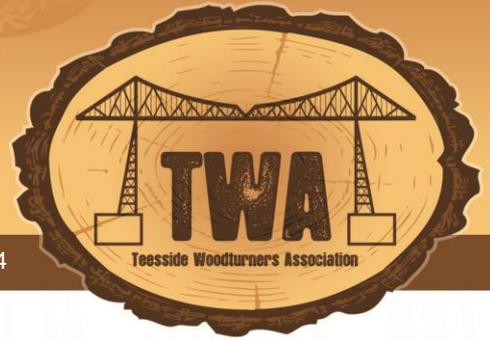


Turning Point

October 2015

Newsletter



Chairman Stan Lax Tel. 01642 652328 : Secretary Brian Haggath Tel. 01642 454064

Welcome to the October edition of Turning Point which follows a very busy month. Even though I was out of touch for much of it, our faithful correspondents have managed to record most of what went on: I am eternally indebted to Brian Haggath, (who thought he'd managed to delegate himself out of publishing duties,) David Muckle (who always manages a review or a compilation of turning techniques at short notice) and to Randal Marr who takes such superb pictures and shares them with us through the magazine. This month special thanks also go to Dick Simpson who is becoming a regular and fascinating contributor. Pete R

Table-top Turn-out 2nd September



Mike Cox

Nigel Coates

David Muckle

Mick McGee

Dennis Wake

Stan Lax

Helena found this fascinating link showing a chinese turner using a foot lathe- well worth a look: <http://www.robin-wood.co.uk/wood-craft-blog/2015/09/30/fantastic-video-of-foot-powered-bowl-turning-in-china/>

Competition Night ; 9th September

This was a really important night for several reasons; we have had no competition for some time now and John Burdette has kick-started this event again with his very generous donation. At the same time, the future of the premises lies under a cloud as the austerity cuts imposed upon the council bite further. They no longer want the expense of maintaining our listed building and along with other service users we are being asked to explore how we could contribute to taking over responsibility for the premises. A representative from the council visited this evening and was able to see a very special competition display of member's best work as well as a presentation table by David Muckle.



Winners: Craftsman class: 1st prize Bob Marshall, 2nd prize Graham Phoenix and 3rd prize Robbie Cooper.
Novice class: 1st prize Brian Rhea, 2nd prize John McGee and 3rd prize David Grey.

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The Full Competition Entry.



Craftsmen 1



Craftsmen 2



Novices

September Pro Demo: Gerry Marlowe RPT

Gerry was making his fifth appearance at the club tonight and gave us a truly great demo. He has never failed to please, and Wednesday was no exception. He started off by metal spinning a 5" disc of alloy into a small bowl and went on to spin a candle holder in the same material, explaining all the time exactly what he was doing.



Gerry then went on to turn an off-centre candle stick for the candle holder he had just made. This was then given as a raffle prize. Gerry turned a further two off-centre candle sticks with brass inserts (these are at present in the display case).



Gerry completed the evening by turning a collar for the alloy bowl from Yew together with a base for it to sit in, thereby making it a complete article which he then donated to the club. It is also in the display case. All in all an excellent evening with a really pleasant, professional turner.

David Muckle RPT

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Nikos Revisited

Last year in September my wife Sheila and I went to Crete where we met Nikos Siragas and his wife Frances. After staying with us when Nikos demonstrated at the club last November, we were invited for a weekend stay during our return to Crete. As an added bonus, Sheila gave me a belated birthday present of a day's woodturning with Nikos. Saturday was the day, and whilst Sheila toured Rethymno on the open topped hop-on hop-off bus, I accompanied Nikos to his basement workshop, and extensive wood-store.



Working in Nikos's workshop



Swedish hollowing tool



Sanding tools



Ground Coffee for use as a filler!

Now for the carving. Nikos used an 'Arbortech' to cut a V shaped notch from the vase, then marked out the grooves for me to cut using a microplane rasp. It was tricky to get started, and very easy to skid and cut where you don't want to. More sanding to remove the unwanted scratches! "Don't press too hard, angle the rasp to get the right width of cut". Once I'd got the feel for the rasp, things were quite straightforward. So, by the end of the afternoon when Frances was calling us to eat, the vase was ready to take home for sanding and finishing. A good meal followed, where Sheila recounted her day in Rethymno, and we all enjoyed the marvelous view from Nikos and Frances's veranda.



My assistant helping with the clock!

Masses of olive, as you can imagine, plus carob, cedar, plane and many others all in sizes you just can't get in the UK. So: what to turn? I said that I'd like some assistance with hollowing and carving, so we decided on the carved vase with the V front that Nikos demonstrated at the club. A decent sized piece of olive was mounted between centres. "Turn it to round please Dick". As I started, I thought: by, this olive's tough, only to find that it had two screws in it! We tried again with another piece. Much better! Then Nikos presented me with his home made round skew to shape the outside. "This is much easier to use than a standard skew" he said, "as long as you cut with the bottom quarter". Nikos was right, but eventually I still managed to start digging in. "If it's not working, don't stress, try something else" he said. So I finished off using a standard skew in scraping mode.

