West Midlands Woodturners

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Chairman's Comments

There are two main items to concentrate on at the moment which became more evident at our Sept. demo day with Andrew Hall. This was a great day and I would score 100% for preparation, content, delivery and presentation, a demonstrator who gave maximum effort and was much appreciated by everyone who managed to attend.
Now for the two main items we as a club need to address. First, the need to acquire camera equipment of the quality demonstrated by Graham Ball of Coombe Abbey whose 'set up' we had the use of and which proved our need for better kit. Again I must express our thanks to Graham for generously giving up his time.
Also the need to acquire a suitable Demonstrator Lathe to assist the booking of demonstrators who are reluctant or indeed unable to carry a suitable lathe with them.
This raises the second item which needs to be addressed and that is funding of the expenditure. You are no doubt aware we have been unsuccessful with Lottery Bids but we are trying for other avenues of support. In the meantime I have asked Les, our Treasurer, to look at our balances to see if we are being too cautious in holding a balance over and above what may be necessary, this may release some money to go toward this Equipment Initiative. I shall be writing to every member individually with a proposal to raise the remainder of the funds, I hope this meets with everyone's approval and I feel confident that it is the best way forward.
We are now busy with preparations for our Open Day in Oct., also our outside demonstration days at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens on 2nd. Oct and Hatton Country World on Thurs. 13th.Oct., please get busy with saleable items to raise some cash for the funds.
That's it for now, let's get busy and I hope to see you out and about.

Brian.

PROGRAMME 2011

- October 16th..— Three-quarter Day — 'Open Day'
- November 20th. —- Full Day —- Demonstration by Frans Brown.
- December 11th. Half Day — Christmas Party and Presentations.

Appeal by the Chairman. ……..

Just a small nudge!!
If there are any unused tools or items laying about which may be suitable for Raffle Prizes they are always very welcome.
All proceeds from the Raffle go to buying new kit for the Club.
Thanks,
Brian

Can
You
Help

Chairman's Challenge —Results for September 18th.

Sponsored by Earlswood Interiors & Crafts

Basic Class

First Place— Dave Nash

Second Place— Don Lawrence

Open Entry

First Place— Tim Davies

Chairman's Challenge for October 16th.

Sponsored by Earlswood Interiors & Crafts

Basic Class — *A straight sided Goblet 4 inches wide and 4inches deep internally, standing 7inches overall in height.*
Open Class — *As the Basic Class with a decorative lid with a 'Hat' themed knob.*

Open Day October 16th.

English Hardwoods will be in attendance with a selection of timber and giving a 10% discount on anything bought there. If you need anything specific bringing, call Nigel of English Hardwoods on 07979251497 and he will bring it for you.

Please advertise this event any way that you can so that as many people as possible know about the Open Day. It is a good opportunity to get new members.

Christmas Social and Presentation December 11th.

Just a note to jog your memory and to give you chance to look around for something suitable for the gift exchange, everyone to bring a gift to the nominal value of £2.00. A woodturner brings a gift suitable for a woodturner and guests bring gifts suitable for guests.

Some photographs from the Display table at the September meeting.

Natural Edge Bowls by Peter Hockley

Box by Dave Nash

Report on Andrew Hall's demonstration on September 18th.

By Malcolm Caine

Editor's Note: As there are a lot of photographs and so that the text does not become disjointed I have put all the photographs at the end of the article and inserted references to them in the text.

