

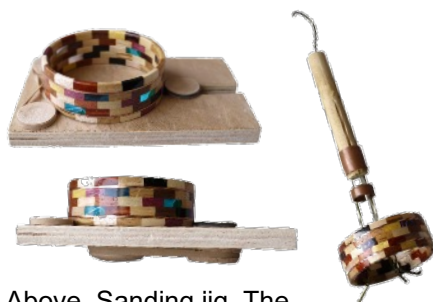
Debut Demo Delivers

In February the club welcomed Ben Dick who stepped in at short notice as sadly Kevin Hutson had to cancel. Although Ben had demonstrated at his club, Middlesex Woodturners Association, this was his first outside engagement and he admitted to being somewhat nervous. The meeting was well attended but hopefully Ben did not find the audience too scary.

Ben had a selection of his work on show including segmented bangles with copper wire inserts which were a little different. It was the construction of one of these that he had chosen for his first project. The bangle comprises 90 pieces, 5 rings of 18 segments. Ben uses mainly different coloured timbers but also a few acrylic pieces. The stock pieces are cut using a sled which slides in the channel of the saw table and a dovetail stop to make repeated cuts. The segments are cut with an angle of ten degrees to form the circle. Ben emphasised the importance of using a fine and sharp blade. Having prepared the pieces beforehand Ben demonstrated the gluing process. The pieces for one ring are glued together and held with an elastic band with a piece of wood clamped across to keep the ring flat and left to cure. Ben mounted a sanding disc on the lathe and using a jig, sanded the faces of the rings flat. Five rings are then glued in a pile, clamped and left overnight. The arrangement of segments and rings is a personal choice but the effect is better if the segment joints in the rings are staggered when glueing up.



Ben using the sanding jig



Above, Sanding jig. The work is held against rubber bands by a sliding wheel adjusted by rubber bands beneath.
Above right, jig for holding work whilst spraying.



Ben's worktable showing assorted segments, sled with adjustable angle guide and hinged sliding dovetail stop. Note also prepared rings glued and clamped.

In order to turn the bangle it was glued onto a piece of waste wood turned to size then the whole mounted in the chuck. Ben then turned it as for a box using a scraper on the inside making the sides parallel. He used a bowl gouge on the outside and checking the wall thickness turned it to 1/4inch. Once happy, Ben marked where he wanted the channels for the copper wire. He then cut these using a tool made from a dental pick ground to a width of 1mm. The wire was cut oversize and a cable connector attached for handling. Using a medium superglue Ben glued the free end of the wire into the channel progressively working around the bangle. He smoothed the wire in using a piece of wood and used an accelerator to cure the glue. The wire was then cut a fraction short of the start to allow it to lie flat. Ben then sanded the work working through the grits and monitored the wire rings to maintain an even size, sanding by hand if necessary. The sharp edges of the face were sanded over then the work was wiped over with a tack cloth and sealed immediately to preserve the shine on the copper. Ben parted the work off cutting into the waste just up to the bangle. He then reversed it onto a jam chuck to tidy the reverse by sanding. After sealing he sprayed the bangle with a gloss lacquer. Ben used a gadget for holding the bangle whilst spraying. It was made from coat hanger wires through a copper sleeve and wooden handle. The sleeve moves up and down to open and close the wires.

For the second project Ben showed us his take on decorated platters. This included a technique which needed some support on the reverse of the piece so after facing off the piece of sycamore and turning a spigot for the chuck jaws he did not do much shaping to the back. The work was then mounted in the chuck, the front faced off and shaped with the bowl area and rim conforming to the golden triangle ie proportions of one third and two thirds. The bowl area was not hollowed out but a chucking spigot was turned in it. The position of the chuck jaws on the rear was marked to enable accurate remounting and the platter was then removed from the chuck. Ben divided and marked the rim into twelve segments for his design. He selected three areas and using a rounded smooth polished punch so as not to cut the fibres, knocked dents into the platter. Once satisfied with the pattern he remounted the platter and turned the rim down until the surface was level with the bottom of the dents and sanded to a good finish. Using a kettle, Ben then applied steam to the remains of the dents. The steam lifted the compressed fibres back to their original height resulting in a collection of pimples. Members were very impressed with this technique. The principle will however, be familiar to anyone restoring wooden artefacts using steam or a damp cloth and heat to lift dents. Remember the technique. It may come in handy for rescuing a woodturning that you accidentally knocked and marked. Bear in mind though, excessive heat and moisture will spoil a polished finish.

The platter was then reversed using the spigot in the bowl section and Ben turned the bottom and sanded it but still retained the chucking spigot. Once again it was reversed and the bowl section turned and sanded conventionally. Finally Ben finished the underneath using a jam chuck and ring centre for support. Having tidied the chucking area he added three rings for decoration. The final bobble in the middle was removed using a fine saw whilst protecting the work with a plastic card with a hole in it and the foot was sanded smooth.



Above protecting the work with a card.
 Left Ben's finished platter showing colour and pimples.
 The natural wood is the area that was masked off.
 Right More colouring ideas.

Using automotive lining tape Ben showed how to mask off the areas of the platter to be coloured in order to achieve good clean edges. He then enlightened members with a variety of more uncommon colouring techniques. In practice each segment would need to dry before adding colour to the next so Ben demonstrated on scraps of wood. In the first process Ben applied gold leaf but the surface had to be prepared first with a suitable size which he allowed to dry before laying and brushing the gold leaf over. On another piece he used heavy body acrylics which are thick enough paints to texture. Various effects can be achieved by texturing with different tools and sponges. For another piece Ben painted it then coated with decor crackle medium, applied a second colour of paint which then crackled as it dried allowing the first colour to show through the cracks. The next technique used embossing powders applied to wet pva glue painted over the surface. This was then heated with a hot air gun which raised the powders up. Ben finished by showing the Jo Sonya iridescent paints which are applied over a dark base coat and can be textured. The colours appear white but change as they dry. As the meeting came to an end the club thanked Ben for an enjoyable day.

Thank you to all those club members who worked so hard to keep the meeting running smoothly.



More colour with Ben's tower tops.



Members' Work

There was a good selection of work on display at the meeting, mainly entries for the Richard Hasleden Cup. The competition is hotting up already but plenty of time yet to accrue lots of points. New members please note, this competition is judged on a piece of work made and brought in each month and points out of ten added towards an annual total. There is a handicap system in place to allow for your level of turning.



Above Burr bowl by new member, Alan Barbour.
Below Natural edge bowl by Paul Filsell



Salt and pepper mills
by Greg Collet.



Natural edge burr bowl
by Gareth Garner.



Solitaire board by Mike Pollard.



Jug by Robert Hollands.



Ringed bowl
by Brian Blanks.



Above Goblet with captive rings
by Colin Reith.
Right Bowl by Gary Woodhouse.



March Meeting

17th March 10.00-4.00

Greg Moreton demonstrating

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

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

www.wealdenwoodturners.org.uk

Next Month's Meeting

April 14th 10.00-4.00

Simon Hope demonstrating

<https://hopewoodturning.co.uk>