



Chair's Chatter

So another month has passed us by and so the winds have changed. Following my plea for volunteers last month I received two lovely phone calls offering help and support, and these really lifted my spirits and made me more determined to try and keep the club going for at least another 12 months. The fantastic demonstration by Gerry Marlow also helped enormously, and made me realise the value of our wonderful little club and why we should try and keep it alive for all currently involved. Phil Williams has also very kindly offered to try and help as much as possible, so I am now looking at a Programme of Events for next year.

We are still not off the hook though! I still need at least one more volunteer to step up to the role of Secretary. This is not a difficult role by all means. All we need is someone who is willing and able to take minutes at the AGM and the few committee meetings that we hold as and when required. Usually 4 or 5 per year. So if you are new to the club, or think you can spare just a little of your spare to help keep your club alive, then please do give me a call. It would be very much appreciated.

However, we are going to have to make quite a few cut backs. I am going to propose that we scrap the club shop/supplies of Abrasives and other items. We are also going to have to scrap the monthly Newsletter. However, the club website is going to be reinvigorated to try and replace the Newsletter. So any news or reviews such as demonstrator reports, will now go straight onto the website. I do understand that some of our members don't have access to the internet and will be very disappointed with this, but without a volunteer to take over a Newsletter Editor, then our hands are rather tied. We will probably also be scrapping the club DVD library. Very few people borrow the videos these days and it seems a lot of hassle for no return to the club. All of this will of course be discussed and agreed at the AGM in January.

So please, please, please find time to offer your help and support. Our club really does need you folks!

Dawn xxx

YOUR CLUB



NEEDS YOU



Editor's Scriblings

This is the largest of the Newsletters that I have edited. Following on from the problems I mentioned last month this month's issue has gone much more smoothly. Abandoning Word and adopting Libre Office has made life much easier with pictures staying put after placement, and moving predictably when needed. I have used more pictures and less words; hopefully these tell the story better – particularly with a demonstration such as the one Gerry Marlow put on this month where it would be very difficult to describe, rather than illustrate what he was doing. I have been complimented on the standard of the photographs I take – I do admit that my camera must take most of the credit for that. For those not interested in photography, yawn now and skip to the next section! For those interested I use a Lumix FZ-45 “bridge” camera, bought second hand on Ebay for a moderate price about 3 years ago. The key features for me are it's 24x zoom lens (made by Leica) with image stabilisation, and it's excellent low light performance (flash is neither desirable or appropriate during a demonstration). The 14.1 megapixel resolution allows me to crop quite drastically to give better close ups yet still maintaining adequate quality. As there is no opportunity to do “retakes” I just take a lot of pictures (typically 320 during a demo) and hope to get enough of sufficiently high quality to use. I do crop most images and rely on some enhancement to correct picture quality (particularly colour balance which is affected by the mixture of ambient and LED lighting, brightness and contrast) using Corel PaintShop Pro X7. You will have noticed that I have started using images mainly of a standard size to make laying out the articles easier. This does not always permit optimum composure or cropping, but I hope that is excusable.

This will be my last but one “proper” Newsletter. Next month we have our very own Ted Gill demonstrating his “reconstructed bowl”, which I am sure will be interesting. If I do write up the AGM it will be a brief record of proceedings and competition Trophy presentations. From Dawn's comments it looks as though there is room for optimism as far as the future of the Club is concerned. I am not sure how the update to the club website will compensate for the loss of a monthly Newsletter in the event of nobody volunteering to take over the role of Newsletter Editor as this needs further discussion at a committee meeting. It will almost certainly mean that there will not be any demonstrator write ups. Hopefully things will become clearer by, or during, the AGM.

Hugh Field





November Competition

The Challenge competition theme for this month was a clock. There were three entries as below:-



Hugh Field 1st (above left)

Philip Watts 2nd (above right)

Jane Russell 3rd (left)

It was interesting to note that we had all chosen to use small (65mm) clock movements.

