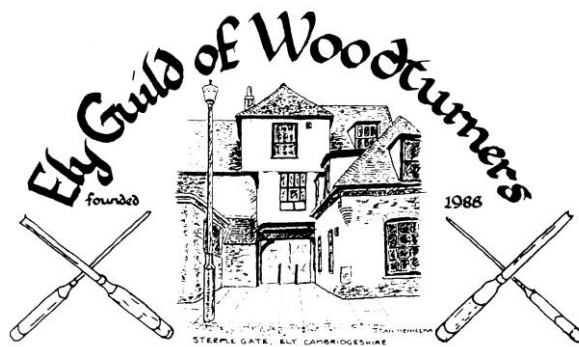


Woodpecker



The newsletter of the Ely Guild of Woodturners.

Editor: Peter Symonds

The December 2017 issue

The September meeting.

Chairman Stephen thanked all those who had taken part in Art in Wood, but said that we would need someone to run it next year, as Mike Marsters would not be doing so. Because Treasurer Malcolm Arter was on holiday, cheques would not be issued until next meeting.

Mike later added his thanks to participants, and said that there were 2755 visitors recorded, 347 items were sold, and takings were £8453. He thought this was likely to mean that the commission to the Guild would not exceed 10%

The 'open workshops' day next month would be going ahead, and Stephen had the details for all those taking part, which were available for people to pick up.

There was a clip board for members to sign up for the all day demo next month, which will be by Shaun Clifford.

Someone in Soham has a lathe for sale, a lady wants a set of coasters either refurbished or a new set made, and there was some pitch pine and apple available in Ely. Stephen has all the details.

Tony Walton, our demonstrator last month, had donated the item he had made, to the raffle.

The demonstrator this month was someone we have seen two or three times before. Roger Foden is a member of the A.W.G.B. and is on the Register of Professional Turners. He was last with us in May last year.



Roger makes a start.

Coincidentally, Roger decided to show us his method of making pepper mills, seemingly following Clive Baker's session in the novices tuition spot. Roger used spalted beech for both his mills, which I found surprising, as any spalted wood is basically diseased and I would not use it for any food items, and you do after all eat pepper.. However, Roger did point out that it was important to give the inside of the mill a couple of coats of

sealer, which should overcome any problems.

He had a couple of ready prepared blanks which he had pre-drilled, with the tops also sawn off, thus avoiding a wide parting cut. This meant the spalting, which can be very decorative, would very closely match up on the finished article. The actual turning was fairly standard stuff, using a selection of tools, but you do have to admire the skill of a woodturner who has lost most of his right arm.

Roger's third project was a small box-wood bowl, using half a small log so the finished item had a natural edge. Mounting it on a screw, he proceeded to true up the ends before shaping the outside of the bowl, including a spigot which he was at pains to ensure was of a size to exactly match the chuck jaws when they formed a perfect circle. This means that the chuck jaws do not dig in and leave marks as it was also going to be the foot.

With the bowl thus mounted, it could now be hollowed, cutting from the outside in so as to establish the finished thickness straight away. The turning of the inside was finished with a (very sharp) scraper, cutting from middle to edge. The finish obtained was as good as a lot of people would get from abrasives.



The (almost) finished bowl. Roger didn't do any sanding.

An interesting demo, presented with obvious skill by an undoubted expert.



The competitions.

Novices. A candlestick. 1st. Mary Ward 2nd. Chris Horne

Seniors. A multi-media/inlaid item. 1st. Dick Brown, 2nd. Peter Symonds, There were three joint third places, Clive Baker, Ray Dellow, Mike Goodwin.

The October meeting.

Numbers present:- 34. Visitors:- Stuart Warrenden, Duncan Wilson, Michael Balshaw.

Chairman Stephen opened proceedings in his usual way, welcoming everyone including the three visitors, then went on to talk about what had happened last month, when there had been a measure of unpleasantness regarding parking. There is one space reserved for disabled people and one for staff, and both of them had been occupied by people attending our meeting. One of them, in the disabled space, was our demonstrator, Roger Foden, who quite rightly regards himself as disabled, having lost a large proportion of his right arm. However, this did not seem to satisfy the two gentlemen who were complaining, as they said Roger was not displaying a blue badge. These spaces are marked with notices on the bank, and this month they also had cones in place. Unless you are a blue badge holder, do not park in either of these spaces.

Stephen has written to the hall committee chairman so hopefully the situation has returned to normal.

This meeting was billed as 'Hands on Evening – Skill sharing, mentoring, critique corner, question time, tools for sale.' Unfortunately, attendance was low, and not all of the above happened. Yes, you could say skill sharing and mentoring were in evidence, as Richard Ackroyd was doing the beginner's tuition, and there were some tools for sale, and some books, but the 'critique corner' and question time failed to materialise. Perhaps a lot of people are reluctant to publicly put items on display to be criticised.

We have a suggestion – the stage curtains could be drawn, and anyone wishing to know what others thought of their work could put items in place behind the curtain. They could then be revealed, and no-one would really know who did what. What do you think?

Incidentally, do you remember, not so long ago Chairman Stephen suggested that a couple of 'Barnabus' characters should be appointed to offer mentoring to beginners. This followed on from a previous suggestion at an A.G.M. that more experienced turners could 'take someone under their wing'. Subsequently, two people, Hugh Castle and myself, were asked to take on these rolls, and a little later Mark Wardle was also recruited. I have to say that not many people have sought my opinions of their work. Probably because they know better than I do.

Remember, the Guild is run by the members for the members, so don't be afraid to make suggestions as to what we do, to any committee member, who will bring it up at the next committee meeting. If you are not happy with the way things are done, get yourself on the committee!