In a sense we had two demonstrations today, one from Andrew Hall, the other from Coombe Abbey Wood Turners, of which more later.
Andrew Hall is a professional wood turner from County Durham who specialises in making full size wooden hats and medieval and fantasy helmets. He brought a good selection of these with him, which made a very interesting display. He also brought a lap top computer and a separate screen on which he was able to show a DVD and to complement his demonstration with a PowerPoint display. In addition he wore a headset with microphone attached, which amplified his voice and wirelessly transmitted the sound to a loudspeaker at the back of the room, so everyone present could hear him clearly.
He started with a brief resume of how he became a turner and in particular how he became interested in hats. He acknowledged his indebtedness to Johannes Michelson, a Swedish turner, now resident in America whom he met at an Irish seminar, and who encouraged him to have a go at hats. Since then he has developed a process for making full, half and quarter size Stetson hats, top hats and various helmets. (*photographs 1-10*)
The lathe Andrew brought with him was an Axminster 330 with Vicmarc chuck and external variable speed control. He explained that he could not make a full size hat on that lathe, as it was too small to take the large blank necessary. Instead, he would make a smaller hat, which required a blank that was more within the capacity of the lathe. He then moved on to describe how he sourced and prepared the wood for his hats by showing us a DVD of the conversion of a fallen beech tree into about twenty blanks. He stressed the importance of using wet wood and keeping it as wet as possible prior to use and during its time on the lathe.
To obtain the dimensions of a full size hat, Andrew recommended the use of a 600mm flexi curve which is placed around the head and then the outline is transferred to a piece of MDF from which measurements can be taken (*photograph 11*). These are then adjusted to allow for shrinkage and linings etc. If any member would like the dimensions for a full, half or quarter size hat, send an e-mail to Andrew at: info@hallwoodhats.com
With the preliminaries over, Andrew mounted a piece of wet cherry log measuring about 8 inches diameter by 6 inches thick onto a screw chuck and brought up the tailstock for support (*photograph 12*). He explained that he used relatively few tools in making hats, mainly a ½ inch bowl gouge with a swept back grind, a 3/8 inch bowl gouge, a 3/8 inch beading and parting tool, and a fish tail parting tool. The first task was to rough turn the blank to a truncated cone shape and to tidy up each end. The larger diameter was to be the brim of the hat and the small diameter the crown. This was soon done (*photograph 13*) with the shavings streaming off in long ribbons. Andrew then explained that it was necessary at this stage to look carefully for cracks, as if any were present it would be better to change the design from a Stetson to a top hat. He then set a pair of callipers to 5 inches and reduced the blank to this diameter for a short distance at the tailstock end. Then, with the lathe running at 700 – 800 rpm, and using a parting tool, he cut straight in parallel to the bed towards the headstock (*photograph 14*). Next, he cut in from the edge towards the centre, thus parting off a ring of wood (*photograph 15*). This was not used in making the hat but could be put to use for something else such as a photograph frame. He then formed a short tenon, slightly oversize for the chuck, at the tailstock end (*photograph 16).*
Shaping the outside of the hat could now begin. This required a flowing ogee from crown to brim, with a narrow band left slightly proud at the bottom (*photograph 17).* Andrew fixed a bright light behind the headstock and as the shavings were removed, the light gradually became visible shining through the wood which was left. He was aiming for a thickness of about 1/8 of an inch and set a pair of scissor callipers to this dimension. Starting at the rim and working towards the centre, with gentle cuts, he removed wood until he had achieved this thickness evenly across the whole brim. The next task was to sand the brim with grits from 180 down to 240. For this he reduced the speed of the lathe to minimise heat build-up, and, using two pieces of abrasive, sanded both sides at once.
The next step was to add colour to the band between the crown and the brim. To do this, Andrew used coloured pencils sharpened to a chisel shape, brought the tool rest up close to the work, held the pencil in contact with the wood and rotated the lathe by hand

(*photograph 18)*. This was a convenient point at which to have a break. During tea Andrew was kept busy surrounded by a crowd of members who were discussing the grinds on his tools and his grinding jigs.

