

SAW – August 2023

Members' Magazine and Information



Wet summer edition

Website: <http://www.shropshire-woodturners.org.uk/>

Club Secretary: Colin Mee: shropshirewoodturners@gmail.com

2023 Calendar

Below is reminder of the programme for the rest of 2023. *Note the recent changes to the August and October meetings.*

Month	Demonstrator	Club Challenge		Notes
		Turners	Advanced turners	
Saturday 19 th August	SAW display at the Minsterley Show – see page 6			
Wednesday 23 rd August 2023	Club evening <i>Professional demonstration by Ray Jones</i>	A matching pair	A lightbulb - 60W Edison screw Pearl Scale 1:1 traditional pear shape	
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 Jay Heryet 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		

Next SAW meeting on 23rd August

As shown in the table above, the next SAW meeting is a professional demonstration by Ray Jones from Liverpool. (Find "Ray Jones' World of Woodturning" on Facebook).

(The club evening with a focus on finishing will now be in November.)

Challenge for August

As previously advised, the challenges for August are:

Turners: A matching pair

Advanced turners: A lightbulb - 60W Edison screw Pearl, Scale 1:1 traditional pear shape

Note from the Chairman

I would especially like to thank, Ted Barber, John Pitt and Bill Clyne for making the spheres in last month's advanced turner challenge, as I now have several excellent croquet balls to give to Attingham National Trust!

I originally told The Trust that I would try and making some croquet sets for them at the beginning of the year. The mallets are straightforward, but not, in my experience, the balls. The spheres from the 'experts' have prompted me to try harder! My thanks to them again. Anyone else who fancies making a sphere or two, they need to be 95mm in diameter.

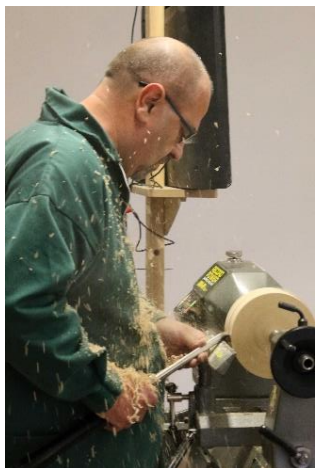
This month it was excellent to see more entries for the challenges, (even if mine scored 'nil points'!) I hope this trend continues – the number of entries, not my poor scores! - and includes more entries from advanced turners.

We do have a successful club, but numbers are less than pre-covid, and so I encourage all members to spread the word that woodturning is a great and satisfying hobby to try and increase our numbers. Most of the meetings for the rest of the year are live demos which are probably the best way for new people to experience the thrill of our passion.

SAW meeting on 26th July

Demonstration by Robert Till

Robert's project for the evening was ash box with finial and possible colouring if time allowed. He started with a 6in by 3in bowl blank which he mounted on an 8mm screw chuck with spacers bringing the tail stock up for safety. A long handled half inch bowl gouge was then used to true up the piece starting at a speed of 1000 rev. Robert then fashioned a dove-tailed tenon changing to a smaller spindle gouge for definition. He checked the tenon fitted in his chuck before taking the piece off the screw chuck.



Once the bowl was mounted in his chuck, he marked the surface of the bowl where the final edge would be – about a third of the way from the base.

He then shaped the underside of the bowl with his spindle gouge initially using pulling cuts but adding pushing cuts for the final refinement. A flat spot was left at the base. The base was then shear cut with the flat of the gouge with the lathe speed increased to 2000revs. and sanded to 240 grit using a paper

towel to wipe of the dust between grits. Robert used the trick of wetting the wood to deal with end grain tear out. He emphasised the importance of dealing with tear out especially if the wood was to be coloured or ebonised.



A tenon had been created at the base and the piece reversed in the chuck to allow the top of the bowl to be cleaned up and shaped in a similar way to the base. The size of the lid was then marked out on the



lid and the edge defined with a round skew to a depth of 5mm (to allow for future mistakes!)

