

WSWC club meeting – Monday 21st February 2022

Demonstrator – Darren Breeze

Club news

The club has now purchased several audio-visual items to enhance our meetings. This includes a high-definition video camera (4K), a video and audio controller, radio microphones and a laptop. We also have the use of a smaller camera for overhead display. These devices can all project video onto the hall's new large screen and excellent audio to the hall system. We can mix our video and audio and even control cameras using the hall Wi-Fi network.

This was the first time we had used the equipment apart from a short 'rehearsal' following a committee meeting the previous week. There were the usual bugs, some missing cables delaying setup and some occasional picture loss when switching cameras (probably user error..) but in the main we projected nicely crisp and clear images.

Training

The club is presenting two events, one will be a training day aimed at beginners supported by Mick Hanbury and club members, the other is an interactive training day with Colwin Way. There will be a charge for both of these and you have to book your place. Future details will be available soon and the dates are on the website calendar. Contact John Woods, secretary, details on the website contact page.

Weird and wonderful wood

We are looking for tombola donations for our stand at this year's Weird and Wonderful Wood event at Haughley park. These can be any small turnings, or large, if you prefer! This helps the club to raise money and is vital to our continued success. Every donation helps and we will also be looking for members to help setup as well as attend the stand on the day.

Storms, not in a tea cup..

Following the parade of record-breaking recent storms, I am sure that some of the sad tree loss may at least live on as wood turnings, carvings and decorated panels. I always mourn the destruction of beautiful trees during these events and the time they need to flourish and grow to decent sizes can easily be forgotten.

Wouldn't it be great if each member of our club could plant a tree (or many) for the future? Wherever possible the advice is to plant natives as these trees support the widest selection of insects, in turn supporting the birds and other animals. For example, a native Oak (*Quercus robur*) can support over 230 species of insect whilst the Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) also known as the evergreen oak or holly oak is native to the Mediterranean region and supports a very small amount of UK insect species. However, this tree provides catkins that produce pollen for bees and other insects, and its dense, evergreen canopy offers year-round shelter for birds. It is also a pretty timber for turning, with its radially radiating medullary rays. I personally love Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and the field Maple (*Acer campestre*) as well of course the fruit and cherry trees with their blossom and of course fruit. Ultimately all trees are important to our environment and of course our hobby in the future. The Woodland trust has recently had a scheme to provide free saplings and planting advice and it may be worth keeping a look out, or enquiring directly.

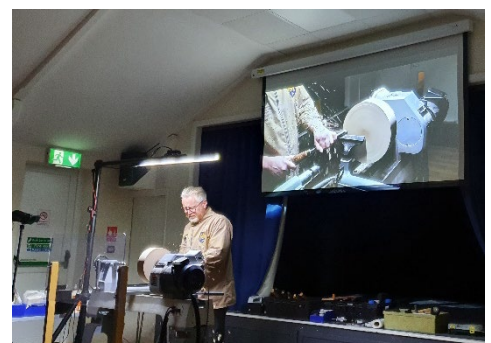
Finally..

We had a very pleasing turn out for this month's demonstration by Darren Breeze, the newly refurbished hall was very pleasing to be in and the new chairs are comfortable.

That's all for now, if you weren't at this meeting, we hope to see you very shortly.

Enjoy your turning and, if you can – plant a tree for the future!

Neil (Editor)



