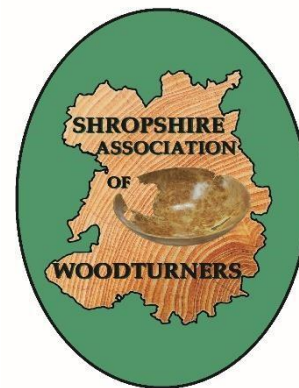


SAW – February 2023

Members' Magazine and Information



New Year Special

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OK, so the new year started weeks ago but this is a New Year Special as it's the first newsletter of 2023 and because it's got a lot inside. There's an update on the programme for 2023 including the club challenges for the new few months, a message from the chairman, a review of the club meeting in January and an introduction to using epoxy in woodturning.

2023 calendar – provisional programme

Month	Demonstrator	Turners	Advanced turners	Notes
Wednesday 22 nd February 2023	Emma Cook (Zoom)	No challenge		
Wednesday 22 nd March 2023	Professional demonstration at Bicton Wolfgang Schulze-Zachau	An animal	An "advanced animal"	
Wednesday 26 th April 2023	Professional demonstration at Bicton by Mike Taylor with his pole lathe	A platter or bowl (5-8" diameter)	A decorated hollow form	
Wednesday 24 th May 2023	Club evening including a demonstration by a club member	A piece of fruit	An example of "inside out turning"	Theme to be advised
Wednesday 28 th June 2023	Club evening including a demonstration by a club member	A natural edge bowl	Two identical balls with which to play Boule (Pétanque)	Theme to be advised
Wednesday 26 th July 2023	Professional demonstration by Robert Till at Bicton	Anything from a blank provided by the club.		
Wednesday 23 rd August 2023	Club evening – to be confirmed	A matching pair	A lightbulb - 60W Edison screw Pearl Scale 1;1 traditional pear shape	

Plans for remaining meetings will be made soon by the new SAW sub – committee (Julian Birch and Cynthia Mee).

Next SAW meeting on 22nd February

As shown in the table above, the next SAW meeting is a demonstration by Emma Cook – aka The Tiny Turner. It will be via Zoom as it's too far for her to travel to Bicton.

A message from the Chairman

I started woodturning about 25 years ago. I needed a hobby totally different from my work. My regular Thursday evening in my shed on my lathe did wonders in relieving the stress of my job, but it was solitary occupation. Since retiring and moving to Shropshire, I have started turning again after a 12 year break and, a few years ago, joined a wonderful club called Shropshire Woodturners!

Meeting and talking to other woodturners, watching professional demonstrations and trying other related skills such as colouring, burning, and piercing, has really stimulated me to spend more time in my shed trying new things. Woodturning has become an important part of my life.

I am excited and honoured to have been entrusted with role of Chairman. I hope to live up to the standards of previous Chairmen and do all I can to excite existing members and attract new ones.

I would especially like to encourage more members to enter the monthly challenges. I was initially put off by the high standard of entries, but then felt 'what the hell!', I will just give it a go. More experienced members have not looked down on my entries. They have encouraged and offered constructive advice. I urge everyone to put in something. I hope established turners will also participate more regularly. Entering challenges give you confidence and improve your skills and makes woodturning fun, and in these depressing times of world troubles and country chaos, we need all the fun we can find!

Julian Birch, Chairman

Challenge for March 2023

As announced in the January meeting, there is no challenge in February so the next challenges are for the March meeting. We are back to two levels of entry so don't be confused by the similarity of challenge – just enter something!

Turners: an animal (e.g. hedgehog) – but please don't all make hedgehogs

Advanced turners: an "advanced" animal – just a bit more imaginative and more challenging than any old animal. E.g a mouse with a curly tail as demonstrated by Andrew Thomson last year. And please don't all make mice with curly tails.

And here's a reminder of the main rules:

1. The primary aim of the Challenges is to stimulate members to tackle projects that they might not otherwise have done and extend their experience. Taking part in which ever category, should be fun.
2. To compete – one item per Member to be placed on the Challenge Table with a coded sticker.
3. Non competitive entries to be placed on the Display Table.
4. Judging by three Club Members not involved in the entries.
- 5 Judging guidance :

True to the Challenge brief.	20%
Technical difficulty involved	40%
Quality of finish	25%
Originality of design	15%
6. Points for the 1st three pieces 6, 4, 2.
7. Verbal assessment offered as requested by entrants when time is available.
8. A trophy will be presented each year to the winner.
9. Chairman's Challenge to be a separate competition at the end of the year.

SAW meeting on 25th January



It was so encouraging to see over 30 members at the meeting – some drawn no doubt to the wood sales but most I suspect from the opportunity to get together and exchange ideas and experiences.