The interior of the box was then hollowed out starting with a spindle gouge and proceeding with a Simon Hope Hollower with a straight 6mm carbon fibre tip. The tip was changed to a swan neck tip to undercut the sides. The inner surface was finished with a round ended negative rake scraper and a flexcut swan necked scraper for the undercut surfaces.

The small ash blank prepared for the lid was then mounted on the screw chuck with adequate spacers. The size of the lid was defined with the bowl gouge and its size checked with the recess in the body. This had to be done carefully as the body of the bowl would be used as a jam chuck to finish the lid; too tight and it would be difficult removing the finished lid from the body; too loose and it would not work as a jam chuck although this could be rectified, as in Robert's case, by using a paper towel to allow gripping. An eight mm hole was then drill in the centre of the lid being careful not to hit the screw chuck and the lid parted off.



The body was then remounted in the chuck and the lid jammed in place and its surface defined. This was mainly done by shear scraping with a spindle gouge blending the lid into the surface of the bowl. Robert said that the higher (within reason) the speed of the lathe the finer the shaving/ dust produced and the better the finish. The lid and upper surface of the bowl was then sanded. The lid was then turned in the chuck and the underside finished undercutting the centre slightly to ensure a snug fit for the finial.

Robert then made a finial in the short time left. He mounted the rounded blank between centre and using a parting tool first created a spigot of 8mm to match the hole in the lid removing the piece to check frequently. He undercut the base of the finial to ensure a snug fit. A roughing gouge was used to reduce the size of the piece and a spindle gouge and round skew use to create the final shape. The final job was to reverse the lid with the finial in place and smooth off the underside of the lid.



Robert then showed his very satisfactory result to an impressed gathering, with John Pitt gave a vote of thanks for the instructive and well guided demonstration.

Report by Julian Birch

And thanks to Cynthia Mee, Mick Caddick and Brian Scrivens, we had another great spread for refreshments.

And thanks to Peter Eccleston for running the raffle again.



The July challenge

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

= 1st : Duncan Secker , Colin Mee

2nd : Al Smart

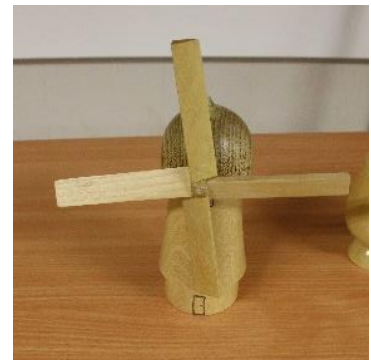
3rd : Brian Scriven



But again, there were just three entries in the **advanced turners'** section:

1st Ted Barber

= 2nd Bill Clyne and John Pitt



Display table

There were also some interesting items on the display table. Keep these coming!



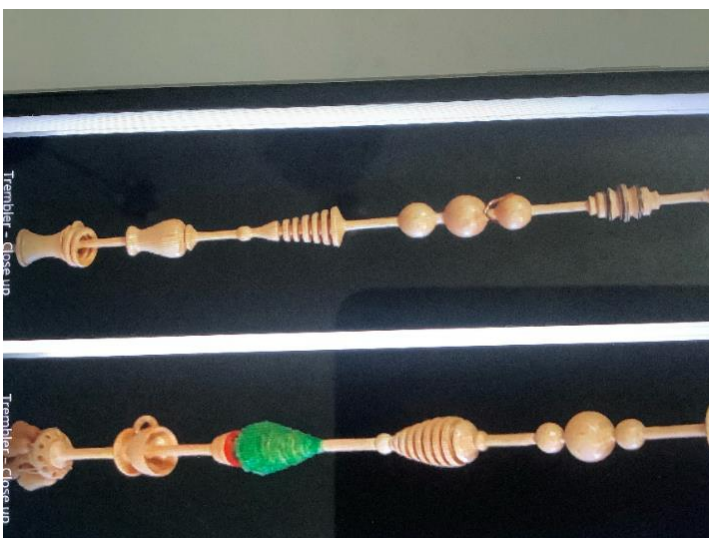
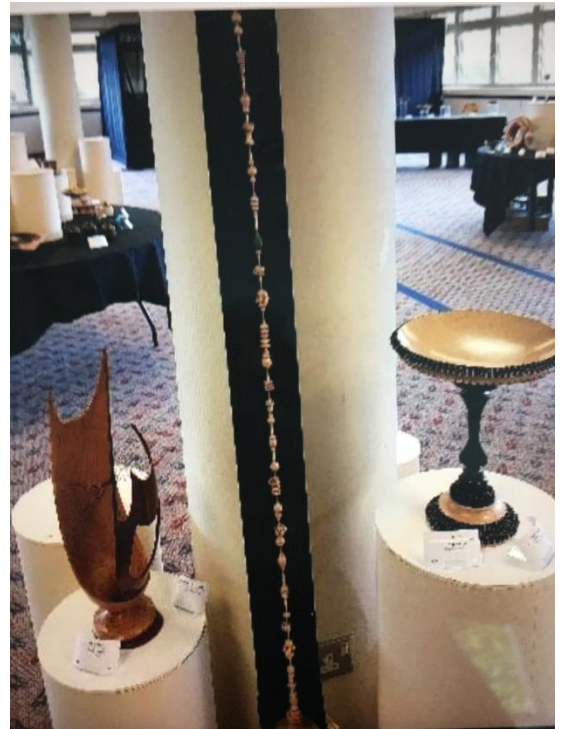
Finishing is important.