November Demonstration – Fork Handles - Gerry Marlow

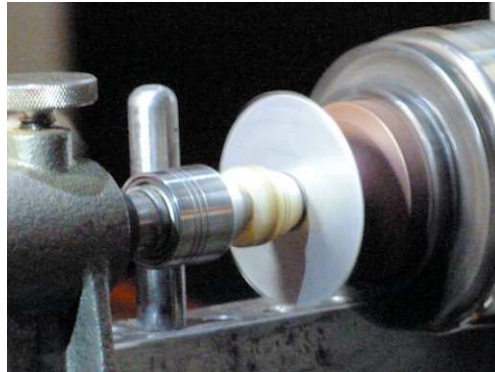
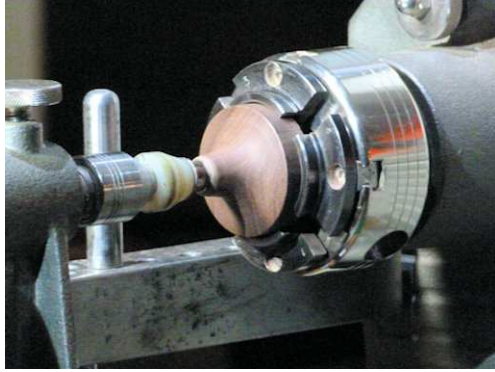
Now, why did this make me think of “The Two Ronnies”?!

A welcome return of Gerry, who always seems to come up with something different and entertaining. This was a superb demonstration of offset turning techniques that would result in 4 quite different candlesticks showing just what can be achieved by simply (!) using more than one axis when turning. The stages are difficult to describe but hopefully the pictures will show how he did things.

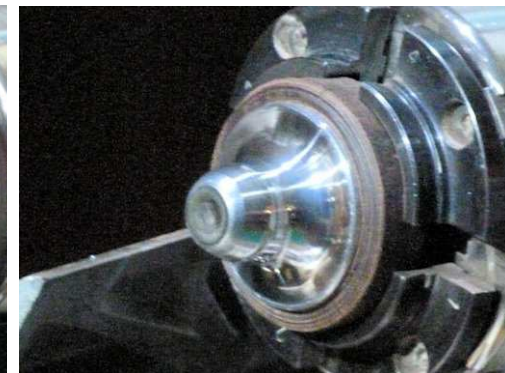
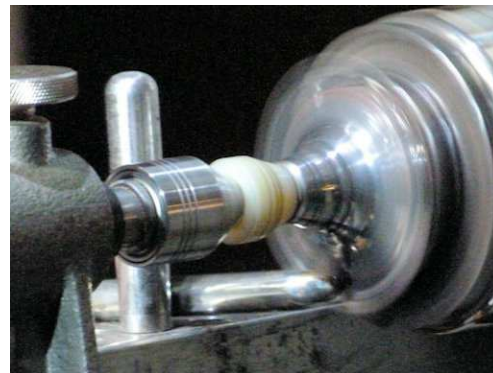
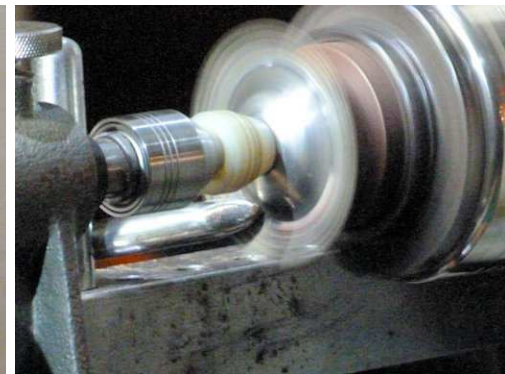
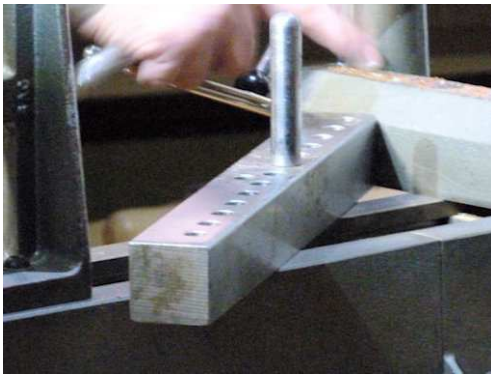
The woods used were London Plane, otherwise known as lace-wood, and Sycamore, 3” (75mm) square. One piece had some bad cracking in it, but more of that later. Each blank (except for candlestick 4) had a 1” (25mm) diameter hole bored at one end, ready for the metal candle cup. Gerry assured us that only simple turning is involved, but clearly care needs to be taken with the offset aspect to avoid catching fingers or hands, particularly when sanding. So, novices please take extra care – have a go, but if you don’t like the feel of what you are attempting, then don’t do it!