Display Table

Mick Hanbury -
textured and
decorated platter
2016 AWGB Seminar



Mick Hanbury -
decorated ash bowl
2017 AWGB
Seminar



Turnings By Oskar Howard



Small oak bowl



Small pippy oak bowl



Smoke bush Bowl



Cherry pot to hold an incense stick





Ian Cameron - curly ash bowl re-turned by Mike Charnley



Ian Cameron - maple hollowform re-turned by Mike Charnley



John Kirchell - pine bowl finished in rainbow polish



John Kirchell - sunflower candle holder



John French - selection of spinning tops finely finished and decorated

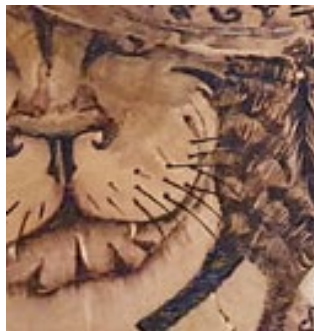


John French - ladybird curved base spinning top



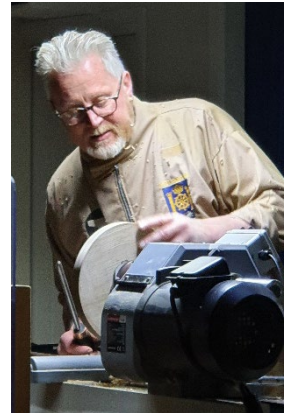
John French
Clown 'juggling' three spinning tops

Tic Challis - silver birch slice
pyrographed with wizard cat
and mystic symbols



Demonstration – Darren Breeze

Darren is a registered professional woodturner who owns his own gallery and shop in Lowestoft Suffolk. He explained he would be demonstrating a decorated bowl using several texturing and decorating techniques.



Darren mounted a 10x3 inch ash blank onto the lathe using a screw chuck. For the benefit of all skill levels, he explained some fundamental turning techniques. He explained at length how to bring it into true round by using a long standard grind bowl gouge. It is important to move the legs while cutting while supporting the tool with body weight to allow a safe and fully controlled cut. He also demonstrated the same cut using a bowl gouge that he had ground the heel off to allow for easier control in tighter areas. Darren uses a fixed grind of 45° as standard.

His advice to students is 'ABC'

A: Angle (of the tool)

B: Bevel (rubbing)

C: Cutting (where to start)

Once the piece was in the round he then changed the position of the tool rest and faced off the uneven end of the blank using a pull cut initially following on with a fine push cut. He explained that you need to be patient to slice off the centre 'pimple'. It is important not to push through and damage the fibres as this can leave noticeable damage to the piece that is very awkward to correct. During the demonstration Darren created many finely cut off pimples and he explained that lots are all for sale in his shop 😊

To create a fine cut without high points and ridges he starts with the tool at the outer edge and raises and turns to engage the bevel then begins an arc to the centre, finally carefully slicing off the pimple.

The next task is to create a mortice on the bottom of the bowl to suit the lathe chuck. He always marks the size but does not use sharp callipers to mark while spinning the lathe since he had witnessed an accident. He advocates marking the centre and using a divider to score or a compass while rotating the piece only by hand.

Darren created a recess for the chuck using a parting tool, finished to the correct angle with a skew chisel. Darren applies a 35mm diameter disk with his name and shop details within the recess, he normally makes allowance for this.

The next step was to remove material and shape the bottom of the bowl with a bowl gouge. It is important to use a light touch and don't push too hard to avoid creating ridges, and bouncing on them on future cuts. Direction of cut was from the bottom and up the side to cut with the grain and avoid tear-out and fibre disruption that happens when the tool is cutting against unsupported fibres.



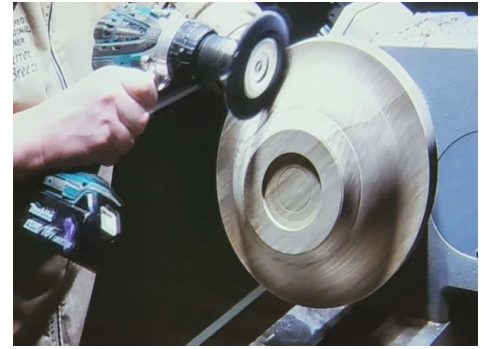
Darren uses negative rake scrapers to apply a fine tool finish. This type of scraper could achieve a fine finish with less chance of nasty dig-ins during use. The tool rest is adjusted so that the tool is on the centre line of the work and the tool is used horizontally. Darren explained that a properly applied scraper will create very fine and delicate shavings and is easy to control, it needs to be ground with acute angles and used at 2000rpm.



He finished the exterior with a negative rake French curve using the same technique.

Darren marks his tools with a top side, grinding the bottom first and then the top to raise a burr.