Last autumn I volunteered to help for 2 days at the AWGB Seminar near Stone - what an experience - I was detailed to check in and display all the beautiful woodturning by delegates wishing to display their skill. What an opportunity, to talk to those turners about their work and how some pieces had actually been created. One lady carefully unwrapped a metre long by 1cm trembler and then to compound my amazement asked me to help hold it. It had been created turning each intricate little piece and feeding it through the headstock and supported the other side. Yes, it was all made in one piece.

That was just one of the many amazing items, many by top turners in the UK and further afield, items wonderful to see and admire close up. Of course, all beautifully finished, polished, oiled or lacquered, definitely no tool marks. As club turners we are mainly hobbyists, but we are probably all trying to achieve the best within our capabilities - it is pride in our work.

Remember, what is the first thing that a turner will do when he spots a wood turned item? Turn it over, look inside, stand it down. We all do it, as many of you will have heard Robert Till say at his demo this month, we are looking to see how well the item is finished, any lingering tool marks, or not sanded well, or even not standing flat. Our friends, partners may look at something we have made and tell us it is wonderful but to another woodturner unless it is properly finished to the same high standard all over, especially the bottom and disguising the chucking point, it is not good. I have only been woodturning for 6 years and in my early days I struggled to get a good finish off the tools so consequently spent a lot of time sanding and sanding to try and meet the exacting standards of Tim Aaron (a previous chairman and brilliant turner). I am forever grateful to

those club members who gave me so much support in those days. I also had the benefit of being taught by Colwin Way and Jason Breach down at Axminster. Nigel sent me to Axminster as he knew that if he tried to teach me, he'd probably get something heavy and sharp thrown at him. With practice and experience, plus, if I'm honest, a few tantrums I began to improve my tooling skills and thankfully reduce my sanding.



Minsterley Show – 19th August

As we were reminded at the last meeting, the club is exhibiting at the Minsterley show on 19th August. Brian Scrivens (our treasurer) is masterminding the SAW display and is inviting offers from members of items for display. If you would like to have a few items included, please let Brian know.

Brian Scrivens B.N.M.Scrivens@Btinternet.com

Have your say

The next newsletter will be the September 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!

For sale or wanted

Geoff Henshall is selling his Tormek T4 Sharpening system. Photos of equipment and a full description is available at - <https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/643673551061926/>. He has the item on face book at £750 but would be happy to take offers of around £700 from club members – and he is happy to arrange a viewing for anyone who is interested.

And finally..

Some sayings that I have been sent:

- Woodturning is not a hobby, it's an addiction
- No woodturner says “I have enough tools”
- By all means read what experts say but do not let it get in the way of your woodturning
- Anyone who doesn't think money grows on trees, has not bought any wood recently
- Woodturning minus patience equals firewood.

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