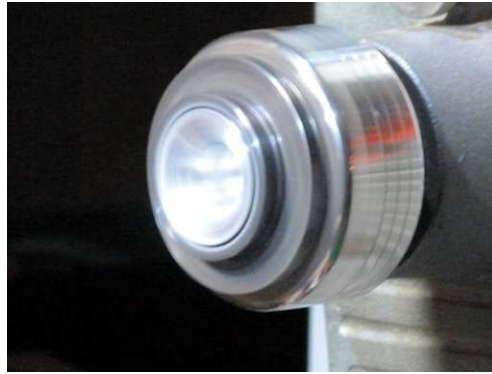


Before turning the candlesticks Gerry demonstrated how he metal spins the cups for the candles. Using an aluminium disk 2" (50mm) diameter about 18 swg (1.2mm) thick he clamped this against a hardwood former, mounted in the chuck, using a nylon pad over the running centre in the tail-stock.



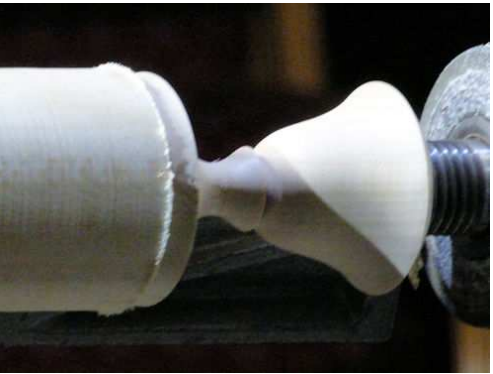
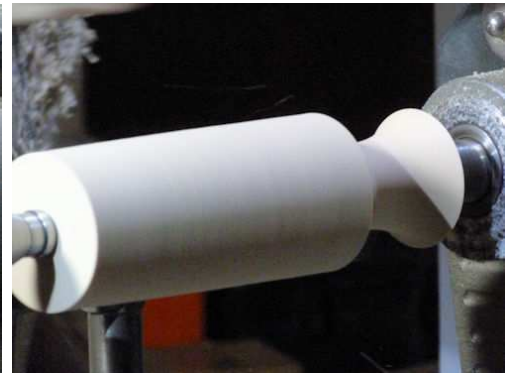
Forming is carried out using a polished steel tool and a special tool-rest with fulcrum pins. Stick wax is used as a lubricant, and a carbide tool was used to trim the finished cup prior to fine sanding and polishing the inside using Webrax. The outside, spun surface had a very fine finish.





Candlestick 1 (Sycamore)

The first blank was mounted between Steb centres, on centreline, with the pre-bored hole at the headstock end and roughed down to a cylinder with the spindle roughing gouge. Shaping of the top came next, using a 3/8" spindle gouge.

