



Woodworms

Issue 105 Woodworms

Hello all.

This month the club welcomed Rick Dobney back for another wood turning demonstration. Whilst this dominated the meeting it did not slow down those creative members in Carving, Pyrography and all of the great entries in both the Members' and Masters' competitions.



Monthly Competitions

With competitions in mind: here are the themes for the next 3 months.

May - Favourite book

June - Miniatures

July - Summer treats

Ken Rivers : Editor

Many thanks to those that contributed to this issue: Kez and Phil Halliday for competition images. Articles and other images from Liz King, Graham Legg and Geoff Dalton.

Thanks also to Rick Dobney for providing a few words on his session.

I also appreciate all those competition members who were able to provide a description of their entries.

April 2024 Meeting

Carving & Pyrography

“The sound of Silence”



Concentration 1 : Wood Turning demo 0



Lisa Williams pauses for inspiration.

Rick Dobney Turning demonstration

<https://rickdobney.uk/>

After introductions from Derek, Rick launched into the first demonstration of a bowl within a bowl followed by a Bud vase.



Rick Dobney's work on display



Ricks Notes on his Offset Bowl in a Bowl



Cutting List

8 x 2" (200 x 50mm)

Sycamore.

Sacrificial glue chuck (see below) 15mm thickness minimum.

5 x 1½" (125 x 37mm)

walnut or other contrasting timber.

Method

1. Prepare a glue chuck – sacrificial tenon
 - a. Size calculation: Chuck tenon size + twice the 15mm offset + 10mm
e.g. 50mm + (2 x 15mm) + 10mm
 - b. Glued centrally onto the main bowl blank using hot melt glue – let it get hot
2. Mount the walnut blank centrally onto screw chuck using an MDF or Plywood spacer if required to shorten the screw chuck thread. True up the blank and face, measure the diameter 2 (note for step 15), measure the width (note for step 16) remove and set aside
3. On the face of the main bowl blank, mark the centre and the 15mm offset considering the inset bowl position and grain alignment.
4. Drill centre and offset marks to suit your large screw chuck
5. Mount on the centre hole onto the screw chuck
6. Using a 2 to 3mm drill fitted in a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock, drill the centre of sacrificial chuck to a depth of approximately 10mm.
7. Turn the profile of the underside of the bowl remembering we'll be insetting a smaller bowl.
8. Turn a tenon on the sacrificial chuck - 6mm max depth
9. Fit the bowl onto the chuck using the tenon
10. True up the top face to perfectly flat - use a draw cut and check with a steel rule.

11. Sand the underside and top and apply your chosen finish.
12. Fit the bowl onto offset screw chucking point
13. Remove old tenon and turn a new one
14. Mount on new tenon ₃
15. Subtract 10mm from the measurement noted in step 2 and mark this on the face of the bowl.
16. Hollow the bowl - note the offset and the wall thickness at narrowest point to a depth of no more than the insert blank width minus 6mm
17. Fit the insert bowl back onto the screw chuck
18. Use a parting tool cut 5mm below rim to a depth of 5mm
19. Mark the bowl depth** below the rim previously cut
20. Turn the underside of the inset bowl, undercutting the rim slightly, use the friction fit technique to adjust if necessary.
21. Turn a small (approx. 2mm) chucking point
22. Reverse into jaws and hollow out, detail the rim before the wall is turned thin.
23. Sand and finish inside bowl
24. Fit reversing plate and remove tenon
25. Sand away the remaining stub on a sanding arbour
26. Finish the underside to your choice
27. Use hot melt glue to secure the insert bowl taking note of grain direction.



“Having previously visited Derbyshire Dales Woodcraft Club back in 2019, I welcomed the opportunity to return in March of this year. I remembered Derbyshire Dales for being a friendly and engaging club as well as for having the unusually dynamic of being a mixed woodcraft club, it’s great to see the crafts and skills combined so effectively.

In my demonstrations, I try to incorporate different techniques and ideas often exploring beyond the ‘round and brown’, while at the same ensuring that the projects I present are achievable by turners of all levels of experience. The main objective of my demonstrations is to inspire others to ‘have a go’ and not be daunted by the techniques I employ. Much of my work involves turning pieces out of true centre to achieve different effects. On this occasion I presented an offset inserted bowl within a bowl which follows a very different sequence of processes to a conventional cross grained bowl, this was detailed in the handout shared with the membership. Following this was a simple but effective bud vase with a single offset to expose the test tube liner, a great little project for craft fairs and fund raisers. I hope my latest demonstration has inspired a few to have a go and would love to see photos of the members turnings (please email rick@rickdobney.uk or visit my contacts page <https://rickdobney.uk/contact-me>).

