

WSWC club meeting – Monday 25th April 2022

Multi-turn evening

Club news

At this meeting we had five members who had bought lathes and equipment along. There was not a large member turnout for the meeting, but all that attended enjoyed the evening and many said they learnt something or gained useful tips.

- Ian Cameron – Jigs for sphere making, work holding and sanding
- Martin Taylor – Small turned novelty characters
- Mike Charnley – Box making, hollowing and decoration
- Tic Challis – Pyrography techniques
- Stuart Clarke – Decorating tools and their use



Read the full report later in this News Letter.

Not too much to report this month, apart that we urgently need tombola donations for our stand at this year's Weird and Wonderful Wood event at Haughley park on Saturday and Sunday, May 14th and 15th. Any turnings small or large would be very welcome, we are currently very short.

The club is also looking for members to help setup as well as attend the stand on the day, any member with access to a small van would be very appreciated.

Please call John Woods on 07770 226640 as soon as possible, we will be also be updating the calendar shortly with meeting and demonstrations.

Until the next time - happy turning!
Neil

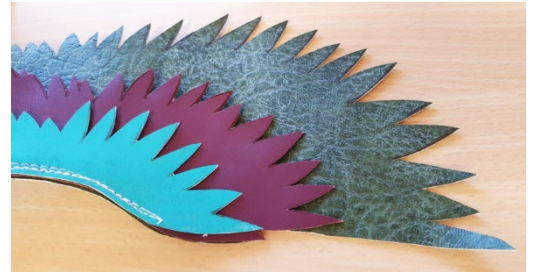
Display Table

One item this time from Tic Challis who displayed a beautiful bird of prey in mixed media. The body was approximately 8 inches (20cm) long and the bird had a large wingspan it was very well proportioned.

The body had been turned from some pine, various fixings and a chromed claw stud from an old leather jacket formed the eyes and beak in true Tic style.



She had spent a lot of time creating the wings and fanned tail from carefully stitched dyed leather. As contrast Silk had been carefully applied to the underside using adhesive. It is designed to hang up via a small hook on the neck and the wings contained wire so they can move, forming a mobile art.



Multi-Turn

Ian Cameron



Ian brought many different items to demonstrate how he has previously solved difficult turning operations using home-made jigs and chucks.

He explained that he loves to problem solve as much as the turning, everything he brought along was of his own making and designs.



Above : Ian's box of mixed sphere making / finishing jigs

Right : Ian's vacuum chuck, he says this is a lot of work to set up and is only worth using if you are making five items of the same type, or more.

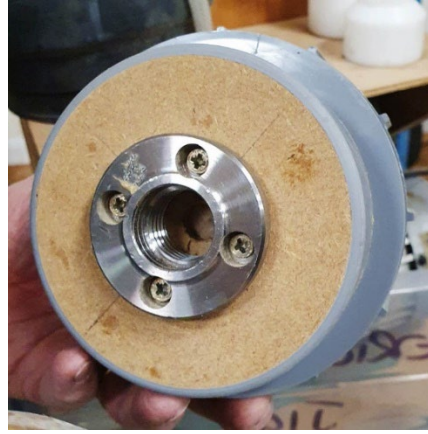


Eccentric chuck jaws made from a type of Nylon.

These fit expansion chucks such as Nova and the Robert Sorby Patriot.



Lid off, sphere inserted



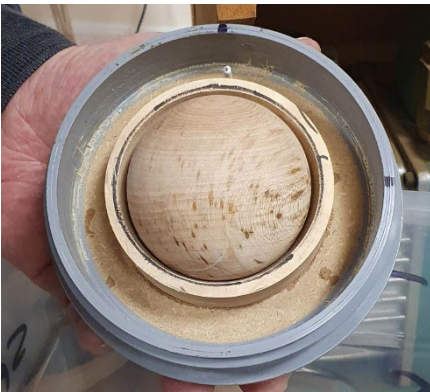
Jig insert fitted

Below: Ian made a sphere turning jig out of shutter plywood and Hepworth 6 inch (15cm) drainage fixings.

This allows him to perfect the sphere finish or decorate it. Note: the pictures have a turned sphere inserted. Ian uses half pieces of tennis balls to pad out if the sphere is a loose fit.

Left : Ian fits his jigs with chuck mounts or threaded nuts.

Drainage fitting top screwed on



Left : A jig for turning Saueraker shells. This turning technique is named after JEH Sauerackerm, a German ornamental turner working in Nuremberg in the early 1900's.

The large round is sacrificial and can be made out of any old material, the grooves are the result of turning the shell.

Ian's previous entry in a Malcom Fox Memorial Trophy was entitled 'Sea Shadow', and was made using this Jig.

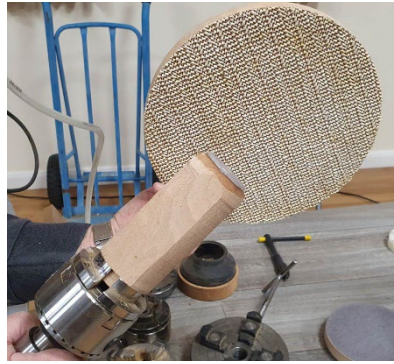
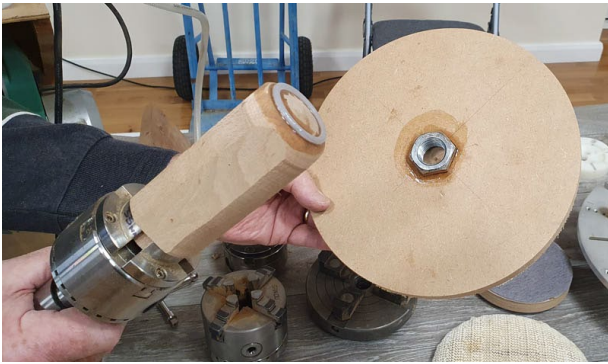
The blank for the shell is mounted onto the smaller offset disk. This is free to rotate to any position, and locked into place using screws and a section of the larger disk rim.