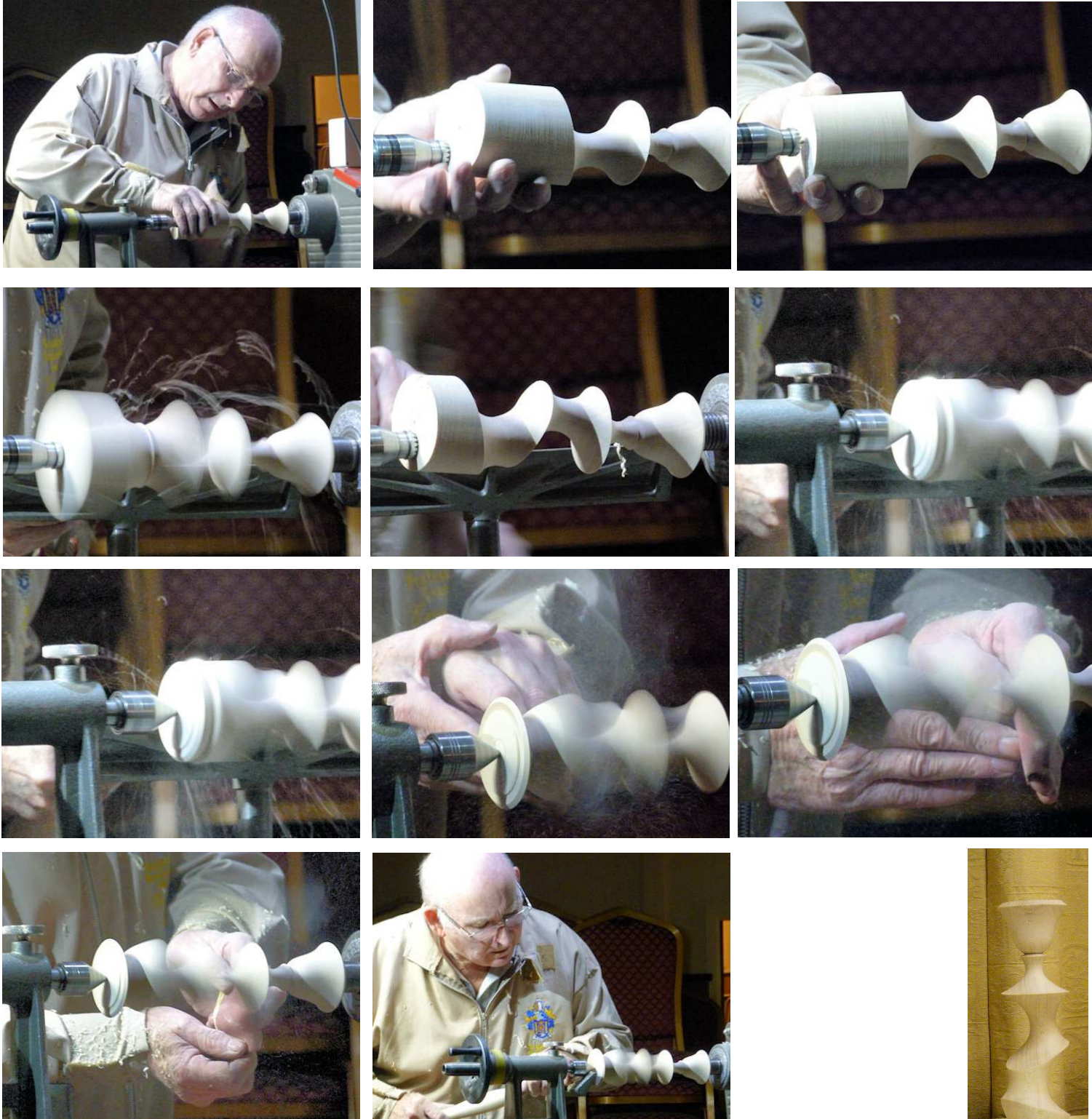


The tail-stock end was next reset to an offset axis, as shown, for turning and sanding the main body of the candlestick.





The tail-stock end was then reset to an offset position diametrically opposite to the previous one, but with rather less offset. The lower part of the main body was then turned and sanded, prior to the part being re-mounted on centre for finish turning and sanding.



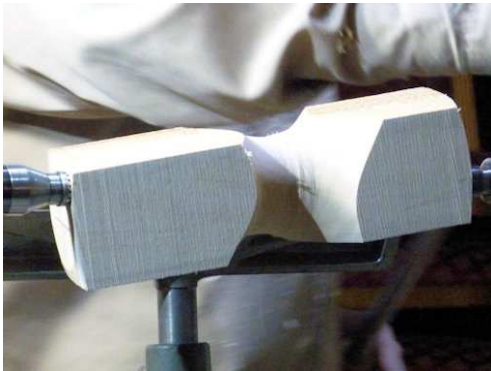
For turning and sanding the bottom, the Steb centre was changed to a cone one. Note how the tool-rest is tucked under the tail centre to give an optimum height for the 3/8" spindle gouge to cut on centreline.



