

## Clocks, Time for Hands On

Members gathered for our August meeting, a hands on session led by Robert Hollands demonstrating his method for turning clocks. Robert is a long time member specialising in turning large utility items such as bowls and platters from spalted beech. The timber for the clock project was also a piece of spalted beech. It is worth noting that it is important to use dust extraction and masks when turning spalted wood as the fungal spores present an additional hazard to the dust itself. Robert dispensed with his mask on this occasion in order to describe his techniques but he would normally wear a dust mask.

To begin the clock, the blank was mounted in homemade wooden jaws fitted into cole jaws. The exposed face which would be the back, was trued up. A recess was taken out for the clock mechanism to fit into with a hole through the middle for the strig to take the hands. Robert does most of his turning with scrapers and used a square one to produce the straight sides of the recess which had to be wide enough to accommodate the hanger on the mechanism. By using a sharp tool and angling it slightly, Robert got a good finish on the final cut. Once satisfied, he sanded the work to 600 grit, sealed it and finished the wood with Simoniz car wax, buffed to a good shine. Robert then reversed the wood, holding it by expanding the chuck jaws into the recess. He trued up the front face and edge then added a little shape to the edge, turning a bead. He then turned away a recess to accept the numbers, again using scrapers and finishing with a sharp tool taking a light cut. He pointed out that if the wood has a circumference of 3 feet and the lathe speed is 1800rpm the tools are covering a distance of about 1 mile every minute so it is vital to sharpen them frequently. The work was then sanded, sealed and polished as before but no polish was applied where the numbers were to be glued on. Having finished the turning, the numbers would be glued in place and mechanism and hands attached.

If you are feeling more adventurous why not have a go at making your own numbers and hands or even a free standing piece, see below.



Robert turning the back of the clock with the work held in his homemade wooden jaws and the recess for the mechanism cut out. Below, the front face finished ready for the numbers and hands.



Intricate clock with delicate work, turned by Richard Hasleden. Viewed from the side and above.



Below, a lovely example of Robert's clocks





Gareth Garner busy at the big lathe.

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for the meeting, setting up the lathes etc, particularly Brian Rowson and team for setting up the audio visual system. Thanks go to Robert and Margaret Hollands for running the raffle and to all those who helped clear up at the end of the meeting.

A special thank you to Robert for doing the demo and providing materials for members to have a go themselves.



Members in action on the small lathes.

## Winter Competition

For the forthcoming round of competitions, each member will be given a piece of elm - 6" x 6" x 2". The objective is to turn an item and enter it in your usual category (Novice, Intermediate or Advanced).

How you use the piece is up to you but, beware, if it is embellished with other materials more than a basic minimum then your fellow members may mark you down.

A tip for those who have not turned elm before - elegant curves will accentuate the grain in a pleasing fashion. As the timber does vary in figuring etc. each piece has been numbered and allocated in strict alphabetical order.

If you cannot attend the September meeting, please contact PC to arrange collection your timber.

Peter Castle

The open class for the Winter competition is the Frank Elworthy Cup for any item of predominately spindle turning.

## Members' Work



Left, work by Paul Filsell and right, by Brian Blanks.



Scalloped bowl by Jim Moger



Baby's rattle by Mike Pollard

### **September Meeting**

September 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00-4.00

Hands On Pepper Mills led by Greg Collett

Please bring your tools.

### **For Sale**

Two new bandsaw blades, 98" long 1/2" x 6tpi. Offers. Please contact Sandra Day

### **October Meeting**

October 20<sup>th</sup> 10.00-4.00

Hands On Christmas novelties with Peter Castle

Please bring your tools.

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

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