

West Suffolk Woodturning Club

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER Issue No.239

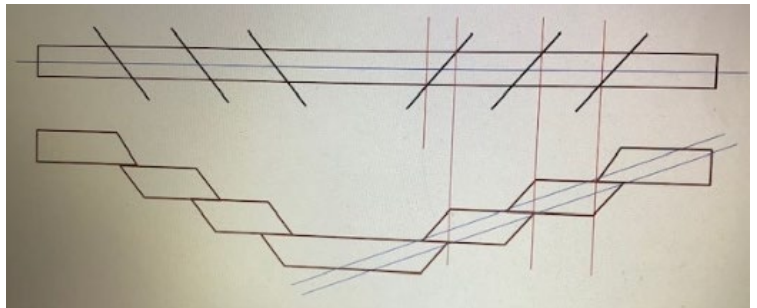
Last Meeting: 15th October 2019
Multi-turn Evening
Editorial: Pat Yates

Well this is something of a surprise! Alan appeared to be up against it and so I volunteered to have a go at producing the monthly mag!

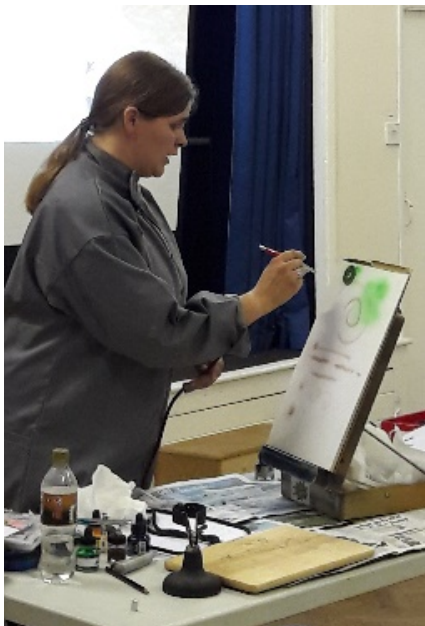
Hopefully my editorials will improve with time and some considerable attention to detail. Apart from my observations, information has for the most part currently been kindly provided by others. So pay attention it may be your ear I will be bending for info in future!

I wanted to say something about the Multi-Turn this month. I thought it was an excellent night. Lots going on and so many beautiful items on the club's exhibit table. All the participating turners are to be thanked for their creativity but so often I wonder how much of the technique used to create these impressive objects is actually understood by us all.

I was intrigued by Peter Thurston's bowls and asked John Woods to explain to me how he had made them. John emailed me a diagram to demonstrate the technique he believed Peter employed to create those rings of oak. The very little I know about woods, oak is a very open grain but Peter had achieved this smooth finish almost like glass, very tactile and both of these bowls were so fine. Very thin. And on the ringed bowl if I am not mistaken Peter had filled the holes made by the burr or spalting with resin and a tiny touch of glitter.



Then there was Maurice Elliston's Mulberry bowl with the ebonised foot. I think what Maurice was saying was that the turner who demonstrated that bowl included the foot in the turning but he was unable to do that and added the foot after turning the bowl. Striking contrast of colour. Such a beautiful mustard greeny yellow only for one of the attendees to say if it was left in the light it would turn brown in days!! So what to do to protect that wonderful colour? Well it can be helped by keeping it out of the light to begin with but also with U.V. inhibitors. John Woods told me that the woodturning finishes do not pay much attention to U.V. filters but artists materials do for those of you who do not know that. Do speak to him or Tic who seems to know all there is to know about artist's materials should you need advice.



Which brings me to Tic's demo in September. What a fantastic demo that was. I hate 'togging' up and cannot imagine that I could ever dedicate the amount of time that Tic must have given to the creation of that dragon. A work of art and no mistake. Her moonscapes? Surreal. Very impressive work. What I would say was whether I would ever employ the technique is another question but had I from Tic's demo I would have known exactly what I needed and pretty much how to do it. Excellent demo more especially as I understand it was the first time that she has given a demonstration on that particular skill of hers – she has so many!

A health and safety warning was given by one of her audience who advised her not to fire the airbrush at her hand when testing to see if it was clear of paint. Allegedly the air can penetrate your skin and potentially cause you harm and is best avoided. Fire it at a spare piece of paper or cloth for safety's sake. Forewarned

To continue with the exhibit table, Maurice had presented another piece which was a tall vase. He thought it might have been from a piece of cherry but the debate continued after he had gone off and the conclusion was that it was more likely ash because of the colour and the figuring in the wood was quite specific. The thought was that cherry would not have such pronounced grain. Maurice was busy elsewhere so he didn't get the chance to have the last word?