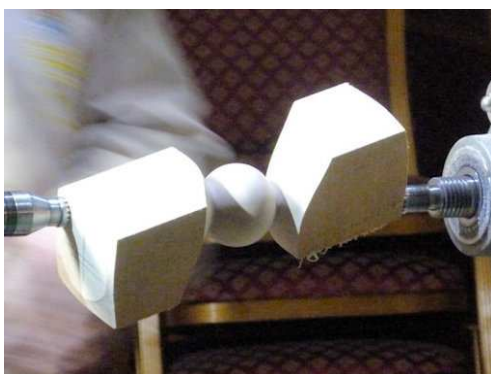
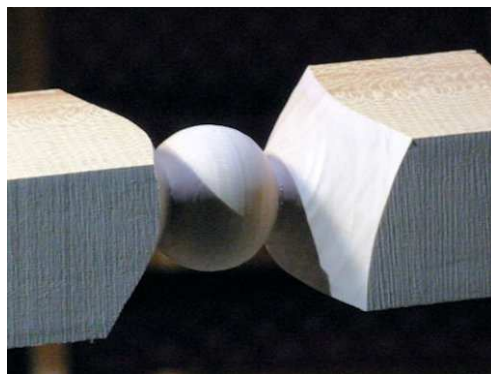


Candlestick 2 (Sycamore)

This was a bit more dramatic! The blank was initially trued and mounted as for candlestick 1 and a slight chamfer added to each end before being mounted as shown.

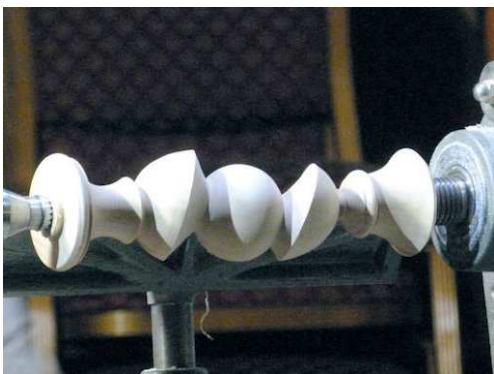


The piece is quite well balanced so a high spindle speed could be used as long as equal cuts were taken on each side. Speed is a big help with the intermittent cut experienced with offset turning. The shape was regularly checked by stopping the lathe.





The piece was then re-mounted on true centreline for turning and sanding the remainder of the part. Note that quite a lot of sanding must be done with the lathe stopped.



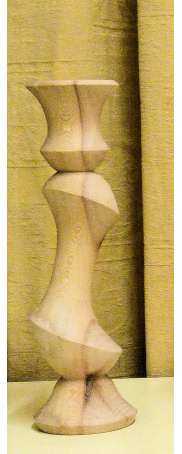


That all took us up to the tea break, and a welcome rest for Gerry!

Candlestick 3 – also known as the dog's bone! (London Plane)

The blank was initially trued up as for candlestick 1 and then mounted between Steb centres in a similar manner to that used for candlestick 2, but with less offset at each end.



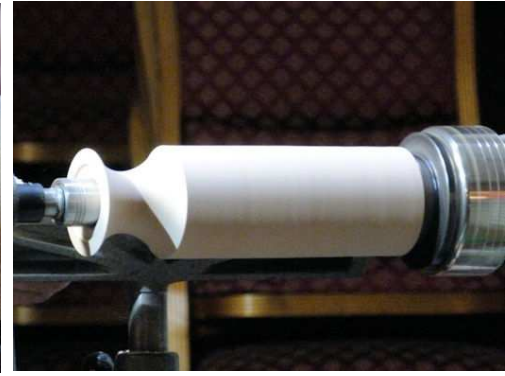
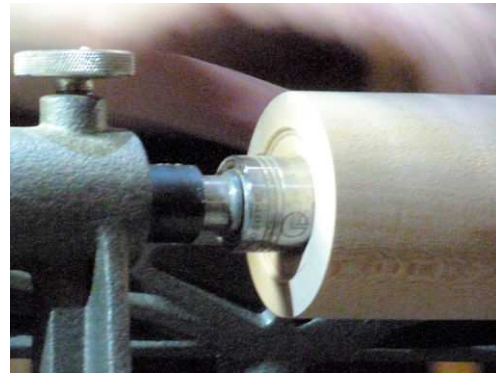


Equal cuts were made either side of centreline to create a wide cove shape using a 1/2" spindle gouge followed by sanding. The piece was then re-mounted on true centreline to turn and sand the top and bottom of the form. At this stage Gerry would normally have put the piece back on true centreline with a cone centre. However a crack, which in fact was right through the piece, precluded this.

