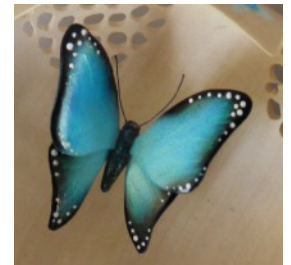


## Marvellous Milliput and Other Useful Stuff

The scope of the hobby woodturner has progressed a long way in recent times. Years ago woodturning involved basic skills, turning items such as candlesticks, lamps, bowls and platters. Nowadays an artistic element plays an important role in the turned work of both professional and amateur turners. In club meetings we have enjoyed colour and carving from many demonstrators, using techniques that many members now feel confident to use. We looked in depth at colour earlier last year but not some specific craft products which woodturners would not necessarily consider using.

Last month I mentioned a colour product called 3D crystal colour which is applied in a pen style applicator and will make a transparent film across a small gap so suitable for pierced work. It can also be used to produce a raised area of colour.



Another product producing a raised effect is dimensional fabric paint. This is available in various colour and finishes. Made for use on fabrics, it puffs up after ironing. On woodturnings it can be used more subtly without ironing. I used it on the butterflies on the bowl I turned for a Christmas competition in 2018. See picture right, the white dots which are raised.

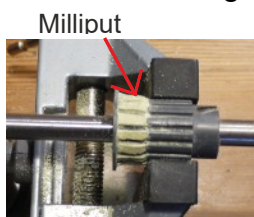
As to carving, we have seen random work with the arbortech mini grinder, piercing with the Dremel type machines and some hand carving. These techniques all involve removing timber but what if you wish to add something. Some members already use metal powders and resin either coloured on its own or with objects embedded in it. These are all normally finished on the lathe.



A product you may not have come across is Milliput epoxy putty. It comes in various colours according to its main use but is not restricted to that use. As well as embedding it into recesses and then turning, it can be used to add another dimension. It remains workable for long enough to give plenty of time for applying, shaping and moulding. It is adhesive so a word of warning, once set it is difficult to remove cleanly. It works well with sharp tools and can be sanded and painted.

Milliput has been available for a long time but is now recognised as a woodturning product and stocked by Stiles and Bates.

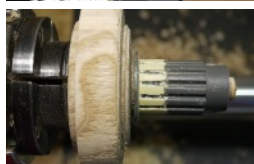
It is something I like to have in hand as it has so many uses and will set in wet conditions. I first used the standard grade for embedding eyes into carved heads on walking sticks. A few months ago I tried it out in the reconstruction of a toothed drive pulley from a small



Milliput

obsolete bandsaw as spares were unavailable. After applying milliput around the damaged section and allowing it to cure, I cut out the teeth and finally turned it to the right diameter. It is still holding up!

I have also mended a leak at the bottom of an IBC water tank which needed to withstand a lot of pressure.



Turned to round

More recently, I have used the fine white grade to repair a hole in a UPVC door, a chip in an ancient white sink and to add arms and hands to my turned nativity figurines. See right.



I am sure many of you have used superglue when turning wood. It is very useful for stabilising wood which might have a small defect to make it safe to turn. If applied when turning across the grain or turning punky wood it can also help to achieve a better finish as can a coat of sanding sealer. The thin glue is best in this context but for gap filling with mediums such as metal powders, the medium or glues are better.

There are other products to help stabilise wood, such as polycryl, designed for use on spalted and punky timber, particularly if still green. Wood juice is effective in preventing cracking and splitting in dry or green timber. The third product in this group, all available from Turners' Retreat, is pentacryl, for use on green timber to prevent splitting during drying. I do not however, have personal experience of these products and they are quite expensive.

I have used a commercial DIY wood hardener on doughty wood but not in turning. I have seen it used to harden such items as corn cobs prior to turning for an interesting effect. If any members have tried these products do please, share your experiences.

### December Competition

Winner of last month's competition was no. 8 Richard Hasleden with his sycamore platter.

Other entries were as follows: 1, Gareth Garner, 2, Marion Brunt, 3, Mike Pollard, 4 Jim Moger, 5, Paul Filsell, 6, Sandra Day, 7, Maggie Wright, 9, Pete Hawes. Well done everyone and thanks to Mike Samme for judging.



### Members' Work

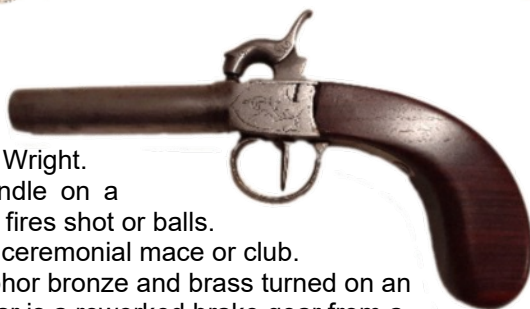


Weapons work by Maggie Wright.

Right, New rosewood handle on a 1850's pocket pistol which fires shot or balls.

Above, A Gada, an Indian ceremonial mace or club.

Made from old yew, phosphor bronze and brass turned on an ornamental lathe. The collar is a reworked brake gear from a 1953 R type Bentley. Length approx 20"



Pencil pot and tool handles by Mike Pollard.



Anne Smith's  
Novelty Father Christmas



Lidded bowl by Lynn Chambers



# Competition Entries

## Novice



1N. Lamp with Sapele base and banksia nut stem.



2N. Sycamore vase with flowers in Ash and Imbuia.



3N Square edge lidded pot in oak.



## Intermediate



4I. Platter with inlaid resin bands



5I. Turned woodturner figure based on a German smoker design

## Advanced



6A. Set of coasters and stand



7A. Libation vase with stand finished in verdigris wax



8A. Seed pod on a stand 9" x 2" in Ebony and Mulumanhyama

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](http://www.wealdenwoodturners.org.uk)

## February Newsletter

The next newsletter is due for publication on February 14th

Competition entries and any other content to be sent in by Tuesday 9th