



THIS MONTH...

On 15th May our demonstrator will be **John Stinson** who will continue the theme of working green wood. He'll cover the full process from felling a tree to making a chair and demonstrate traditional spindle-turning using a shaving horse and pole-lathe. The demonstration will include a diverse set of topics related to working wood out-doors in comfort, from buying a woodland to making your own green woodworking tools.

RAFFLE...

The prizes in this month's raffle will all be wood blanks - 10 in all of various sizes and type so you have a good chance of winning - great value for the price of a raffle ticket at just £1.00 each.

BRIEF REVIEW...

Tony Handford gave us a fascinating demonstration of turning green wood to produce a large spalted natural edge vase and introduced us to some of his techniques and his own designed tools. The first point of interest was his technique for producing spalted wood. He had wrapped the wet wood (as soon after cutting as possible) in clingfilm and left it for 2½ months and the piece he brought along certainly had impressive spaltin



Using a large log has it's own difficulties and Tony made sure it was held firmly on the lathe with his Axminster jumbo drive, which he fitted inside a hole drilled into the centre with a matching sized Forstner bit. He reminded us to keep tightening up the tailstock as the wet wood will quickly compress. He trued up and shaped the outside of the wood, checking frequently to see how much bark to leave and the shape of the piece. He then turned a spigot to fit his Axminster gripper jaws - it's important to ensure that the end of the spigot doesn't touch the base of the jaws and the edge is trued flat to give a tight fit. The spigot should fit with jaws opened up as they will also have to be regularly tightened on the wet wood. The wood was then turned, mounted in the jaws and the tailstock brought up while Tony trued up the end and removed some of the interior wood, leaving the centre in place for support. He returned to the outside to further refine the outside shape.



Tony then removed the tailstock and turned down more of the interior, including the centre support. He then used his drill bit with a Morse taper mounted in the tailstock to drill out the centre (this is done in 2 stages, one later on after he has taken out more of the interior. At this stage he mounted his specially made tool rest, which generated a lot of interest. This is a bar with a milled out centre which allows the tool to be mounted along the length of the bar. It also has a clip underneath where a small key-ring style torch can be placed as he goes further into the work for improved visibility. Tony has these in various lengths, depending on what he is working on. As he turned further into the wood he used a tool with an arm support to reduce vibration. It is important that the thickness of the wall is even (about 1") so the wood dries evenly - the drying process will take about 4 weeks. When Tony has finished turning his piece he removes it and coats the spigot and the edges round the bark with watered down PVA and leaves the piece for 4 weeks to dry.



Time ran out for Tony's demonstration before he could show us the process of finishing a dried vase to completion, but he demonstrated how he uses his home-made sanding tools - using the bowls of 2 large spoons mounted onto rods, one round and one oval. These are covered with the loop side of Velcro so that sanding sheets can be attached - he uses Abranet and a foam backing, as it doesn't clog so readily and is more flexible.



After finishing the inside Tony reverses the vase onto a jam chuck, covered in non-slip matting (available in the club shop). This allows him to bring the tail stock up and remove most of the spigot, finally carving and sanding off the centre before finishing with 3 coats of Chestnut Finishing oil, which he prefers to Danish as he finds it doesn't leave run marks on his large pieces.



Many thanks must go to Tony for this extremely interesting and informative demonstration. A longer version of this review can be found on our website under Information/Reviews.



We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 15th May

ON THE TABLE...



An interesting, albeit disappointingly small, entry in the whistle turning competition - won by Hilary Sinclair with a spalted beech and ebony whistle.



Alun Thomas' cherry bowl - with an unfinished base and the question of how thick to make the base



John Abraham's 3 beech bowls including one with an interestingly carved top



Oak bowl turned by David Curnow



Gordon Cookson once again produced an innovative vase with glass insert made from shutterboard and walnut flooring board

NEXT MONTH

Next month sees a welcome return for Gary Rance. We don't yet have confirmation of the content of his demonstration (last time we saw an interesting 'salt bell' and an off centre turned pendant. He will doubtless come with a supply of his excellent DVD's, his tools, including his round skew chisels, box scraper and easybead tool and his project plans. See his website - www.garyrance.co.uk

CLUB SHOP NEWS (A Members Service)

Don't forget that the Club Shop has a stock of:

- Rustins Danish Oil 500ml, selling at £5.00 (half that of Axminster)
- WebRax - particularly good for getting a burnished finish after sanding.

We have a discounted supply of Simon Hope's sanding arbors - 36mm and 72mm and also a very good deal on the sanding discs. It's well worth trying our shop first before going out and spending money needlessly elsewhere!