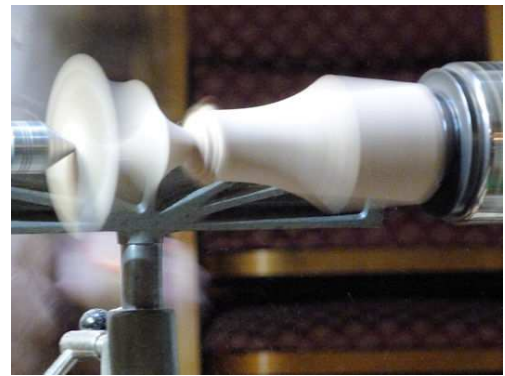
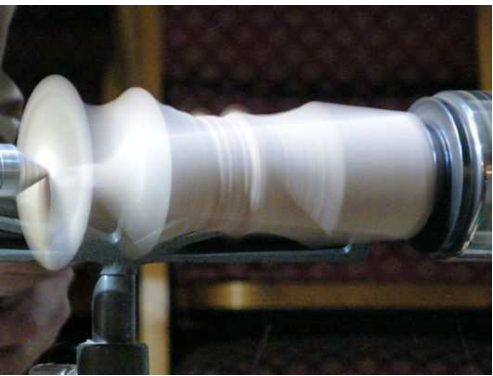
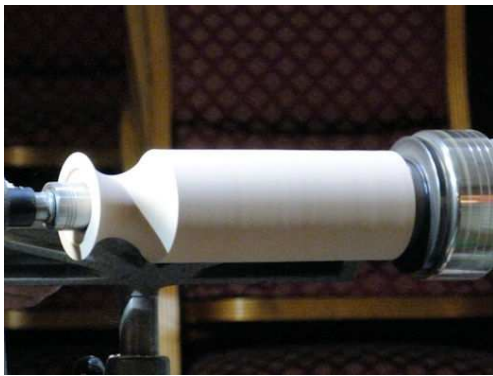
Candlestick 4 (London Plane)

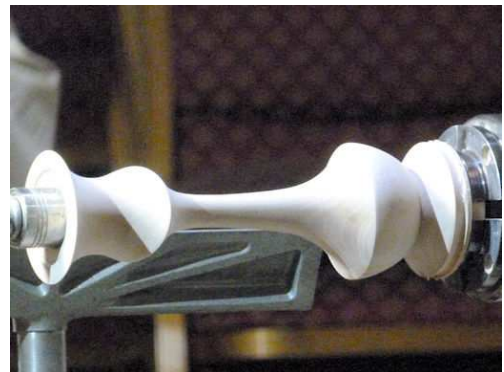
Gerry described the method used in this project as an alternative to (and cheaper than!) using a Sorby eccentric chuck system. The blank was initially trued up as for candlesticks 1 & 2 but a chucking spigot was turned with a barrel shape, the diameter matched the "true circle" for the chuck, to allow for the piece to be mounted eccentrically. The piece was initially mounted in the chuck using the tail centre to align it correctly.





The pre-bored hole was then shaped to fit the cup that Gerry had spun previously.