Thank you for another warm and enthusiastic welcome to the club, I hope to be able to return again in the not too distant future.”

Rick Dobney

Members' Competition



1st Place : Kes Halliday : Image in Lime (Left)

2nd Place : Richard Dallas: Samurai



3Rd Place Richard Latos : Small vase made from a Banksia seed pod. It was finished with a coat of varnish in order to cover all the voids. [RL]

Also entered :

Pauline Linnell : Bowl



The unknown wood was turned to form a bowl and then pyrography used to create a mandala design before being finished with sanding sealer and a clear wax. The project combined my love of woodturning, pyrography and mandalas; I just need to work in some stained glass next, which is another one of my hobbies! [PL]

Alan Lamb : Snail



Andrew Gordon : Earrings



Heart Earrings : Extremely fiddly to make : The resultant pair represents the third attempt. [AG]

Greg Holmes



Alex Walker: Vase



Voting in Members' Open Class

1	Kes Halliday	12
2	Richard Dallas	7
3	Richard Latos	5
4	Pauline Linnell Alan Lamb	3
5	Philip Jones	2
6	Andrew Gordon Greg Holmes Alex Walker	1

Philip Jones: Pendants (Alder & Zebrano)



Masters' Competition

1st Place (below) : John Williams : Door Harp



Elm was used for the body of the piece and then a mixture of different woods for the sound box cover.

The balls are a resin pen blank, turned into small spheres.

The strings and tuning rods cost about £15 but there enough left to make another 3-string harp.

1. Harp shape was cut out on the bandsaw.
2. Sound box cover was different woods glued together then tuned on the lathe to form a dish shape.
3. The hollowed-out area in the body of the harp was a formed with a mixture of processes including routing, drilling and carving. (I think if I was to do it again I would find a way of turning it out, the methods I used were very messy and quite a chore.) [JW]

Door harps originated in Scandinavia, mostly in Sweden but also in Norway and Denmark and has evolved over time. It's estimated the door harp has been around for about 700 years. It was inspired by the Chinese Feng Shui tradition of hanging bells or chimes around doors and windows to "alter the Chi" (good energy in, bad energy out).

The Swedish adopted this idea but instead of bells, they incorporated the strings and beads which you see on the modern day door harp. The original superstition behind them was to repel evil spirits but has since evolved to signify welcome, luck, health and prosperity to all that pass through the door. It is usually hung on the inside of the front door (some hang it on the outside but this will make it easier for the wood to get warped and the strings to go out of tune)

The door harp is a flattened hollow box made from various kinds of hardwood that comes in many different shapes and sizes, with hanging balls that bounce off the strings which are tuned to different notes. The amount of strings can vary from 3 to as many as a dozens (or more!). Traditionally the strings were made of braided silk, however, these days they are usually wire.

Written by Eric Azumi on May 14th, 2017

2nd Place : (below) **David Reynolds** : White Oak Bowl



The bowl is made from American White Oak salvaged from bags of firewood. Having first planed them up by hand they were then joined with stained veneer in between. It was then cut up into three pieces and re-joined with more coloured veneers, this process was then done twice more before cutting to round and turning and finished with four coats of oil. [DR]

3rd place : (Right)
Derek Puplett:



The hollow form was made from an old piece of Spalted Beech that has been kicking around in the workshop for years. The top was made from a clarinet horn of African Blackwood. There was a small piece left after making the top spout, so it was reworked to make a foot. The hole in the bottom wasn't an error, just the hole that I had drilled to form the spout on the top!
All finished with two coats of matt finish oil. [DP]

Also entered

Graham Legg (below) : Large Fruit Bowl



Large fruit bowl made from Oak. There were lots of splits in the wood, filled with Milliput resin. The finish was Chestnut Products Finishing Oil. [GL]

Peter Fantham (below) Oak Bowl



Peter Branson : (below) Three Spoons



The three spoons were made from lime wood and were carved using hand carving tools. They were carved from a few offcuts of lime and show a range of spoon bowl shapes and depths, and different end styles. They were all sanded down with increasingly fine Abranet and then sealed with sanding sealant. A final rub down with a stiff nylon brush and they were finished. [PB]

Voting in Masters' Class

1	John Williams	9
2	David Reynolds	8
3	Derek Puplett	7
4	Peter Branson	6
5	Graham Legg Peter Fantham	3

Trefoil Day

By Liz King

Pyrography Session

Following on from last year, Greg Holmes was approached by the Guides Trefoil Guild to run a pyrography session for some of its members.