After tea, Andrew continued by cutting a dovetail on the chucking spigot he had previously left on the work. For this he used a beading/parting tool that was not ground straight across, as is normal, but at an angle of 6 degrees to suit the dovetail on the jaws he was using. This done, he removed the work from the screw chuck and reversed it into the jaws of the chuck in compression mode (*photograph 19)*. As an aid to keeping the work central, he placed a single finger in the hole left by the tailstock centre and used it to apply gentle forward pressure while tightening the chuck. After truing up the face, Andrew cut into the base at an angle with a splayed parting tool to remove a cone of wood from the centre (*photograph 20)*. This was to reduce the chances of the wood splitting. Had he been making a full size hat, this would have provided a blank for a quarter size hat (*photograph 21)*. At this point, Andrew placed some kitchen roll over the bed of the lathe and sprayed water on the wood to rehydrate it prior to hollowing out. As before, he placed a light behind the hat so that he could gauge the thickness of the wood as hollowing proceeded. Using the same setting on the scissor callipers as before, he gently removed wood down to the crown (*photograph 22)*. Finally, the hat was removed from the chuck, a light held in it, and the hat again reversed onto the chuck and held there by friction. The tailstock was brought up for support and the chucking spigot removed with a bowl gouge until the internal light could be seen through the wood. The remains of the spigot were then cut through with a pull saw, and the crown tidied up with abrasive by hand. Andrew then placed elastic bands round the brim and over the crown of the hat to let it dry over lunch (*photograph 23)*. This was to encourage the brim to curl upwards, which it did slightly, but an hour was not enough time to achieve the full effect.

After lunch, Andrew took us through the process of making one of his Corinthian helmets. For this he mounted a wet cherry log of about 5 inches diameter between steb centres. To find the centre of the log he placed his chuck on the end and marked the positions of the jaw openings on the wood. By joining these marks with a straight edge he found the centre of the wood rather than the growth centre of the log. Using a spindle roughing gouge, Andrew roughed down the log to about 4 inches diameter and cut in at the headstock end to produce a spigot for the chuck (*photograph 24)*. Below this he cut in with a thin parting tool almost to the centre and finished the cut by hand with a pull saw. The drive centre was then removed and the wood placed in the chuck with the jaws compressing onto the spigot. Again the tailstock was used for support while the end was cleaned up with a ½ inch bowl gouge. At this point the tailstock was removed altogether and a hole drilled into the centre of the wood to a predetermined depth. Andrew recommended the use of bullet tip drills from Black and Decker for this operation. He then started hollowing from the centre out until he reached the bottom of the predrilled hole, and used an Ashley Isles close cut hollowing tool to clean up the inside. For deep hollowing like this he used a special tool rest to reach inside the hollow form and thus support the cutting edge nearer to the wood. A light was then placed inside the hollow while wood was removed from the outside. As before, he used the colour of the light shining through the wood *(photograph 25)* and his scissor callipers set to 3mm to check the thickness. When he was happy with this he parted off the helmet at the base and reversed it onto the protected chuck jaws in expansion mode and rounded off the top, finishing with abrasive paper until smooth (*photograph 26)*. He then took some previously prepared templates and, placing them on the outside of the helmet, drew round them to mark the positions of the eyes, cheek guards and neck guard. These shapes were then cut out of the helmet (*photograph 27)* with a small Proxxon jigsaw (*photograph 28)*. A quick rub round the freshly cut edges with sand paper produced the complete helmet (*photograph 29)*. We then broke for tea.

For his final session, Andrew showed us how he makes the stands for his helmets. He took an oak disc about 6 inches in diameter and 1 inch thick and drilled a hole in the centre for mounting it on a screw chuck. After truing up the edge with a long grind bowl gouge, he slightly undercut the blank using a draw cut from the centre outwards. He then cut a recess for the chuck (*photograph* 30) and decorated it with a few grooves. He did not actually do any sanding, but said that he would use the following sequence for finishing. 80, 120, 240, 320, 400 grits, a coat of sanding sealer, 600 grit, another coat of sanding sealer, 800, 1000 grits followed by a buffing system. The base was then reversed onto the chuck to clean up the top and to drill (or cut) a 1 inch diameter mortice in the centre