PROGRAMME FOR 2013...

- 15 May: John Stinson
- 19 June: Gary Rance
- 17 July: Tim Lawson demonstrates how to cut up a log. The 2nd part of the evening will use some of these logs to turn wet on the Wivamac
- 21 August: Derek Blake, the Pompey Penmaker
- 18 September: Club night/Demonstration
- 16 October: Club night/Design discussion
- 10 November: Sunday Jimmy Clewes - all day masterclass
- 20 November: to be confirmed
- 18 December: Christmas social/Frank Clarke competition

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 15th May

CLUB NIGHT TECHNICAL HITCHES...

Members will be pleased to know that the problems we encountered with the lighting and sound system have now been fixed. Ray Boud has repaired the PA system speaker cables and Bob Higgins has replaced the spotlights, so everything should be working again for the next meeting.

The committee is also involved in a project to determine how best to improve the audio and visual presentation of our demonstrations and a number of club members are already assisting with this. We will keep you informed of progress. In the meantime if any member feels they have knowledge of video projectors which may be of use in the project please contact Jeff Cordery or David Buskell.

COLLECT - talks...

The Sarah Myerscough gallery will be featuring turned and carved wood on their stand at Collect - location 2.2, Ground Floor, Saatchi Gallery.



On Sunday 12th May there will be 2 talks, one by Ernst Gamperl (1.00 - 1.15pm) discussing the "Memory of the Tree" - the grain telling a story about the passing of time, the 2nd by Malcolm Martin and Gaynor Dowling (3.30-3.45pm) discussing the hand of the maker and the metaphor of the vessel as body and the importance of human scale.

Collect, the international art fair for contemporary objects, is on from 10-13th May, more information at www.craftscouncil.org.uk/collect/

The ToolPost Open House

ToolPost are holding an Open House on Friday and Saturday 7th/8th June from 10am to 5pm. Entry and car parking are free and there are a range of demonstrations and trade support.

They will also be holding 2-day woodturning masterclasses with Jimmy Clewes in November at £396 per student - so our one day demonstration by Jimmy will be an amazing bargain! The ToolPost, Unit 7 Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7HR

Find out more at www.toolpost.co.uk, phone: 01235 511101

RECORD LATHE...

A reminder, particularly for new members, that our Record DML 305 lathe and stand together with tools and chuck is currently available for loan.

To borrow the lathe please let Brian Ash have your details (phone: 0208 642 8108, email: brianash@virginmedia.com) by the week prior to the next meeting. Remember that it may be needed for various demonstrations during the summer months so take advantage of it while it is available.

To comply with the Club insurance, the kit has to be signed in and out again each month.

HEALTH & SAFETY - TOXIC WOODS ...

As well as the damage that can be done to your health with all forms of wood dust many woods, both native and exotic, are toxic and can have a range of effects. Knowing the toxicity of woods can help you avoid adverse reactions and allow you to enjoy woodturning for many years to come. Learn how to identify woods and become knowledgeable about wood. The following is a link to the UK Health and Safety executive's information sheet on Toxic woods. It starts with the proviso that using the woods it mentions will not automatically mean its use will result in adverse health effects. Many timbers are used regularly without any problems but this will depend on:

- the species involved
- the concentration and extent of exposure
- the levels of toxic agent within the timber
- the sensitivity of the user or the chance of developing sensitivity

It is a comprehensive overview with information on the ill-health effects associated with wood (skin, nose, lungs, eyes) precautions, medical terms made simple, and a 2-page list of the more common toxic woods www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis30.pdf

Another short but very interesting discussion about controlling wood dust is this article from the Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild relating to a talk they had about dust collection:

gvwg.ca/docs/Dust_Collection_Dave_Martin.pdf .

The key points are :

- Keep tools sharp and make clean cuts. This means less sanding later.
- Keep the shop clean. Use a built in vacuum to take the dust out of the shop.
- Don't use compressed air to blow the dust around.
- Leave your smock in the shop.
- Collect dust before it gets airborne. Dust stays in the air about 6 hours.
- Use closed rather than open shelves to make it easier to keep it clean.

There is also a list of the 6 main ways of controlling dust with their advantages and disadvantages.

NOTE: If anyone hears of events that would be of interest to club members or has any other information/articles to include in the e-shot please let me know - Hilary.

Submissions for next month's e-shot should be sent to Hilary by 3rd June

If you have any comments, corrections, or items to add, please contact e-shot editor Hilary - hsinclair@blueyonder.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 15th May