

# October 2024



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

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Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Mike Haselden

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Christmas quiz and social

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Club Turn-in

## OCTOBER MEETING

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The October meeting was a professional Demonstration by **Les Thorne**. There were 29 members, plus 3 new members and 2 visitors who attended the evening.

Les set out to turn a lidded box out of cedar of Lebanon. It is challenging to achieve a good finish with this timber, and Les deliberately chose this so that he could demonstrate techniques for improving the finish. He began by roughing the blank to a cylinder, emphasising the importance of using a bevel rubbing cut and also of matching the feed speed to the lathe speed to give the tool a chance to cut. He said to advance the tool across the wood, never to push it. Angling the gouge to get a shearing cut will give an even better finish.



He then cut chucking points at both ends, using his own multi-purpose tool and a peeling cut. He mounted the lid chucking point in the chuck and divided the timber into 1/6ths. This was because he thought the best ratio for lid to body was 2:3, and the sixth section is for the spigot on the body. He said box design would always put the spigot on the body, so that it can be filled, since a spigot on the lid would not fit into a filled box body. A peeling cut was used to create the spigot.

A spindle gouge was used to begin forming the outside shapes of lid and body while still connected. The body was tapered inwards from base to spigot. The more it is tapered (and therefore the smaller the spigot) the more elegant it looks, but the harder it is to hollow, so a compromise is needed. The end grain either side of the spigot was smoothed with light shearing cuts using the side of the bevel on the multi-purpose tool.

The body was parted off from the lid, leaving a "witness mark" (a small part of the spigot) on the lid.

To hollow the lid, Les did not drill a hole because the soft wood could be damaged by the



drill bit beyond the desired depth. He hollowed initially with a spindle gouge. Other than at the very centre, the tip of the gouge is not cutting – it will cause a catch. Instead, with the gouge at about “10 o’clock”, the left wing of the gouge, near the tip, is doing the cutting. The wood was tearing out with this hollowing process. Sanding this away is difficult because the resin in the cedar clogs the abrasive.

The first step to try and improve the finish was to take a much lighter cut, but not much improvement. A bowl gouge, cutting against the grain (so cut like for a normal bowl) improved the finish, because the soft cedar wood responds well to the bevel rubbing cut. An even better finish was achieved with a Jason Breach negative rake box scraper. A swan neck tool with a small multi-tip scraper, taking small cuts, was used to hollow out the undercut needed with the shape of the lid. Sanding with wax helped with the finish. It clogged the abrasive but the wood would have done this anyway.

To fit the body to the lid, small shear cuts were made with the side of the multi-purpose tool, held at an angle, on the inside of the rim of the lid, with frequent fitting to ensure that the process stopped as soon as there was a tight fit. Once this fit was achieved, the base was put in the chuck and the lid jammed on, with a paper gasket if needed to get a tight fit. Good quality masking tape around the join then made it safe. The outside and top of the lid were then shaped. If not mounted perfectly true, abrasive will follow the wood better than a tool and will smooth out the join between the initial turning (lid in chuck) and final turning (base in chuck and lid on base).

With the lid finished, the next stage was to hollow the base. Initially this was done with a



spindle gouge the same as for the lid. When the gouge screeches, it is cutting too far from the tool rest and a different tool is needed. The Hope pro carbide hollower with a 6 mm tip was fast and effective, but gave a poor finish on the cedar. To try and improve the finish, Les tried using a skew chisel as a scraper, then the negative rake Hope carbide scraper. The best finish was achieved with tiny cuts from the multi-purpose tool. The side of the bevel on a skew chisel was used to smooth the angled side wall. Initially this can be angled, but as the cut gets further from the tool rest the tool has to be

flattened on the rest.

Another idea which could be used to improve the finish on difficult wood is to lacquer it, and then use just one light cut to smooth it (more than one cut will remove the lacquer again). If sanding, be careful because end grain will crack with heat.

To finish the base of the box, a jam chuck was cut from pine (so it is softer than the box). The fit cannot be too tight or the cedar will split. A spindle gouge with light cuts was used to flatten the bottom. Leave a small pip to sand off, because the gouge can tear out the wood at the centre.

When finished, the perfect fit of the lid was demonstrated because when put in place at the

top of the spigot and then left, the lid dropped slowly into place.

Finally, Les demonstrated how to remove material quickly when wet turning an end grain bowl. The technique was fun for the turner, as Les tried to cover the audience with shavings! The final ogee shape on the outside was cut from top to base because of the end grain material. A foot and chuck tenon were cut at the base.



After reversing the bowl into the chuck, a bowl gouge was used in the conventional way for bowls, and therefore against the grain. With the wet timber this created huge ribbons of shavings. A smaller bowl gouge was used to create a thin wall for the bowl.

Thanks to Kev Divall for this month's photos.

Phil Hewitt

## JASON BREACH MASTERCLASS

This event was indeed a masterclass. Jason is world renowned for his woodturning, particularly for his turned boxes. He turned 3 items during the day, in each case showing the correct tools and techniques, and making it all look easy! He certainly has a unique style with the tools, often his own "signature" tools that are made to his specification by Henry Taylor Tools. He often holds the tools very close to the workpiece, giving him a very delicate and precise touch and sometimes looking as though he is holding a pen rather than a chisel.



He began by making a simply shaped small box with an elegant design including an unusually tapered base. He then turned a "mood owl". The body was straightforward, but the head involved turning a perfect sphere, initially between centres and then using home made cup chucks fitted over the centres (see picture). The two flats on the sphere were cut and shaped with the sphere mounted in hand made chuck inserts. Hand made eyes were added to complete the owl.



