

WEST PENNINE WOODTURNERS

NEWSLETTER August 2024

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August Meeting

I gave a passable demonstration on offcentre turning and it seemed to keep the members occupied. I explained how to mark out for three, four, five and even six sided turnings (not sure if anyone would bother with five or six sides). One of the problems with this type of work is the difficulty with sanding as this can only be done off the lathe. Not to everyone's taste but always worth a go. If I can give a demo so can you, it only takes that first step. At the bottom of this newsletter are tips on being a demonstrator.

Competition Results

Subject Terry Spruce drawings Judged by Terry Spruce (thank you Terry)

A Class 1st Granville Howarth 2nd Norman Sales 3rd Borris Stepanovs

B Class 1st Neil Garthwright 2nd Linda Longley 3rd Ian Longley

September Meeting

Demonstration by Paul Lythgoe on texturing and colouring

Competition Off Centre Turning

Tea Brewers I seem to have run out of volunteers so would somebody like to really volunteer?

Ian Clarkson Demonstration

Ian has been booked for a demonstration on Saturday 12th October. £20 and £10 for a spouse and provide your own lunch. Please give your name (and money) to Linda.

Agenda for rest of the Year

October

'Hands on' subject to be arranged at September meeting. Competition Textured/coloured item.

November

Demonstration by Dennis Moseley on Xmas ornaments Competition To be advised

December

A.G.M. Pie and peas Tool Auction Competition Xmas ornament

Joke of the month

A funeral service was being held for a woman who had recently died. As the coffin was being carried out it was accidentally bumped into a wall and they heard a faint moan come from the coffin. When they opened the coffin they found that the woman was still alive. She went on to live for 10 more years and then passed away.

They held another funeral for her and as the coffin was being carried out her husband shouted "watch out for that wall".

You Tube

One of my favourites is **John Malecki**. Nothing to do with woodturning, although he does occasionally use a lathe (badly!). I'm not sure what his business is supposed to be but he mostly makes tables using wood and a lot of resin. He also buys pallets of returns from large suppliers like Amazon. The man is a complete nutter.



Entries for A Class from Terry's drawing



Entries for B Class from Terry's drawing

How to be a Woodturning Demonstrator by Woodchuck

As you may have noticed there is a definite reluctance with most of our members to volunteer to demonstrate their skills as woodturners.

Some time ago (a long, long time ago) I wrote an article for the newsletter on how to be a demonstrator. Although most of it was tongue in cheek it also contained some useful tips for the novice and also for our reluctant experienced turners. This is a shortened version

Before agreeing (volunteering) to demonstrate you should consider the following and prepare accordingly:

Skill

Only practice improves skill and so there's not much that can be done about this in the short term although a lack of skill can be overcome, to a certain degree, by distraction.

Appearance

If your appearance is distracting enough your audience may not notice your lack of skill. A beard, the bigger and bushier the better, is a good start. Your clothing should be as outlandish as possible, heavy metal T shirts are good as are different forms of headwear. One suggestion is to offer advertising space on a plain shirt.

Commentary

Now this is where most demonstrators fall down. If sending people to sleep was an Olympic sport we would have some gold medal contenders. Apart from keeping the talk flowing make sure that everyone can hear you. A few jokes never go amiss (the type of joke depends on the audience).

Subject Matter

Rule number one - always pick something that nobody either does or wants to do. It doesn't matter if it's attractive or useful (you can always call it art) and most audiences are much too polite to criticise in public. The finish of the item is not important as you can always demonstrate carving and texturing and generally making it totally unrecognisable. The choice of wood is almost as important as the subject and, if possible, you should use the worst that you can find. This gives more scope for poor turning. I once thought of turning a copy of a Peruvian goat cheese container (I'm not sure if there are any goats in Peru but who cares).

Equipment

Here we have the best distraction of them all. Have you ever noticed how many professional turners seem to spend a lot of the time leaning on the headstock and talking about something totally irrelevant (admit it, we've all asked pointless questions about tools). If possible bring your own lathe (not the one you really use) the older and scruffier the better and definitely one with an obsolete thread. Any mistakes can always be blamed on the lathe or the lack of correct jaws for the chuck.

I have left the ultimate diversion to the end. Invent a new tool. It doesn't matter if a job can be done more easily or better with standard tools, with enough waffle you can convince most turners that they should have one. Most turners already have more tools than they need so what's one more. At least this tool could start a discussion and you just stand back and leave them to it.