber, as the timber's hardness varies. For the same reason great care must be taken when sanding, as the softer areas sand away more quickly leaving ridges. After sanding, Bob sealed the work with cellulose sanding sealer, a good general choice for sealing as it will accept most finishes. Bob's choice for final finish was Simoniz car wax which produced a lovely soft shine. The two components were then ready to glue together.



Stages in the turning demonstration

Top right. Outside of the bowl finished, showing chucking recess which will also accept the pedestal.



Centre right. Pedestal showing tenon for the bowl.

Bottom right. The finished bowl on the pedestal.



Left. Bob Hollands checking the depth of his work during his bowl turning demonstration. Notice the trial overhead camera.

Many thanks to Bob for a good demonstration

Members may be aware that our audio visual team are looking into providing a suitable overhead camera. An informal club demo provided a good opportunity to try out a possible solution. Everyone seemed agreed that this set up achieved excellent results. Thank you Brian Rowson, Lynn Chambers and Archie Gain for your hard work.

NB. An important point to note when using spalted wood is the safety aspect. Spalting is caused by a fungus so using PPE is even more important to protect our health.



After the demonstration, our chairman, Maggie Wright, gave a short talk on some of the basic principles involved in woodturning with particular regard to safe working practices. To our newer members, some of whom have not yet begun turning, Maggie recommended Keith Rowley's book 'Woodturning A Foundation Course'. I too think this is an excellent book for beginners. It is the one I used to teach myself turning before I joined the club and I still refer to it today when I need to refresh my memory on techniques.

Set out in the book are four laws of woodturning which Maggie covered in her talk. If you always bear these in mind you should at least be safe in your turning even though your efforts may not yet be quite up to the standard you are aiming for.

Maggie had brought a varied selection of beautifully turned bowls to inspire us all. See below. Thank you Maggie.



After the talk we broke for the raffle and lunch, followed in the afternoon by the hands on session.

On setting up the lathes, it was apparent that John Turner had been busy. The lathes were wheeled out with ease in a super mobile storage cabinet. HSE would be impressed as were we. A big thank you to John!

Entries for the Richard Hasleden Cup were down this month but here is a selection of them



Segmented pen by Nick Benson.



Pyrography on apple by Sandra Day.



Cockerel house number plate carved in ash by Ken Page.



Bangles in yew by Bob Hollands.

Reminder for this month's meeting

April 17th 10.00am

Dennis Hayter demonstrating

Well done to members who had a go at bowl turning and thank you everyone who helped with tuition, setting up and clearing up.

New! Turning Tuesdays from Axminster.

The Sittingbourne branch of Axminster Power Tools is holding regular turning sessions every Tuesday between 10.00-4.00. Each week a member of the team will be available to talk turning, demonstrate and help with any queries or questions as well as giving you the chance to get hands on and have a go.

Next month's meeting

May 15th 10.00am

Hands on spindle turning.

Bring your tools and timber if you have it.

Chairman	Maggie Wright
Vice Chairman and Competition Secretary	Peter Castle
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	John Turner
Events organiser	
Librarian	David Spice
Newsletter editor	Sandra Day
A-V co-ordinator	Brian Rowson
www.wealdenwoodturners.org.uk	