In the afternoon Jason demonstrated the making of his trademark oriental box.

The day was a fantastic demonstration from an entertaining and gifted woodturner. It was made even better by the first trial by Steve Page of the new camera equipment, which performed perfectly, with great quality pictures, an impressive "two camera" view, and much easier set up and operation. Watch out for this at the next club evening!

Phil Hewitt

## Hampshire Woodturning Library

Books seem to be going out of fashion, but the Hampshire Woodturners Club has an extensive library of over 100 books and DVDs covering turning, finishes, wood preparation and other woodworking topics. Many of these have been donated by ex-members, recently **Ivor Miller's** wife has donated several new and exciting titles.

I have found the books a fantastic source for ideas and learning new techniques, and you may not be aware a couple of these books were written by ex HWA members, **Hillary Bowman** (Wood turned Jewellery) and **Chris West** Salt and Pepper Mills.

The library is available at every meeting, so please come and have a look, if you wish to borrow any please record the details on the list by the library, and we ask is for a small donation to keep the library fresh.

Kev Divall

## HWA FACEBOOK PAGE

Do you know we have a Facebook page '**Hampshire Woodturners Association**' and a member only Facebook group called '**Hampshire Woodturners Association Members Area**'. Follow the page and get event updates and interact with other members, and post items of interest, or any questions etc in the members group.

## HWA MONTHLY RAFFLE

Thank you everyone that supports the HWA monthly raffle.

Our special thanks this month to **Dalmann UK**, ([dalmannuk.com](http://dalmannuk.com)). **English Woods** ([Englishwoods.co.uk](http://Englishwoods.co.uk)) and **Chestnut Products** ([chestnutproducts.co.uk](http://chestnutproducts.co.uk)) and to our members who have donated project kits, blanks, and tools as club raffle prizes. These donations allow us to raise funds to support the clubs many activities.

Personal donations are always welcome, any wood blanks, unwanted tools etc can also be included as raffle prizes.

Gavin Roach

## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY - SEALED BID AUCTION

We have been very fortunate to have received very generous donations from a number of companies for our raffle prizes. They have really helped to boost our raffle - I know that I buy more tickets when the prizes are so tempting!



One donated prize was however just too good for the raffle. We received a complete top quality woodturners starter tool set from **Turners Retreat** ([turners-retreat.co.uk](http://turners-retreat.co.uk)). The set is the standard 6 piece Robert Sorby starter set, but with handles specially made for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Turners Retreat this year. This set retails at £292 (<https://www.turners-retreat.co.uk/limited-edition-turners-retreat-25-year-tool-set>), and so we have decided to use it to raise funds for the club by running a sealed bid auction, with a minimum reserve of £100.

If you are interested in bidding for this set, then there are two ways to do this. You can put a bid in a sealed envelope at our November or December club meetings, or you can submit your bid via email (please include your phone number and your bid amount) to the club chairman at [phil@hewittpeople.co.uk](mailto:phil@hewittpeople.co.uk). I will put your bid into a sealed envelope on your behalf so it is considered with the others. Of course I won't be bidding myself - I already have the same set but with standard Robert Sorby handles!

The winning bid will be announced at the Christmas Social on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Phil Hewitt

## YOUTUBE CHANNELS

A reminder that **Tom James** and **Steve Howell** have both got YouTube channels that showcase their woodturning, give hints and tips and demonstrations on different woodturning methods. Please take time to look at and subscribe to their channels.

Tom James: [The Welsh Woodman](#)

Steve Howell: [The Hampshire Woodturner](#)



## TERRY'S TOP TIPS

So, what questions have come in recently? A couple involving Ebonising Lacquer. The first one asked if it could be applied over Spirit Stain. The answer is yes it can, but it's a strange thing to do as it will obliterate the stain!

However, that was sort of the intention. The customer wanted the darkest, deepest black finish they could get; the plan was to stain the item black to get a good base, and then apply the lacquer to finish the job off. It's certainly not a bad idea, although I reckon a couple of coats of the Ebonising Lacquer would do the job nicely anyway. It does mean that in the unlikely event of the lacquer getting chipped, it wouldn't expose pale wood underneath.

An unrelated question about Ebonising Lacquer (which would apply to most aerosol lacquers) came from someone having trouble getting a good finish. The lacquer wasn't adhering to the surface he was spraying onto, and was coming off as a dust. Aware of the problems that using an aerosol in a cold, damp workshop can bring, this was being done in a warm workshop...and in this case this was causing the issue. The lacquer was drying too quickly; in effect, it was drying whilst still in the air, so that when it reached the surface it was too dry to stick to it. The lacquer needs to be wet enough to adhere and also to flow out, to give that smooth, continuous finish. The advice here was to allow the workshop to cool a little (15°C is about right), or hold the spray closer to the target. The latter would reduce the amount of time the lacquer is airborne, and thus reduce the opportunity for it to dry.

In a similar vein, one of our regular correspondents asked whether it was OK to use a [food dehydrator](#) to accelerate the drying time of our Hard Wax Oil. (No, I hadn't heard of one either!) The dehydrator had a minimum temperature setting of 40°C, which some paint products suggest is too warm. Hard Wax Oil is pretty much air drying, so a bit of warmth won't do it any harm. It's not unacceptable to use a hair dryer or something similar (not a naked flame, though) to encourage this, and many other of our products, to dry quicker. Once again, remember that many of them are flammable, and give off flammable vapours, so NO naked flames.

## MEMBERS GALLERY