about 5mm deep. Andrew then added a band of decoration with a Sorby texturing tool, defining the edges with a spindle gouge and a half round bead. The debris was removed with a stiff brush. This type of decoration was then repeated on the edge of the base, and again using a spindle gouge, he defined the area with grooves (*photograph 31).*
For the upright part of the stand he took a beech blank about 12 inches long and 2 inches square and mounted it between centres. After roughing to a cylinder, he decided on the diameter for the bottom so that it would reach half way out to the textured band on the base. He set a pair of callipers to this dimension and turned down to this size. He then cut a tenon on the end to the diameter of the mortice in the base. After that he moved up the column turning a series of coves, fillets and beads until he reached the top (*photograph 32).* To fit the column into the base, he placed the base back into the chuck and brought the tailstock up, without a centre in it, to use as a cramp. The finished helmet and stand is shown in *photograph 33.*
Andrew's website is at www.hallwoodhats.com
Coombe Abbey Wood turners were represented by Graham Ball and John Bradbury who brought along their club's video system. This consists of two high quality Elmo security cameras mounted on stands, which also carry photographic lamps. These are fitted with 35Wdaylight low energy bulbs, which are equivalent to 350W ordinary bulbs. The images from the cameras are fed to a good quality projector and are controlled by a handset similar to a TV remote. This had several pre sets and could zoom in and out as required. It was capable of filling the screen with an image of just the lathe chuck! Very impressive. The whole system could be had for about £2 800, and was much much better than our usual set up.
With this video equipment and Andrew's sound system, everyone present could see and hear all that was going on. Our thanks must go to Andrew, Graham and John for an excellent day's demonstration.
Malcolm Caine.

Editor's note: To give members who were unable to attend some idea of quality of the projected images given by the Coombe Valley equipment I took some photographs of the screen pictures and these can be seen in photographs 34 - 40. I have previously tried to take photographs of the screen images produced by our equipment and have had unrecognisable results.

Photographs from Andrew Hall's Demonstration


Photograph 1.


Photograph 2.


Photograph 3.


Photograph 4.


Photograph 5


Photograph 6.


Photograph 7.


Photo-graph 8.


Photograph 9


Photograph 10.


Photograph 11


Photograph 12

Photograph 13

Photograph 14

Photograph 15

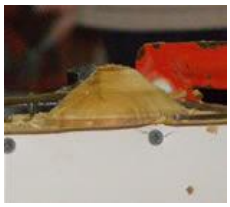
Photograph 16

Photograph 17

Photograph 18

Photograph 19

Photograph 20



Photograph 21

Photograph 22

Photograph 23

Photograph 24

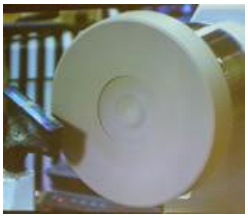
Photograph 25

Photograph 26

Photograph 27.

Photograph 28

Photograph 29



Photograph 30

Photograph 31

Photograph 32

Photograph 33

Photograph 34

Photograph 35

Photograph 36

Photograph 37

Photograph 38

Photograph 39

Photograph 40

General Information

Hatton Country World Apple Day— Thursday 13th. October
The following have said that they will attend :- Greg Miller, Steve Simmonds, Cliff Lane, David Hope, Isaac Foden, Phil Stevenson, Peter Hockley and Tim Davies. Can those attending please bring along a couple of items for display/ sale and any tools/bits of wood that they may want to use on the lathe.
We hope to have four lathes on the go. Please come along and give the club your support.

Chairman's Challenge Winners
Can I remind all winners of the Chairman's Challenge competition to keep their winning piece for the Daventry 2012 exhibition.

Next Meeting October 16th.Open Day
This is a Three-quarter Day.
This will commence at 10.00 a.m and finish at about 4.00 pm. The fee for the day will be £4.00.
Helpers to set out tables and chairs from **10.00 a.m**. please.
Don't forget a mug for your tea/coffee and sandwiches for your lunch. We need a volunteer to help Margaret with the tea.

Meeting November 20th.
Please note the change of speaker for this date. Reg Slack is now unavailable and is replaced by Frans Brown.

Items for the Newsletter

If anyone has any items for inclusion in the Newsletter, please note that the deadline for the November issue is **October 22nd.**