The venue for the County Activity Day was St John's Church, Walton, Chesterfield on Saturday 26th March. It was a month earlier and a new setting from last year, as the Guide Association are selling their five activity centres around the country due to financial pressures, much to the disappointment of the membership! So, the Glenbrook Center in the Hope Valley where we were last year, has a For Sale sign up and metal gates have been installed across the entrances to deter any unwanted vehicles or persons.



Once again, we sallied forth to begin our Pyrography session not knowing what our facilities would be like. I must say we were all pleased to find a light and airy room to work in and plenty of empty parking spaces. Also, another bonus, no wobbly tables this time!



I should explain who 'we' are. The initial enquiry came to DDWC last year and obviously Greg as the DDWC member was the point of contact once again.

Two previous club members joined him, Jan Barlett, who runs Dronfield Carving Club and myself Liz King. Between us we were able to supply five machines plus the club's five, and so we had 10 pupils as opposed to 8 last year.

Yet again, Greg came up trumps supplying each participant with a 'goodie bag' containing 2 square coasters, a piece of blue transfer paper (cut to size), a Trefoil Guild motif, a lolly stick, a key fob and a practice piece. After setting up the tables and machines, making sure the cables were out of the way, we were joined by the ladies.

As this was a fairly modern building, we did note the smoke sensors on the ceiling, but fortunately there were patio doors and a kitchen unit with sink in one corner. We felt well able to cope with any over-enthusiastic wood burners!

After a short introductory talk, they all settled down to tracing and burning their motifs. Obviously, there were different degrees of talent, but they were all keen to try this 'new' challenge! Greg then unearthed the various stamps which they could use and together with the coloured pens they got into their stride.

The two hours passed quite quickly and as Jan said on her debut, "it was a lovely enjoyable afternoon", giving the guide leaders opportunities to try their hand at Pyrography.



Each participant enthused with their art ideas. The artistry was amazing and ten happy leaders went home with their key fobs, art designs and coasters, created by themselves. It could be heard in the room that many were going off to Hobby Craft to investigate buying a pyrography machine as they were so taken by the results.!!

It was a day for them to have fun and enjoy themselves and I think we managed to achieve that. It was

certainly easier with three of us to set up and pack away, but I was quite tired by the evening – but then it is a while since I've done a 'hands on'.

Our efforts were rewarded with grateful thanks and a round of applause in appreciation.

Greg, Jan and Liz

p.s. On a personal note, I am pleased that Woodworms is continuing, as I have enjoyed continuing to read it, even from a distance. And how wonderful to see new names appearing in the members competition (all new to me in last edition!) **Liz**



The Adventures of Peter Rabbit – Chapter 4

The tale of the little incline that became a mountain:

One day Peter Rabbit was invited to visit the workshop at Dr K's place, with a view to admiring some fairly brilliant woodturning work carried out by our club member, Ben. Mr. McGregor was also invited, in order that he could see what a clean and tidy workshop floor looked like, without 40 years of wood shavings on it.

Dr K, being a bit of a fitness fanatic, suggested that a nice gentle, easy peasy bike ride could be experienced as part of the day's adventure. Well, Mr. McGregor could not resist that idea, and so he very thoroughly cleaned and oiled his trusted old Merida MTB, and Peter made sure that his Specialized ROAD bike was fit and ready for purpose.

Our intrepid pair set off on their journey and soon thereafter arrived at some sort of chicken coop / air B&B / workshop facility, not far from the JCB factory and Denstone Hall Farm Shop & Café.

Young Ben had been very busy, squeezing funds, cash loans and advanced inheritance funds out of his dad (well done Ben!), in order to set up his workshop, and to prepare a very large amount of timber, ready to make an amazing number of bird nest boxes. (Ben had won a contract to make around 100 boxes!).

As a little aside to Ben's entrepreneurial skills, he was also busy completing his assessment for the DofE Bronze Award, Skills section. Peter Rabbit was the assessor for this work and had made the visit to observe how Ben was getting on. Needless to say, Ben's work was quite outstanding, and he made a beautiful bowl as part of the assessment. *(It has been a real pleasure to witness how Ben has developed his woodturning skills and knowledge, and is now a competent woodturner and Club member).*

Dr K sidetracked Mr. McGregor, and they ended up in the chicken coup, where there was an attempt to secure lunch, but Mr. McGregor was just too slow. Ben completed his assessment with flying colours, and so the time had arrived to go for a little bike ride. Dr K said, "I know where we can go. There is a little off- road track not far from here, and then we can circle round and go up a little incline, and back to Denstone."

