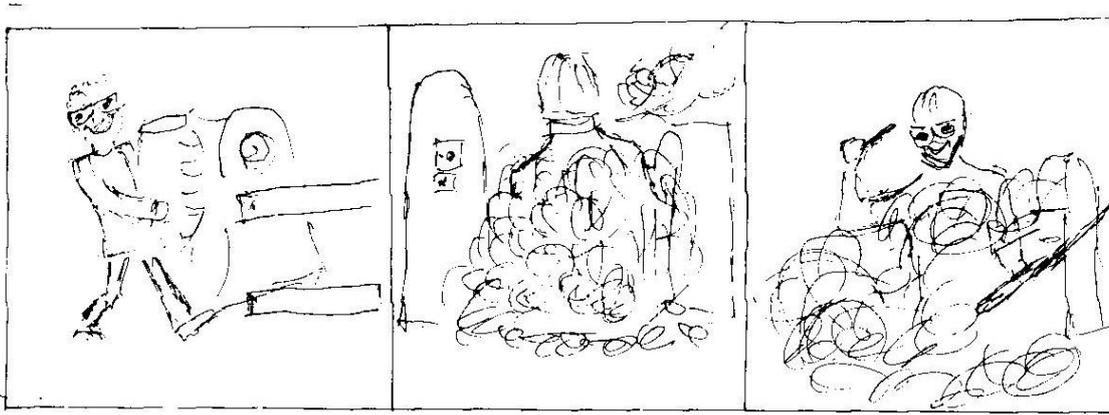
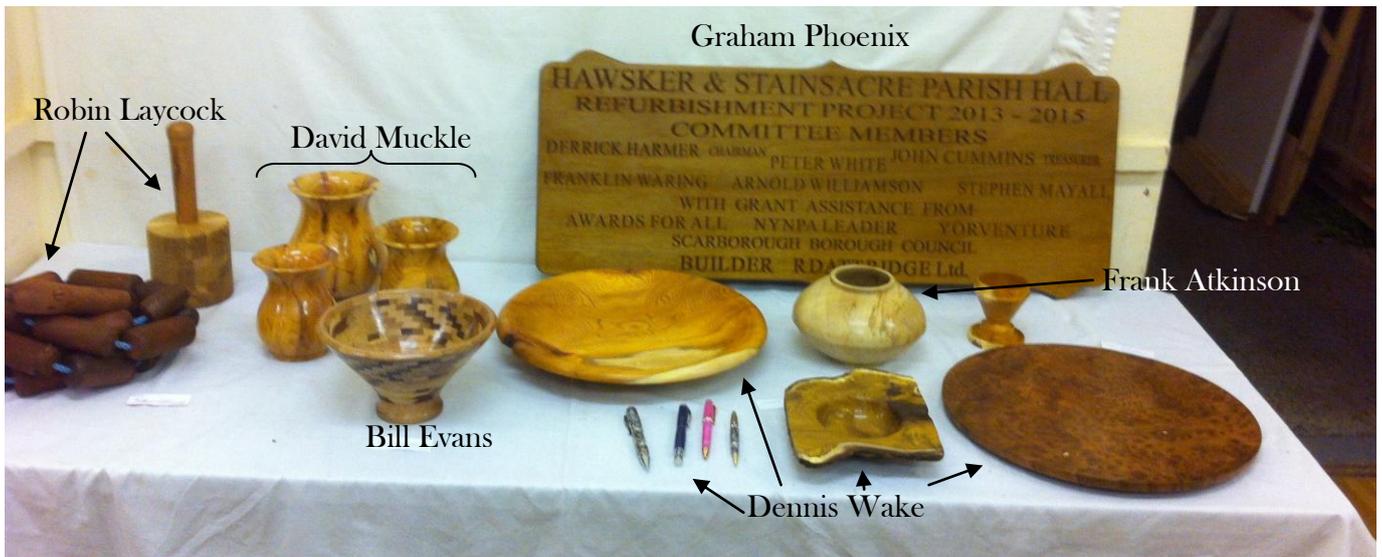


Thanks to Paul Hitchin for the cartoon. I think it shows Robin making lace bobbins!



March 11th Table-top Turn-out



11th March Back Room Demo: A three Cornered Bowl by John Basford



Well, due to being asked to step down from the demo as I was not walking too well, John Basford volunteered to step in and do it for me. The demo was making a three cornered bowl from a cube of wood. After explaining how to cut and mount the material John started to turn up the outside and form the base and chucking spigot always stopping the lathe to explain what and why he was doing things this way. It is not too easy having to cut something which is not round to start with and care needed to be taken. After finishing the outside and remounting in the chuck jaws John then turned the inside taking care not to make too heavy a cut.

Unfortunately whilst cutting the inside a catch happened and part of the project split off. However John carried on and showed how the bowl if completed could be made into a table T-Lite holder by inserting a glass T-Lite cup to hold the candle. A quick demo which showed what can be done with odd shaped projects and I am indebted to John for standing in for me at the last minute to carry the evening.

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Finishes For Woodturners

There are many types of finish on the market for turners and a whole book could be written on the subject, dedicated to them all. However, we will deal here with the main types. After you have finished your project with the abrasive you will need to make a decision regarding which type of polish or oil with which to enhance the finished article.

Shellac polish.

Sometimes referred to as French or Button polish. Easy to apply and sometimes used as a sealer underneath another finish. This material is the basis for a product referred to as Friction polish. This type of polish is applied only to small items turning slowly on the lathe and then speeded up and buffed up to a finish. The friction created by the speed and pressure should produce a high shine which should be allowed to harden off completely over 24 hours. Friction polish should not be used on bowl work as the area covered is too great to produce a good surface and on this type of work will leave tram lines around the bowl.