Richard Ackroyd discusses a tin ofcocoa? beans? Shoe polish?



Competition entries, senior section.

George Ashdown had a 'show and tell' with some wet turned bowls in what I think he said was holly.

The 'open workshop' day had not been a huge success. Stephen had seven visitors, one club member and six invited neighbours. He said maybe we should leave it for a year or three, before trying again. He also reminded

trophy holders to bring them back next month (November) so that they can be prepared for this year's winners..

Malcolm has the list for booking the all day demo, and he is now able to order items from Turner's Retreat in a similar way to Axminster, which offer a discount to bona fide club members. He also asked that anyone who has not yet paid in their cheques from Art in Wood to do so .

The competitions.

Seniors:- Off-set vase. 1st. Chris Edwards, 2nd. Richard Ackroyd, 3rd. Stephen Franklin and 4th. Clive Baker.

Novices:- Salt/pepper grinder. There was only one entry, Chris Horne.

The all day demonstration,

This was on the 21st of October, and featured Shaun Clifford, below, who has been to us once before, in October 2015 (see Woodpecker December issue 2015).



Most of Shaun's work is with wet wood, and the blanks he used today were cut as recently as May this year. They came from a whole mulberry tree he aquired. He likes doing hollow forms and natural edges. It is important to remember to make all surfaces the same thickness, which

should avoid splitting , as the timber dries and shrinks evenly.

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Shaun grinds all his tools free-hand, not worrying too much about the precise angle of the bevel. He power sands with 75mm diameter Velcro backed discs, usually used in the car trade. Finish is food safe, such as lemon oil.

His first project today was a natural edged vessel, seen below.



comfortable to pick up.

Note the black ring, and two small areas of sapwood . The third piece started with a flattish blank about 3" (75mm) thick, with bark all over one side, most of which was removed, but still a natural edge finish and a bark



inclusion. (second picture).



Next came a shallow dish, with decoration top and bottom. This was left quite thick, but Shaun pointed out that the thickness was consistent, so drying and shrinkage should be uniform. It had a nice feel to it, and felt



The one-eyed gentleman behind is Mike Harding. One of Shaun's earlier pieces. This is the top....



....and this is the bottom, and it is completely hollow. (not the 'wings', of course, I think that would be impossible).

If you find there are a lot of whiskers left on the bark, they can be removed with a small flap wheel in a Dremel tool or similar, or they can be burnt off with a small flame. Remember to brush the soot off. You could also try a soft wire brush.

If you want any wet wood, Shaun has a large stock, all for sale, and he's not too far away, near Hadleigh, Suffolk.



The November meeting.

42 members present tonight

Chairman Stephen explained that the hall was cold because the boiler had broken down, and would not be fixed until tomorrow, so we may finish a bit early if members felt it was too uncomfortable. He also gave notice of the A.G.M. In February, and stressed that there was an urgent need for a vice chairman for next year.

David Ife had been given a number of (turning?) magazines by Peter Brooks to sell on Ebay on behalf of the Guild.

Gil Marchant, even though she was not there, did a Show and Tell with the small boxwood bowl which had been made by Roger Foden and which she had finished. Does this lady have supernatural powers?

Malcolm Arter is taking orders for Axminster and Turners Retreat.

The December evening will be different this year. There will be no long quizzes, but there will be a raffle and a musician, so you can dance if you want to. Sorry, we haven't got a pole. Also, in my notes I have the words 'comp. table deco'. I think this may mean a turned wood table decoration. At the time of writing, catering arrangements had not been finalised.

On to this evening's demo, which was by Mick Hanbury, from Newark. Actually a cabinet maker, he has been turning for 25 years. Born in Cyprus, he lived in Germany for some time and speaks fluent German.

Mick's project tonight was a hollow vessel with a decorated finial lid. Starting with a blank 4"x 4" x 5" long between centres (Steb centre) this was quickly roughed down with a bowl gouge, and a spigot cut on one end. Held on this spigot in a chuck, it was hollowed out with a 3/8" spindle gouge and a hollowing tool. Mick said he was reluctant to put his hand inside to sand it, so he used a tool he has made which consists of a stick with a double thickness of Velcro backed foam on which he can mount Velcro backed sanding discs. He cleans the discs with a soft wire brush.



Mick at work.

Mick often 'wet' sands, applying a mixture of liquid paraffin and beeswax to the timber first. Any resulting slurry is removed with kitchen paper. He has a small LED light with

a magnetic stand which can be positioned anywhere on the lathe, including inside the work-piece.

Mick says he listens as much as looks at what he is doing, which is understandable when roughing down, but I think

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when you are perhaps scraping inside a vessel, it is as much a question of feeling and visualising what is happening.

From here on, this account is based on memory more than anything (and my memory is sometimes rather suspect), as I lost the last part of my notes.

Mick went on to turn the outside of the container, which was then decorated with various colours of acrylic paint on top of black lacquer, wrapped in cling film and 'squidged' into what might have appeared to be a right mess, but which was, in fact, rather beautiful. Mick made fairly extensive use of a hair dryer to hasten drying, keeping it moving and not too close. Final finish was clear lacquer.

It was now time to turn the spigot into a foot. This was achieved by holding the piece on the chuck in expansion mode inside the the top. A very risky business, you may think, but it worked. I do believe the tail centre may have been used for as long as possible.

The lid was then completed. This had a finial on top and was not coloured, but was decorated both inside and out with a decorating tool.

The finished piece.



A selection of Mick's work.



The competitions.

Novices:- A bowl. 1st. Mary Ward, 2nd. Chris Horne, 3rd.Graham Sanderson.

Seniors:- A child's toy. 1st. Peter Symonds, 2nd. Dick