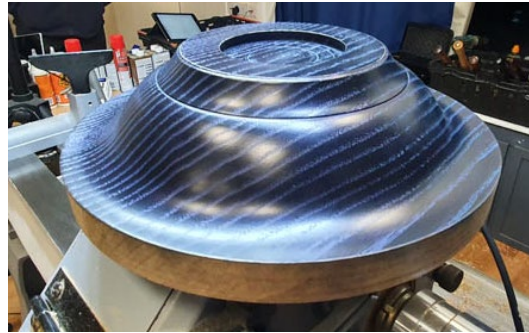
The piece was given a light sanding, it would ordinarily have more that he demonstrated. The next stage was to texture the ash grain using a power drill and fibre brush. A brass brush can also be used.



Once dusted down a single spray of black ebonising paint was applied. It dries quickly.



Hampshire Sheene Electric Blue Wax Stain was then applied and polished it off with cloth, this tinted the bowl and left some in the grain to form the effect. To finish he sometimes uses acrylic lacquer as he has found it does seal over the wax as most of it is removed during buffing.

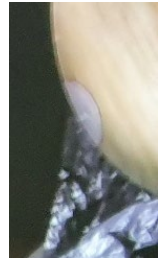


The bowl was then reversed and mounted it on the lathe chuck. The top of the bowl was shaped using pull cuts from the centre whilst rubbing the bevel. This was then finished by scraping and lightly sanded.



Darren had cut out a circle to create a mask and some long shapes from Trimco tape. The circle mask was applied towards the edge of the bowl on the centre line, marked with a pencil.

Two coats of red Chestnut spirit stain were dabbed over the mask to create a red circle.



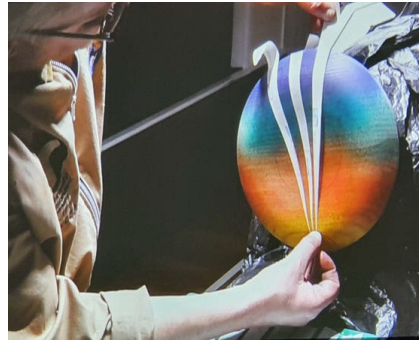
Once dry the mask was removed and the centre circle piece was placed over the red stain to protect it.

Using mouth sprayers and a gentle blow he applied a light coat of yellow outward from from the covered red disk followed by slightly overlapping orange and two shades of blue. He allowed the stain to dry slightly before applying the next colour.



Once dry he then carefully applied evenly spaced long tape shapes. These radiated out from the masked off red disk.

Then a single spray of black ebonising spray was applied **and the tape removed before it dried.** The red disk mask was also removed at this stage. Acrylic lacquer can be applied to seal the paint effect, he often contrasts gloss and matt on different surfaces of his pieces.

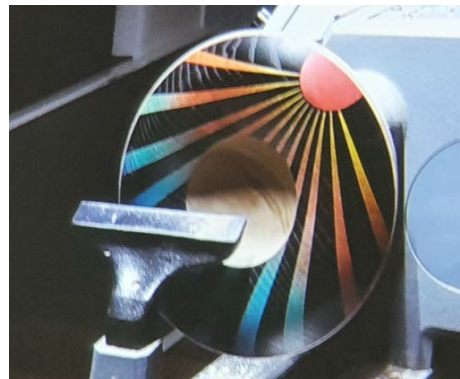


Removing the tape



A bead was created to both sides of the outer bowl edge to 'frame' the work by using a pointed tool.

The final work was to hollow the centre and form the actual bowl, the size according to the rule of thirds. Darren explained how to correctly point the bowl gouge to create a smooth and flowing cut. Applying the tool at a 90° angle from the left of the tool rest to control the entry, he then swept the tool down and completed the shallow cut by moving it to the right. Again, carefully slicing off the centre 'pimple'. It was then lightly sanded.



A final 'frame' was applied to the hollowed edged by using the pointed tool.



This demonstration had something for all woodturning abilities, coupled with the decorating techniques made it very enjoyable, thank you Darren.

Darren Breeze : <https://breezewoodturning.com/>

Shop: Art & Craft in Wood, 117 High Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1HN