Lines are marked out from the jig centre; these continue to the sides. A datum mark is made on the mounting plate so that the disk can be 'indexed' to any one of these marked positions.

Starting with the 'eye' of the shell at the centre and turning a groove at each index point forms the shell pattern.

More information how to make and use the Jig can be found online at <https://canadianwoodworking.com/project/turn-a-saueracker-shell/>



Left : Ian's deep hollow form support jig.

The 'router' matting is attached to a circular disk to form a friction drive. In this example a nut allows it to be mounted on the lathe.

A Morse taper rotating tailstock support is attached to a small chuck. This in turn holds a wooden block with a protective nylon ring at its end. This is inserted into the hollow form and the tailstock brought up to press the piece against a friction drive mounted onto the lathe. The only restriction with this is the size of hole needed in the hollow form. It all needs to be aligned carefully when tightening the tailstock to the hollow form in order to keep it centred.

A simple and cheap to make sanding jig is shown right. Simply made with a circular disk fitted with a drive mount or nut.

Velcro is glued to the disk surface. It will then accept velcro backed abrasives.

The accompanying table is fixed at 90 degrees and uses a home made shaft to mount onto the lathe banjo.



Martin Taylor

Martin was busily turning his delightful mini characters from some yew branches or scrap wood. They are not hollowed and remain solid. He varies them by turning noses and arms in contrasting woods and applies detail to the hats. He also uses long haired material to add comical beards.

He also had some Birds / Penguins made from contrasting woods. All of these little characters really are simple to turn and help to develop good skew tool skills, as Martin demonstrated.





Mike Charnley

Members were fascinated at Mike's little demonstration of creating a box, around 3 inches in diameter. He showed all of the required techniques from mounting the blank, creating chuck spigots, parting off the lid and shaping and hollowing it. Mike takes pride in getting the best finish from his very sharp tools and his ability to be very precise made the lid a good fit to the body. Some light sanding and some decoration finished the piece.



Left: Hollowing the body of the box.

Above : Mike showing the body's rim ready to accept the lid as a push fit

Above right: Mike testing the fit after making numerous careful adjustments.

Tic Challis

Tic brought her original Pyrography machine which was a prototype made by John Woods of Woodart Products.



She had an array of exhibits, including one of her pattern 'chessboards'. This is a practice / reference piece that clearly showed the wide range of patterning, shading and effects she can achieve with the various homemade and commercial Pyrography tips.



Several members had a go under Tic's supervision.

She explained how she supports her hands, rather than heavily rest them on the work. She also demonstrated the importance of moving the wrist, arm and body to allow creation of smooth lines and curves.



One of Tic's current pieces, at what she called the 'roughing out stage'.

Five hours of work had been applied and she said it would require at least another five hours. The dragon scales and features would be further enhanced by adding careful shading and detail.



Stuart Clarke



Stuart had prepared several blanks in readiness to show his various texturing tools. These included a Decorating Elf, a spiral wheel from Robert Sorby and his own homemade chatter tool.

(Martin should have borrowed the Decorating Elf for his little figures! - Ed.)

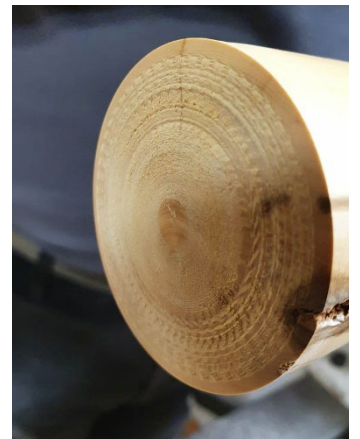
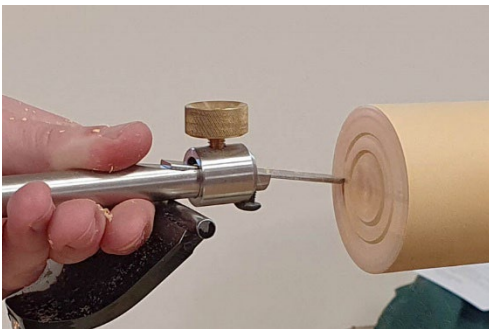
A boxwood blank was mounted in the lathe, turned to round and the end squared, ready to use his new homemade chatter tool.

This was the first time he had used it and after a lot of adjustments of the homemade tongues he started to make progress, applying clean chatter patterns to the end grain.



Finding the chatter tongue sweet spot was paramount and perfected by adjusting the tongue length. Tools like these make the wood 'scream' when applied and the vibrations in the tool form the patterns.

Stuart found that he needs to develop a lock for the knurled knob that holds the tongue as this loosened with the high frequency vibrations. Stuart applied coloured wax to the patterns to highlight them.



Stuart also explained how he uses very high grit abrasive pads to some of his work, some these are in excess of 1000 grit. This was demonstrated by sanding part of the blank and applying wax polish, the mirror finish obtained on the boxwood was very apparent. He also explained to some members how he likes to use Abranet abrasives as it doesn't clog in use and cuts well. He also gave a tip that it works very well on orbital sanders with extraction as it can result in very reduced dust creation.

All-in-all a very interesting and jolly meeting full of chatter (no pun intended – Ed.)
A big thank you for all those who made the evening a success.