

Christchurch Society of Woodturners

e - newsletter

December 2023

Jason Breach – Pro demonstration

Thanks to Jason for an excellent demo in which he produced one of his pagodas giving lots of tips along the way. I particularly noted the attention to detail, and appreciated the reminders on approaching flying corners with your gouge. Even the sanding was done at 2000rpm plus! Rick has produced a comprehensive summary of Jason's main technical points on the website. In his display Jason brought pagodas, arcs, spheres hidden in cube corners, little boxes and some streptohedrons – at least we are up to scratch on the last one – have you made one yet?



Display / Appraisal Table

I will start with an apology as I was able to give so little time to this as our main guest ran late. A full summary of what I should have said is now on the website. Thank you to all who contributed, please all continue to bring items in for others to gain inspiration and ideas



On the left is David Patrick's grassroot vase and right is Geoff Beddoe's toothpick holder

David said the grassroot turned very well and both used contrast woods to set their pieces off – good work!



Rhob Williams near perfect hand-turned spheres, tight lidded box and resin inlay bowl were complemented by Rick's beautiful natural edge Cherry bowl.



Joe Van Wyk has achieved a very high gloss finish on his pen and other trinkets in acrylic and together with Alan Brooks, he had been on a 'smoker' course – the results below



Bill Gibson has produced two more string holders for the club stall, Phil Walker has mounted an oil gauge for a car-mad relative, and Nigel Batten has packed a lot of toothpicks into a small well-turned holder



New member Merle de Pearle specialises in lace bobbins using a Bedan chisel, and long-standing member John Bolt showed his ebonised, high-voltage decorated vase and bowl.



Andy Ogilvie brought in his response to the toothpick holder demo together, a root challenge and some dogs to fight with his cats



Polishing Mops

One of our technically minded members was intrigued to see the confidence with which Jason Breach used a polishing mop which was held only with a Morse taper. He had always assumed that one had to be careful with lateral loads on Morse tapers, particularly when applying a lateral load away from the headstock. Friction won on the night but a more traditional set up might be as shown or a buffing tree. Many companies sell buffing kit, but a good one to research the topic is www.thepolishingshop.co.uk

You must make your own decisions as to security versus time efficiency – but at the very least you ought to be aware of the risks of using particular kit. It is important to get a right-hand thread version for normal lathe rotation.



Tapers - Longer article

If you look at the website copy of this newsletter there is a link to a longer article on tapers which helps to explain the different types and use of tapers in woodturning – well worth a read!

Internet

Richard Raffan has an interesting youtube video which also includes a drill extension which goes straight into the tail stock with a Morse taper, rather than into a chuck. No apparent problems with the taper releasing as the drill is pulled out. [Richard Raffan on creating sculptural distorted cross-grain tubes. - YouTube](#)

I recently bought an early Christmas present for myself from www.toolnut.co.uk It arrived in 48 hours and their prices seem good.

From a workshop near you

Paul Reeves recently made some reversible cutting / serving boards in Ginkgo – very kind to knife edges apparently.



Andy Ogilvie was intrigued by Jason Breach's 'arcs' and decided to re-purpose a bowl turned a long time ago which has been ravaged by sunlight. The bowl was reshaped, cut in half and glued. Decorative discs and base were added. No buffing wheel, so the wax polish finish is nowhere near the standard of the original articles.



Work holding on the lathe

Vic Russell: I watched a couple of YouTube videos recently and whilst the turning itself looked good to me, I thought some of the process could perhaps have been done in a better way. I'd pretty much decided how I'd approach the subject when I then clicked the link for one more video on the topic and bingo! An American turner completed the project in a slightly different manner. He drilled a hole in one of the components then used this hole to remount the work piece on a half inch diameter tenon turned from a piece of scrap wood. This is absolutely fine but I commonly turn or remount small work pieces on the lathe using short lengths of threaded steel rod. I normally use a collet chuck but you can of course use a standard wood turning chuck. Pictured is a supernova chuck holding some M6 threaded rod. In this case the top jaws have been removed but you may not even need to do this. I have M6, M8, M10 and M12 threaded rods cut to a suitable length. You could of course just cut the head off a long bolt instead. To mount the workpiece simply drill a slightly under sized hole for the rod you're using and thread the piece on. It's prudent of course to only take light cuts when mounting work this way.



This is a video, that to my mind is the best way of turning this particular project, only bettered perhaps by using some threaded rod? See what you think. It's a long one but you can pick through and get the gist.

<https://youtu.be/C4TXbhQ7Twk?si=FzI1ZwifVVQgY5SI>

Introducing

Rhob Williams has been a member for 9 of the 18 months he has been turning, but he already has an impressive range of work and skills. He was gifted an old lathe and accessories which started him off on his journey and he has now upgraded to a used Axminster 305 which sits in his compact workshop. He loves the variety and creativity which woodturning adds to his broader interest in woodworking. He has taken to making pens to fund his new hobby. Sourcing wood is not a problem as he is an Arborist; a degree in Plant Science means he is keen to ply his trade in an environmentally sympathetic and ethical manner. However, he first worked for a decade as an artisan cheese-maker in the family business and has taken a couple of 'gap years' to explore the world. He is a sporty, practical person, played hockey for Wales and loves white-water kayaking together with his wife who is also being successfully encouraged to do some turning, especially as she is allowed to use recently acquired 'Easywood' carbide tools to make it less intimidating. So, who's looking after the kids then?! £50 worth of Peugeot 306 as a first car and a love of chocolate complete his profile.



Rhob's impressive range of work including (right) a table made from a Yew tree he felled in Redlynch.



Sway Christmas Craft Fayre

Thanks to Clive Potter who ran his own stall at this fayre but also sold a number of CSW items and raised some valuable cash for club funds. Father Christmas will be delivering a few nail puzzles, string / scissor holders and a couple of dibbers.

Jam Jar Appeal

Rick needs some standard (300-400g) size jam jars, with a screw-top, to supply sanding sealer from the club shop . If you have a couple spare jars please bring them to the December meeting – thank you from Rick!

Have a good look in the shop as there are a number of interesting items for sale – for example, Allan Rae has been 3D printing chuck spanners, recently making one for a Supernova chuck at Vic's request, who reports that it works extremely well.



December Meeting – All welcome!

You and your partner are cordially invited to have a festive drink at our Christmas meeting.

Paul has been researching a special Christmas demo, there will be a short quiz, tea / coffee and mince pies and of course the display table. You are welcome to bring anything but I thought it would be nice, as we have already had a Christmas display, for members to bring in something out of the ordinary, unusual, peculiar, whimsical ... you get the idea! See what you can find in your stash of turnings.

Pick of the December Pics

Some Christmas inspiration for you – not just the trees, but the tidy workshop too!

Merry Christmas!



And whatever you do, make sure you are safe and not falling into dangerous habits.

Happy New Year!



I don't understand, I've been doing it that way for 20 years and not had a problem before!

Contributions to this e-newsletter are very welcome as are suggestions and comment. I am particularly interested in the story of projects which members have taken on. Please take a couple of photos, scribble down some background notes and I'll put it all together for the newsletter.

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