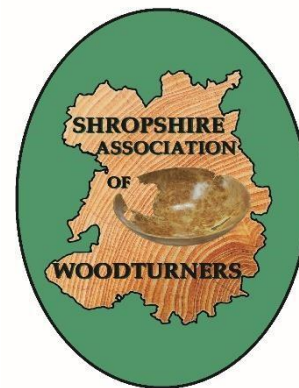


# SAW – June 2023

Members' Magazine and Information



## Sunshine edition

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

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As well as completing the programme for 2023, the committee has been planning a SAW display at the Minsterley Show on 19<sup>th</sup> August (as mentioned at the May meeting). It helps to have one of the Show committee as a member of SAW! We will be running a stand there with leaflets, photos and exhibits of woodturning – with the aim of promoting the club and, hopefully, recruiting more members. So please think what items you'd be able to lend for the day – either that you have already turned or that you can make specially.

### 2023 Calendar – Final programme

There may still be minor changes but here is the full programme for the rest of 2023.

Themes for remaining club nights have now decided but if you have a particular interest, then have a word with one of the committee so it can be included in the 2024 programme.

Month	Demonstrator	Turners	Advanced turners	Notes
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Club evening including a demonstration on Lathe maintenance by Axminster Tools	A natural edge bowl	Two identical balls with which to play Boule (Pétanque) <b>OR</b> <b>CROQUET</b>	
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Professional demonstration by Robert Till at Bicton	Anything from a blank provided by the club.		
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023	Club evening	A matching pair	A lightbulb - 60W Edison screw Pearl Scale 1:1 traditional pear shape	Theme is "finishing"
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Professional demonstration by Ian Ethel	Something turned from two types of wood	Something turned with wood and resin	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Professional demonstration by Jay Heryet	A mushroom	A pair of curtain pole finials on a short length of curtain pole	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Club evening	Christmas decoration		
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	SAW AGM	Chairman's challenge		

## Next SAW meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June

As shown in the table above, the next SAW meeting is a Club evening with the additional feature of a session on lathe maintenance by Axminster tools.

## Challenge for June 2023

There's a slight modification to the previously advised challenges and those for the June meeting are now:

**Turners:** A natural edge bowl – but see below:

**Advanced turners:** Two identical balls with which to play Boule (Pétanque) **OR CROQUET**

**BUT...if any of the turners would like to make a Croquet ball or mallet as well, it would be much appreciated by Attingham Park.** (As requested by Julian Birch, offers to make croquet mallets and balls are needed. Julian has a supply of suitable timber provided by Attingham.)

## Challenge for July

At the May meeting, about 10 members collected a club blank for the July challenge. It's a 9"x3"x3" piece of "False acacia" from which you can turn anything you like – as imaginatively as possible. There will be another opportunity to collect a blank at the June meeting.

But if you are wondering what false acacia is, then see <https://www.wood-database.com/> and the note about this website on page 4.

## SAW meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May

### Demonstration by Mark Phillips

Mark is an epoxy resin enthusiast! After outlining his work over 31 years as an airframe mechanic, he mentioned how the inspiration for epoxy was sparked by various YouTube demonstrations, especially Sprague woodturning:

<https://spraguewoodturning.ca/>

And he warned us all against the "Aldi middle aisle" – a £69 lathe got him started on wood turning!

Mark then spoke about every aspect of using resin and offered tips on them.

- Types of resin – there are lots, depending on the thickness of pour, the finish required, the viscosity (to allow it to flow into cracks), curing time etc
- Mixing – this can be by weight or by volume but needs to minimise bubbles. You need to ensure the resin is warm enough to flow, have lots of spare containers (recycled if possible!) and blue paper roll - and wear disposable gloves
- Tidy up as you go and use methylated spirits for cleaning
- Costs – resin is expensive, e.g. Glasscast 3 is about £80 for a 5 litre pack. But you can collect any excess mix in spare containers and make something else.
- H & S – Set resin is all foodsafe but care is needed in mixing and it can get hot in large amounts.
- Colouring- hundreds of colours are available as powder or liquid as well as adding pearlescence effects. Interesting patterns arise where two mixes meet.
- Moulds – moulds for turning projects can be variations on plastic or silicon bowls but tape (aluminium best) is needed to ensure that the resin doesn't adhere.
- Polishing the surface of resin can be achieved with very fine abrasives – e.g. 400-12000 grit.





Mark also brought a huge number of exhibits to highlight the points and passed round numerous examples of his work – including some very attractive “river table” tops.



He showed how a burr can be used with resin, but that bark has to be removed from wavy edge timber to ensure a good joint.

He also answered the many questions that were asked!

**Report by John Pitt**

### The May challenge

There were just three entries to the turner’s challenge this time. Results for this section were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mick Caddick
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Julian Birch (bowl of cherries)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brian Scrivens



And there were just three entries for the advanced turners. Results for this section were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ted Barber (left)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> John Pitt (centre)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Clyne (right)



### Display items

Once again there were some interesting items on the display table including Tim Robert’s Welsh chair.



### Refreshments

Thanks to Cynthia Mee, we had a very generous and delicious selection of flapjack to go with our coffee or tea.

## Visit to Mike Taylors woodland and pole lather – 13th June

Several members have already arranged to go on this visit but Mike can take up to 12 – so let me or Julian know if you'd like to join.

<https://www.mtgreenwoodcrafts.co.uk/>

[https://www.mtgreenwoodcrafts.co.uk/uploads/b/124249306-258248944461919213/img\\_3137\\_355.mp4](https://www.mtgreenwoodcrafts.co.uk/uploads/b/124249306-258248944461919213/img_3137_355.mp4)



## A visit to Border Oak

The search for suitable blanks for the July challenge took Julian Birch and me to a Border Oak, a timber company a few miles outside Wem. It was quite an eye opener to see quite how extensive an operation it is – with shed after shed piled high with oak timbers. They provide timber for many of the oak framed houses being constructed in the UK.

But most of their stock comes from France where oak plantations are sustainable and sadly this is rarely the case in the UK.

Our hope of finding modestly priced pieces of oak were dashed when we found that even the offcuts all had uses and were too costly.

But, if you ever need some quality oak timbers, you could try here first.

## Is that wood really mahogany?

Have you got any questions about a piece of wood? Is Meranti considered true mahogany? What is false acacia and is it safe? Is beech good for turning? Does black walnut splinter easily?

And so on. The wood data base is a comprehensive source for such questions – and many others you didn't ask. <https://www.wood-database.com/>

An alternative to the wood database is to ask Ted Barber!

## Have your say

The next newsletter will be the June edition. Please let me have any contributions by *before* the next meeting.

## For sale or wanted

Nothing for sale this time – but have think before the next newsletter....

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