Cellulose Products.

These have evolved over the years to become a woodturners favourite. Sanding Sealer is a thin mix of thinners and cellulose, applied to an article whilst it is stationary on the lathe and allowed to dry. A final finish is then applied over the top after lightly de nibbing the surface. This is done to provide a key for the finish. It can also be applied in quantity to help stabilise spalted timber before either turning or sanding. Over the top of this is then applied any number of finishes. My own preference is to apply a mixture of Cellulose and Melamine to which has been added French Chalk and grain fillers. This dries very quickly and the lathe can be restarted and the project buffed up to high shine. This polish can also be used as a sealer in its own right or simply used as a one application finish. After buffing up a coat of fine paste wax can then be added.

Oil finishes

These are now becoming the 'in' finish' for woodturners and they have also evolved over the years and vastly improved in quality. They have the ability to penetrate into the cell structure of the work piece giving it a semi-translucent look. There are several oils on the market and many have the same or similar ingredients. Most are food safe and the newer ones are not only water resistant but alcohol resistant too. This makes them useful for the production of drinking goblets or vessels. The more common ones in use are, Danish Oil, Tung Oil, Finishing Oil, Walnut and Lemon Oil. A newer oil to appear recently is called Treatex, and this is one which is water and alcohol resistant to a very high degree. Most of the oils are food safe too although Chestnut market a purpose food safe finish which imparts a matt finish.

Acrylic Water Based Finishes

These are now making an appearance onto the market. These have the advantage of not being smelly or throat catching in application. They can be applied by hand or spray but do take longer to dry. They should always be left overnight to cure further and should not be touched too heavily by hand until fully cured.

After the application of your chosen finish, consider giving it a coat of **paste wax** as an extra protector, although not on items that will carry food. There are many waxes on sale, some of them with specific colouring. In use I have found that one of the best ever waxes is a Micro-crystalline wax called Renaissance. It is perfect and long lasting and needs only the lightest application to ensure a truly excellent finish. Always remember to use only un-coloured kitchen towel to apply any finish and dispose of the waste towel safely.

So there we have a roundup of some of the finishes. It is up to you to determine which type or types suit you. Experiment with several and you will see what they all produce in terms of finish.

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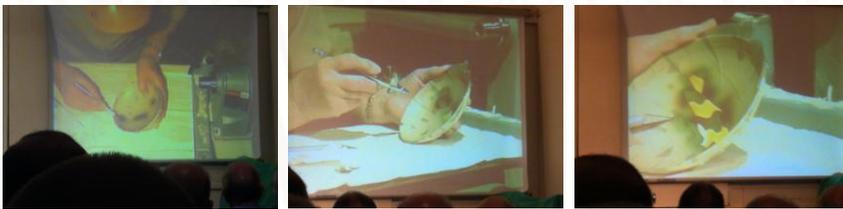
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March Pro- Demo: Margaret Garrard RPT

Margaret set out to show us how to make a thin bowl and then colour and perforate it to produce a unique and delicately finished product. During the turning phase she carefully explained every step and cut at a level which was accessible even to beginners.



Margaret went on to show in carefully stepped detail how to mask the bowl to create the separate coloured segments which would go to make up the final picture of a Hurricane fighter. Margaret used a range of acrylic colours with an air-brush to create the picture and expertly highlighted edges in shadow to increase the realism.



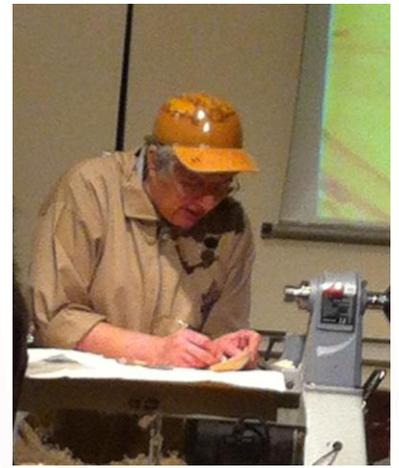
Having completed the aeroplane, Margaret used a paper towel mask with the air-brush to create a cloud effect background.



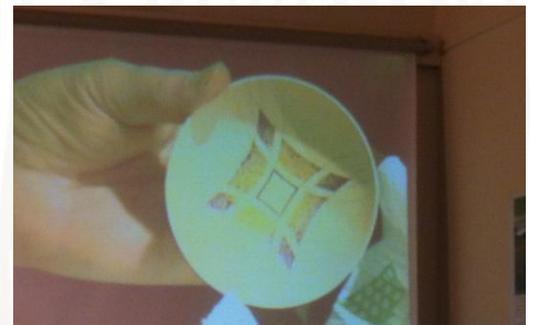
She completed the demonstration by showing us the perforating process which gives her work such a distinctive appearance, using a dentist type compressed air drill and bits.



Margaret's Gallery



Margaret also showed that the complex and expensive compressor/ air-brush combination is not essential for these air-brush effects, by showing us some cheap spray-bulb apparatus that works with felt tip pens to produce spray effects.



Events Diary

April

1st AGM / Demo: Stan Lax
15th Andy Hall RPT

May

20th Peter Osborne RPT

June

17th 'Robert Sorby'

July

15th David Lowe RPT

August

19th Tony Wilson RPT

September

16th Gerry Marlowe RPT

October

21st Sue Harker RPT

November

18th Mick Hanbury RPT

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