This was the first Club meeting organised by the new committee, so several were on steep learning curves - but didn't they do well! Thanks then to Brian Scrivens for so swiftly settling into the role of treasurer, taking your money for membership and for the sale of blanks.

And thanks to Mick Caddick our new Challenge Master for taking on the role of organising the entries and the judging.

Thanks to Colin Maiden and his helpers for providing and serving refreshments.

And thanks to Mike Biddulph for taking on the future organisation of refreshments. And thanks to Kevin Rigby for organising the raffle.



Tool sharpening

The focus of the evening was on that well known essential skill – that of sharpening tools.



There were three opportunities to learn about different sharpening systems –

1. Teresa and Nigel Goodricke with their Axminster professional ultimate edge system.
2. John Gibbons with his adapted belt sander – doing much the same but at lower cost!
3. Stuart Ray on the Club's Tormek wet wheel grinder.



You may of course be happy with a drystone grinder but it's good to see the alternatives – each with its own advocate.

We also had Tim Roberts offering an introduction to using the lathe – with novice woodturners.



Challenges and display

There were four tables displaying examples of turning by members:

1. Display table for items not entered in the challenges.



2. Entries for the Turners challenge

1st place Mike Biddulph

2nd place Alastair Smart

3rd place Julian Birch



Editor's note: Very sorry – I'm not sure who entered what here!

3. Entries for the Advanced Turners challenge:

From left to right:

1st place John Gibbons

2nd place Ted Barber

3rd place John Pitt



4. Calamity corner – to show how most of us can suffer a catch or just make mistakes. Note the blood!



All I am saying is give resin a chance.

YouTube is a dangerous place, there are so many fantastic projects out there done by very skilled people who then share their experience. The problem is that it can be very addictive so be warned before you read on!!!

I stumbled over a YouTube video a few years ago of a resin river table and up until that point I had never seen or heard of resin river tables (what a sheltered life I must lead 😊).



Boards that my son has made (we both love YouTube)



But as soon as I saw it, I knew I wanted to make one myself but what I didn't realise at the time is that it would also lead onto making bowls on the lathe that are a mixture of resin and wood.



These beautiful bowls are not mine they are by Jim Sprague on YouTube

What is resin?

There are many different resins out there, some are good for turning others will shatter as soon as they come into contact with a tool. Without going too deep into resin type (some are deep pour so that was an intended pun 😊) what I am talking about is a clear two-part epoxy resin, very similar to what is used in making fibreglass so some of you may have worked with it already.

However I suspect that not many of you will have added pigment.



If I say there are a thousand different colours available I don't think that I am exaggerating and many have pearlescent pigment added as well I even have glow in the dark pigment. This vast range of colours can seriously enhance the look of the wood that is chosen.

I appreciate that there may be some resistance to using resin.

Some of you will not be interested in using resin and I can understand why, and part of me completely agrees with you. The skill and workmanship that I have seen at SAW and the standards and sheer ingenuity of the pieces in the chairman's challenge are outstanding. Indeed I started turning because I like working with wood because it is an organic material. I particularly like turning local sourced wood. Unfortunately resin is not a natural substance but it can be turned, and it can be very useful. Maybe you could think of resin as another tool in your box to help save things when they go wrong or that it would allow you to do things and use wood that would otherwise be scrap.

As well as colour what else is good about resin?

I have had big problems drying green wood out without cracking, this bowl cracked after I had made it. It was a big crack in fact when I started cleaning it up it broke into two with a big gap between the pieces when I put them together, here resin was by far the best choice available to fix it.



It can also be used to consolidate cracked or rotten wood that could not be turned safely so would just be scrap. It can be hidden by adding saw dust to it so it doesn't have to steal the show but can be very useful.

YouTube makes it look easy but in practice it is much more difficult to work with especially with round objects like bowls and candlesticks, so I have learned much by trial and a long list of errors over the past few years. If you are interested, I could add a few hints and tips to future newsletters in the meantime have a look at these links.

<https://www.youtube.com/@SpragueWoodturning>

[Hard Spalted Maple and Resin Bowl - YouTube](#)

[Making a Resin "River" Style Bowl From Olive Wood. - YouTube](#)

This is the video that started it all: cracks filled with resin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSdofNtuLow>



Article by Mark Phillips

Editor's note:

A club challenge later in the year is likely to be "An item turned from two materials" – with resin as an obvious option.

Have your say

The next newsletter will be the March edition– shortly after the February meeting. Please let me have any contributions by 24th February.

For sale

No requests this month but if you remember next time, just send me a photo, asking price and contact details.

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