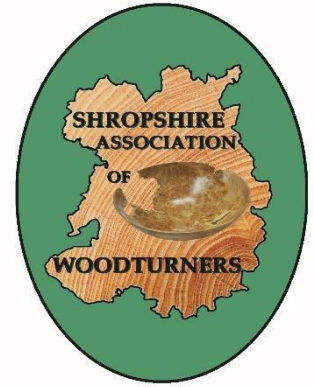


SAW – September 2023

Members' Magazine and Information



Summer Bank Holiday edition

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2023 / 2024 Calendar

Below is reminder of the programme for the rest of 2023 and also the provisional programme for the first half of 2024. You could put these in your diary now!

Month	Demonstrator	Club Challenge		Notes
		Turners	Advanced turners	
Wednesday 27 th September	Professional demonstration by Ian Ethel	Something turned from two types of wood	Something turned with wood and resin	
Wednesday 25 th October	Professional demonstration by Paul Hannaby	A mushroom	A pair of curtain pole finials on a short length of curtain pole	
Wednesday 22 nd November	Club evening	Christmas decoration		Theme is "finishing"
Wednesday 13 th December	SAW AGM	Chairman's challenge		
Wednesday 24 th January 2024	Professional demonstration by Kade Bolger (online)	To be advised		
Wednesday 28 th February 2024	Woodfest	To be advised		
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Professional demonstration by John Dilley	To be advised		
Wednesday 24 th April 2024	Professional demonstration by Stewart Furini	To be advised		
Wednesday 22 nd May 2024	Professional demonstration by Chris Parker	To be advised		
Sunday 16 th June 2024	All day demonstration by Rich Dobney	To be advised		

Next SAW meeting on 27th September

As shown in the table above, the next SAW meeting is a professional demonstration by Ian Ethel. He will be making a honey dipper with a difference along with a tray and stand. And there will, as usual, be a raffle, some wood sales, the challenges and refreshments. All our electrical equipment is to be PAT tested so it will be another busy evening!

Challenge for September

As previously advised, the challenges for September are:

Turners: Something turned from two types of wood

Advanced turners: Something turned from wood and resin.

SAW meeting on 23rd August

Demonstration by Ray Jones



Ray introduced himself as a Spindle Turner who had been practising his art for 65 years. He planned to demonstrate making his signature nursery chair.

He put an already prepared disc of wood for the seat of the chair into his chuck. His advice on speed was to 'wind it up till the lathe begins to shake'! He turned the edge smooth with a half inch spindle gouge and then the same to the base. His two bits of advice were 'tuck the handle of the chisel under your tummy' to get the right angle of cut, and 'don't fall off the edge' as this will splinter the edge and prevent a clean edge.

The piece was removed from the lathe and the holes for the legs and back marked out using a bradawl and template. The holes were then drilled on a pillar drill. The front leg holes were angled at 10 degrees and the back ones at 20 degrees. The five holes for the back were then drilled using a smaller drill bit, the outside back holes set at 10 degrees and the 3 inside holes at 20 degrees.



The seat was then remounted on the lathe and the centre hollowed out to make the shape of the seat, and the edges rounded off. Ray emphasized that the edges must be curved not flattened using a twisting motion on the spindle gouge. He sanded it to smoothness.

Ray turned his attention to the back of the chair and drilled holes in another circular blank for the back supports, pointing out that the piece would make the backs for *two* chairs. The outside holes were drilled at 20 degrees and the three inside ones at 10 degrees. The piece was then mounted in the chuck in an already prepared recess. Marking an inch from the edge of the piece, he used a parting tool to make a 1/4in groove and then taped over it to support the middle piece when it was separated from the edge piece when reversed in the chuck.



The piece was then reversed and a 7/8 inch deep groove made again 1 inch for the edge. The outside edge of this groove which would end up as the lower edge of the back was then shaped with a spindle gouge to a pleasing curve and sanded. The edge piece was then parted off from the middle piece. This would then be sanded smooth with a drum sander and sawn in half to make two chair backs. Ray did not show us these stages as he had prepared one before and it was tea-time!

After the break, Ray took us through the spindle turning routine that made the legs and back supports. He told us there were 9 shapes, and only nine shapes in turning spindles with only their depth and profile being changeable. He emphasized the importance of the 'battlement shape'



that marks out all the important features of a turning before any true turning is done. The use of callipers in determining depth and checking consistency with the other similar turnings was also shown to be so important. He showed how he



marked high spots with pencil and how he rolled and twisted the tool – usually three times, be it a spindle gouge or a skew, to create a rounded bead. A pointed bead is unacceptable and ugly. He emphasised that importance of the bead in determining the whole shape of the turning and once completed it must not be altered. Lastly spigots at the ends of the various pieces must not taper but be straight or even concave, Ray demonstrated the use of a modified spanner with one edge sharpened to make identical spigots.



Ray turned an example of each bit required and then using pieces he had previously made assembled the chair hammering in first the legs and then the back rest to produce the finished article. He checked that the same end, either headstock or tailstock, was orientated in the same direction for similar direction.

He left us with a few of his 'truths'.

- 'The bead is the deciding factor in all spindle work'.
- 'Shape must be a good shape not an OK shape'.
- 'A chair leg is just a number of shapes put together'.
- 'The right cut in the right place makes an OK piece a good piece'.
- 'Do not try to reach the bottom of a cut with the first cut'.

Report by Julian Birch

And thanks to Mick Caddick and Brian Scrivens (again!), we had another great spread for refreshments. We are still looking for volunteers to take a turn.

We ran the raffle of course – with record sales of over 100 tickets. Is it the bottles of wine that draws folk in?

Donations of interesting and useful prizes for the raffle are always welcome.

The August challenge

It was encouraging to see another good selection of entries in the **turners' group**:

1st: Mick Caddick

2nd: Julian Birch

= 3rd: Alastair Smart and Brian Scrivens



But this month, there were just two entries in the **advanced turners'** section:

1st John Pitt (right)

2nd Ted Barber (left)

No doubt some of the turners will become advanced turners at the AGM.



Display table

There were again some interesting items on the display table. This is really inspiring.



A trip to Heywood

On 5th August, Julian Birch and John Pitt travelled in the pouring rain to Heywood (near Manchester) to attend the “Woodturners 4 nation weekender”. The event was promoted by Chestnut so there was ample opportunity to buy some of their products and /or other tools or supplies. We made a firm resolution not to buy anything but somehow each returned home with a set of Simon Hope hollowing tools...



Central to the event were demonstrations by professional turners – one from each of the four UK nations. On the Saturday, the demonstrators were Joe Laird from Ireland who made an unusual two-part pot with finial (left) and Jason Breech from England (right) who made his signature Pagoda box – as he did for SAW (via Zoom) in November last year.



Minsterley Show – 19th August

After a lot of planning and preparation, especially by Brian Scrivens, the SAW display at the show was ready... Brian set up the gazebo on the Friday evening but between then and the day of the show, there was a mighty storm, so we got off to a difficult start! Rescued by a second gazebo, the brave SAW team successfully got back on track with an impressive display of turned items provided by members of the club. And all the effort seemed worthwhile as we received enquiries from about 40 people. We now wait to see if any of them translate into membership.



Have your say

The next newsletter will be the October edition. Please let me have any contributions by *before* the next meeting. And if you have better jokes than any that have been put in so far, then send them to me!

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