



The shape of things to come



Nick Agar at the Club

I hope you enjoyed the Les Thorne demo on March Clubnight. Those who also came to the all day demo featuring both Les Thorne and Nick Agar certainly seemed to enjoy themselves from the comments I heard. When we planned this event and told the Club Treasurer how much it would all cost we made sure he was sitting down first. I am pleased to say there was a record number in the audience and such is the reputation of these two turners we had a good few visitors from other clubs, so it was well worth it .

Not only did we get a superb display of turning and colouring skills but some good banter as well.

While Les turns whatever his clients ask Nick admitted he sometimes sought inspiration from Museum visits. So when I visited the Royal porcelain museum in Worcester recently I was on the look out for some ideas for future woodturning projects



Mindful of Nick's comments I took some photographs of the most pleasing shapes.

The vase on the left presents a nice hollowing exercise with a chance to do a bit of carving and pyrography and even some texturing around the collar and foot.

The design at the *top right* represents a challenge as piercing in wood normally requires a wall thickness of between 2 mm or 3 mm. Personally I think little can sometimes be more when it comes to this type of decoration. A bit of judicious texturing might be the answer instead. Naturally some adaptation to transfer these designs to wood will be in order.

Another nice shape is shown *bottom right* and this design may also provide a chance to try airbrushing techniques. Let me know if any of these forms inspire you



Pyrographer Bob Neill is coming to town



Well actually he is coming to Down Hatherley Village Hall on **Sat Oct 15** to demonstrate the art of Pyrography or burning designs in wood or leather. If you fancy having a go yourself there will be an opportunity to do so. All abilities are welcome including complete beginners.

Bob has suggested that you bring a bowl or platter to decorate. A plain, light coloured wood works best. Sycamore is one of the best timbers to use with pyrography because it usually has a very consistent hardness. Ash is not recommended. Birch ply is another good material. Tickets for this event will be available shortly. It is not necessary to have artistic ability to produce outstanding work so why not have a go?



As you can see some quite stunning effects can be achieved. The scene on the left was done by Paolo, a self taught Cuban pyrograher on a piece of bamboo. Unable to get the foreign exchange necessary to buy the equipment he improvised by wiring up a few components . Of course his machine didn't possess a cover so I suppose Señores Health and Safety were taking a well deserved Siesta. I didn't bother asking if it had been PAT tested!



Actually while I think about it, Health and Safety were too busy at the nearby Cuban cigar factory. I eagerly awaited the chance to tour this factory to see dusky maidens rolling cigars on their thighs. Imagine the disappointment when instead, we saw some old gent making roll ups with gnarled fingers . H & S had struck, banning the former practice.

Tips n' Tricks

If you are after a really hard wearing finish that is easy to apply most people would opt for something like acrylic lacquer spray and there is nothing wrong with that. For a small item which is going to get a lot of handling I can also recommend super glue and not just for acrylic pens

It is easy to use and leaves a glass-like finish. To apply I put the work (a magnifying glass handle) in the lathe and loaded a small blob of super glue onto some wax paper. With the lathe running slowly I moved the paper back and forth to leave an even coat of glue. I allowed it to dry (*you can use an accelerator*) and then rubbed back with progressively finer grades of abrasive (*I started at 400 and went down to 1500 grit*). I applied about 6 coats rubbing back between each coat. You can find an ideal piece of wax paper from an old window envelope. So you might even get some benefit from that letter from the Council demanding Council Tax.



New Lathe for GAW



With the cash from 2 successful grant bids in the GAW bank account our Club was able to go shopping for a new lathe and stand this year. The new set up was ready for its first outing in March when Les Thorne demonstrated at the Club.

So what advantages will the new equipment provide? It has slightly bigger capacities than the Vicmarc it replaces yet remains portable and is easier to transport and store. Being able to turn bigger bowls and longer spindles will give demonstrators wider scope with their projects. One big advantage of this set up lies in the ability to adjust the height to suit the turner and it even permits the turner to work while seated. This facility could make all the difference for those who find it difficult to stand at the lathe for any period of time

Tim Wilkins (on right) has got off to a cracking start as Club Librarian with something in his box of DVD goodies for everyone whether a beginner or experienced turner. Did you know over a dozen new titles have been added in the last 5 months

These new DVDs include tool sharpening, decorative techniques and twists and advanced turning from that legend and my personal hero, Dennis White.

Struggling with finishing? Why not check out the library for tips. Want to learn more about a specialist tool? Perhaps you are thinking of buying one or, heaven forbid, you have bought one but cannot make it work. Well there are 4 new DVDs on specialist tools from Robert Sorby.

Plea from Tim: If anyone has any craft DVDs they think will be great for our library then please let me or a member of the committee know.



Have you turned anything longer than this ?

I reckon the record must go to GAW president **Chris Eagles** who has recently completed this giant candle stick. It can be seen in Tewkesbury Abbey so do pop in and have a look.

Towering much higher than a man it is a truly monumental piece of work.

The sheer size must have presented big construction difficulties and I look forward to hearing about the challenges he faced and overcame. So watch this space !

(Chris Eagles, record holder?)