Mike Charnley on the other hand had these beautifully pale, apparently spalted, holly pieces. Lovely markings but spalted? I associate spalting generally with some 'rot' but there was none present in any of those pieces! And a Holly rectangular piece. I just think of my body parts when I imagine that flying round on the lathe having surrendered a smidgeon of one of my fingers some years ago turning something supposedly less lethal, a lace bobbin! A personal opinion? I still think turning lace bobbins is a good test of our spindle turning skills but in miniature and they can be so beautiful, an opportunity to try out exotics, whether they ever get used for lacemaking or not – I don't know if Mr. Springett is still about and his wife. He turned the bobbins and she

made the lace – really interesting demo! The Bees' knees and Mother and Babe/s? All that!

And of course Tic 's piece. Tic is the creator of all things magical, weirdly other worldly and beautifully drawn! The mystical cat revered by many ancient peoples.

The star performers on the floor for the night? Mike Charnley, Trevor Branton, Tic Challis, Ian Cameron and Maurice Sore.



So starting with Mike. Mike was conducting a kind of teach in with personnel from Claydon High School - and anyone else who wanted to join in. A number of members of the club have attended the school for the last couple of years when the youngsters have a day following their exams to experiment. Their teacher had contacted Mike a couple of years ago asking if the club could send some turners in to show the young people what it was all about. Two years later, Jo Fisk, the teacher was at our meeting because she wants to learn so that she can create a club at the school to encourage youngsters into the craft.

We also have a young recruit from Stowmarket School James Barker. His teacher apparently said that he could not teach him any more about woodturning and so his mother looked for a local club. It is so good to see someone so young

really interested in this skill. He has asked to attend the All Day Demo on the 26th and of course as we do with all youngsters to encourage them to continue there is no charge.

Right now the technical stuff and notes from John Woods.

So Trevor Branton was sharpening—using the Robert Sorby 'Pro-Sharpener' system. This uses an abrasive belt that creates a flat bevel.



Ian Cameron was also sharpening but he was using a conventional grinder with a 'Woodcut' Jig. Oneway offer a similar jig which they call their 'Wolverine' sharpening system. John believes they are based on something David Ellsworth promoted years ago. On Ian's set-up he had a CBN wheel on his grinder but the jig works well with ordinary wheels as well.



Maurice Sore was turning. When I saw a piece at the end it looked to me like the start of a peppermill? John commented that the wood was very dry.

And Tic was airbrushing. When I looked there seemed to be a lot of sepia, for demonstration purposes apparently, nothing specific as to the colour. She was using Daler Rowney 'FW inks'.

I am afraid this month's issue might seem a bit odd because I offered to do the magazine during the October meeting thinking that maybe that was all I would be able to do but after I had started I asked and found I could get data back to July at least and maybe even a bit further. So that is what I have tried to do.

I am finding this quite fun to do but how you kept it up for nearly twenty years John I do not know. Something I do know is I will not be doing it for that long!!! Whether I want to or not!!

Chairman's Chatter

Hello everyone I hope your all having fun, last meeting was the multi-turn and I just wish to thank all the members who turned up to demo for us all. It's a great social night for the club. We had a request for demos of drinking vessels and we hope that you're all happy with what was on offer...and making your own drinking vessels as well! As this month's meeting will be the Malcom fox trophy! Which this year is a drinking vessel of some sort...see planning right there. Also November is when the club subs are due, at only £35 full membership inc. AWGB or £17 club membership only. We would love to see you all again next year.

We also had the brilliant all day demo with Emma Cook, The Tiny Turner. It was a great turn out and once again I'd like to thank everyone who helped out up to and during the day, these days won't work without you guys. So Thankyou

The demo was brilliant covering turning, carving and decoration and with some of her sets of tree decorations for sale I'm looking forward to seeing what our members create!!

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting

Have fun turning

Tic Challis

DISPLAY TABLE



*Mulberry Burr Bowl
Maurice Elliston*



*Yew Platter
Mike Charnley*



*Oak Bowl Stained with Vinegar
& Wire Solution
Mike Charnley*



*Square Holly Platter
Mike Charnley*



Maurice Elliston



*Spalted Hornbeam Pot
Mike Charnley*



*Spalted Holly Bowl
Mike Charnley*



*Oak Platter
Peter Thurston*



Cat – Tic Challis



*Laminated Oak Dish
Peter Thurston*