Now to the hollowing. I always feel hollowing is a battle, with lots of noise and vibration and a struggle to stop the tool twisting, hence my suggested topic for the day. Nikos brought out a tool that a Swedish wood turner had made for him with two shafts: one with the cutter attached and one to steady the tool and stop the twisting action. Suddenly, hollowing was enjoyable with the hard olive coming off in nice even flakes. With the hollowing finished, Nikos showed me his next home made tool: an extension piece for the disc sanding pad to power sand the bottom of the vase. Then the next device: a piece of concrete reinforcing bar (everything on Crete seems to be made from rebar) and some kitchen towel taped to the end. We taped a piece of sandpaper to the kitchen towel then used this to sand the rest of the inside of the vase. Very easy, plenty of leverage, and very fast sanding using 'Rhynodry' sandpaper. "You don't have to press hard" said Nikos, "let the sandpaper do the work."



My Certificate

Sunday was for my other hobby, antique clocks. Nikos and Frances have a friend with a grandfather clock that hadn't run since the 70s. Would I mind having a look at it? No problem! So we removed the movement from the case ready to give it a good clean and overhaul. We then spent the rest of the day driving into the mountains. Lots more wood! Nikos was particularly interested in the tree heathers that we saw. After passing a lake that had until recently contained an abandoned pet crocodile, we visited another Cretan wood turner. We then walked through a beautiful gorge and followed up with an excellent meal in Rethymno. Afterwards it was back to the house for ice cream on the veranda and good conversation. A wonderful sunset completed a memorable day.

Nikos Revisited (concluded)

We are always wary of going back to somewhere where we've had a memorable holiday in case the inevitable changes disappoint the second time. Not this time! The Cretan hospitality, climate and scenery are as good as ever. "I know what next year's birthday present is going to be" said Sheila. Dick Simpson

Table-top turn-out 23rd September

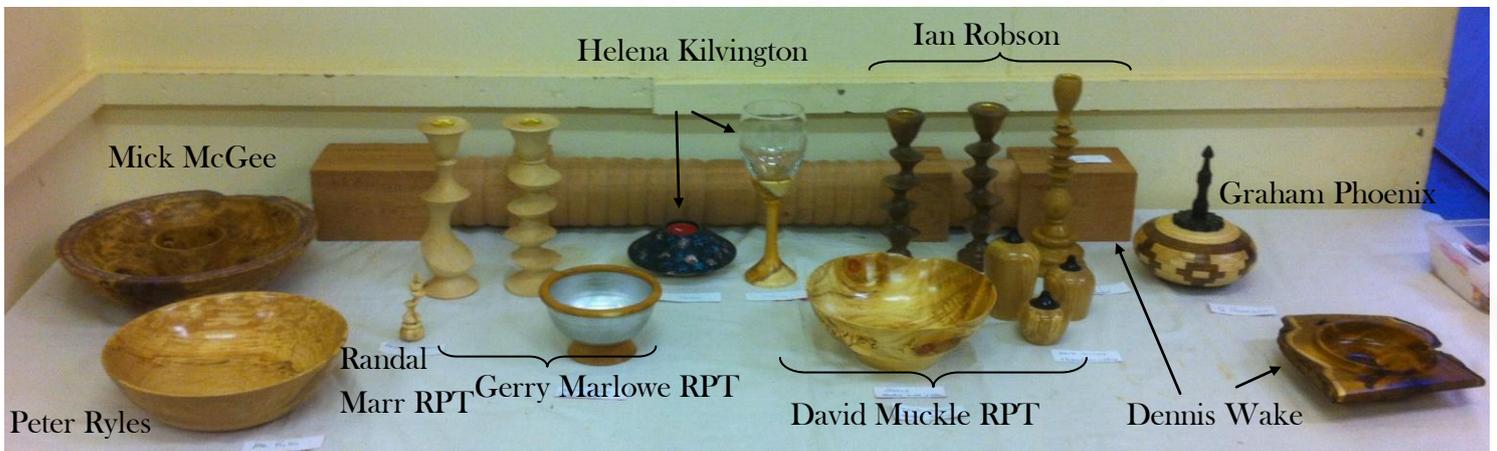


Table-top Turn-out 30th September



What can You Do?

With Ian Robson kick-starting the 'Back Room Demo's this month, it's time to think about how you might be able to help take the club forward by showing the rest of us what you can do. David, Stan and Brian are looking for events to help fill next year's calendar and we are all aware of some very skilled members who can show us a trick or two! Just let one of the committee know if you are interested. There will be lots of support and encouragement available whether you are an old hand at demonstrating or new to the game.

Events Diary

October

14th Backroom Demo: Ian Robson 'A Christmas Ornament'
21st Sue Harker RPT

November

18th Mick Hanbury RPT

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