Well, as you know readers, you can always trust a Doctor, can't you?! Off we went, on a lovely flat surface, that changed from a nice tarmac road, to a muddy, dirty, wet and boggy, forest trail. Peter's lovely clean ROAD bike soon became stuck in the mud, whilst Mr. McGregor's MTB remained clean and free from muck (because he cycles so fast apparently?!).

A few miles later it is time to cycle up a road that Dr K said was a little incline. Well, it is very rare for Mr McGregor and Peter to have to admit defeat and have to walk up a mountain of a road. The 25% incline went on and on and on. At one point Dr K announced, **"It does not feel like this normally, when I run down this road from the other direction!"**

As you know, fitness is measured by how quickly you recover from exercise. Dr K had no option but to bribe us with an ice cream, so we ended up on a small farm with an honesty box payment system for ice cream. Ben helped himself to the largest tub of chocolate ice cream I have ever seen, and Dr K somehow managed to get his good lady wife (Ali) to pay! Some considerable hills and dales later we ended up at the Denstone Hall Farm Shop for a late lunch. When asked how far it was back to home, Dr K announced that it was only about 1k. What he failed to explain, was that it was uphill all the way!

Readers, you will not be surprised to learn that there are some morals to this tale:-

- 1) Make sure that you always ask a Doctor exactly what you need to know. They tend not to tell you everything!
- 2) Make sure that you know the difference between an incline and an enormous hill, before you decide to cycle up one.
- 3) Please congratulate Ben Klein on his DofE Bronze Award. He has worked really hard and deserves recognition and credit for his achievement.
- 4) Thank you to Mr McGregor for being Ben's tutor, and helping him to achieve the standard required to pass his Skills assessment.

Peter Rabbit

Ps – Chapter 5 will tell readers about the day that Mr Badger (aka Brian Walker) replaced the bearings on a Record Power lathe. Q – how many engineers does it take to use a mallet?!

Graham Legg

..... **And Also**

White Cherry Tree from Japan.



Thanks to Lisa Williams for providing this image.

I'm pining for a good tree pun, I wish they were more popular

The Light Pull Challenge

by Geoff Dalton

A neighbour's mother was moving house and was leaving behind two ancient light pulls that she was particularly fond of, and could I make two duplicates?



When I saw the photos that she gave me I realised that it was not going to be as easy as all that.

The photos included the dimensions (94.14mm long x 17.95mm wide) and an image of the original. A few of my early attempts to accurately replicate them are scattered on top.

Most projects normally come with some instruction.

Without this, there is inevitably some trial and error. This aspect of woodturning is not usually included in woodturning lessons, at least not any that I have been to. Maybe at this point you may wish to ponder how you would tackle this project for yourselves.

In particular, how would you go about drilling a 4mm hole dead centre through the middle. I don't know about you but I don't have a drill 94mm long.

An added mystery is why anyone would want something as basic as a light pull to be so difficult to make. There were a total of 16 beads over the length. Each bead decreased evenly in size from the larger bead at the centre and there was a coved section at the bottom. Then, of course, there was the challenge of making an identical pair.

My theory is that these were apprentice pieces. I have seen something similar before where a woodwork teacher has set such a task just to see what kind of a fist his students might make of it.



I have found that when woodturning students come to my workshop there are, occasionally, things that they struggle with. One is an ability to see if something "looks right". The other is to imagine how it might be possible to work out something for themselves. Teaching how to turn beads and coves is one thing. There are some skills that are harder to come by.

Lathe Maintenance



Maintenance time for the clubs' lathes. Or another excuse to get together for a large breakfast?

Editors Note : There are many articles on the internet for 'Maintaining a wood Lathe' from daily to quarterly routines. I recently failed to clean off some wet shavings and realised it does not take long for rust to threaten to take hold on the lathe bed.

Turners Chat April 18

A general chat about the demonstration by Rick Dobney was followed by a very quick "Show and tell".

The next few words were going to be fairly brief on "How not to run your bandsaw" until I piped up with my recent experience of having the blade jam when cutting a log free hand with no jig. I am now happy to report that YouTube has offered up a few examples of a jig. It's now on my list of things to do.

The final topic was "How not to damage your MT2 tapers and what to do if you do". This was most informative, and I have never 'felt' as close to my lathe maintenance as I now do.



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28 May 2024

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Woodworms - newsletter of Derbyshire Dales Woodcraft Club.

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