

Phil Wolsoncroft - Wet Turning the Wolsoncroft Way - 15th January 2003

Reviewed by Brian Ash (photos Gregory Moreton)

Phil explained that he was going to demonstrate 'rough turning' of wet bowls and time permitting would turn three bowls. He had brought his own lathe, a Harrison Jubilee and used a Super Nova chuck with his own designed O'Donnell Jaws. Modifications had also been made to the lathe with an outboard tool rest enabling larger blanks to fit.

The first bowl was turned from a Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus Hippocastanum*) about 12 inches diameter by 6 inch deep. The wood was held by a faceplate ring (also Phils own design) with steel hardwood screws. He explained that after rough turning he would dry the bowl in a microwave set on defrost and placed on newspaper.

The second bowl was rough turned from a Burr Horse Chestnut blank. He mainly used a Hamlet Big Bowl Gouge throughout the rough turning but he did use small gouges to 'tidy up' the finish. One tip he gave was to use a parting tool on the edges of the bowl where there was a possibility of slipping.

Finally Phil rough turned a Black Walnut blank (*Juglans regia*) about 14 inches by 3 inch. The final shaped bowl had a number of splits around the edge which phil explained that he would normally fill with fine brass filings mixed with super glue making an attractive feature of the splits.

Many thanks to Phil for standing in at short notice and for making an interesting evening on wet turning.

Click below to watch a little videoette of Phil's technique with a gouge (this is quite a large file about 1.5mb)