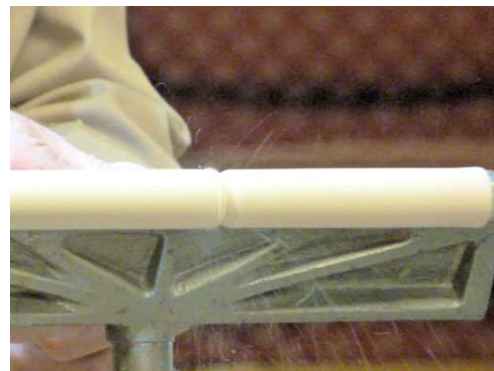


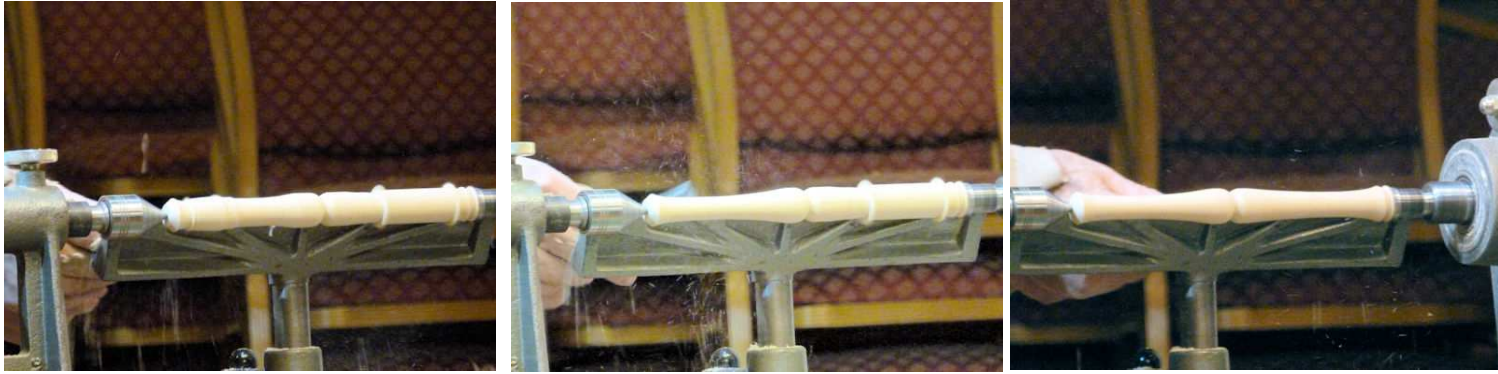
Using a large cone centre in the tail-stock. the outside of the top of the candlestick was turned using a 3/8" spindle gouge and sanded. Next, the chuck was loosened and the piece was offset at the tail-stock. end as far as was possible within the boundary of the cup recess as was possible, and the chuck re-tightened. Careful cuts were next carried out with the 1/2" spindle gouge to create a slender shape. The piece was finally put back onto true centreline to shape and finish the base prior to parting off. The small "pip" in the base was pared off with the wing of a spindle gouge.



So, what about the Fork Handles?

Well, we had an encore! Quickly mounting a new blank between centres Gerry, over the course of the next few minutes, proceeded to deftly produce a pair of table fork handles.





A most enjoyable and entertaining demonstration and we certainly got value for money! To complete 5 projects, albeit not completely finished, in little over 2 hours without it feeling rushed is a fine achievement. Gerry kindly donated the pieces to the Club for finishing and fund raising for the club or our chosen charity.

Hugh Field



[Footnote – Two of Gerry’s candlesticks found customers at the Staffordshire Wildlife Christmas Fayre held over the weekend of 18/19 November. There will be a report of the event in the December Newsletter.]

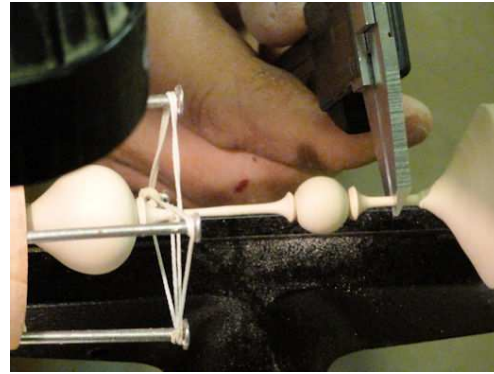
Toolpost Open Day Saturday 4th November

Gerry Marlow again (he had driven down after our Friday evening meeting to stay overnight in his camper-van on Toolpost’s car park!) turning his large platters with resin in-fill and demonstrating the Kelton bowl-saver on the very nice Killinger KM3100 SE lathe (if you have the best part of £5,000 in your piggy bank then it could be just right for you!). It took Gerry over an hour to extract the last bowl blank from that big and gnarly piece of beech. He reckons that the outermost bowl represents his wages, the next one the cost of the wood, and the remainder is the profit!



Henri Kuntz (France) demonstrated how to turn a “Trembleur”, something I’ve seen on video before but not in real life. For those who are not familiar with this turning challenge then this will give you an idea:-

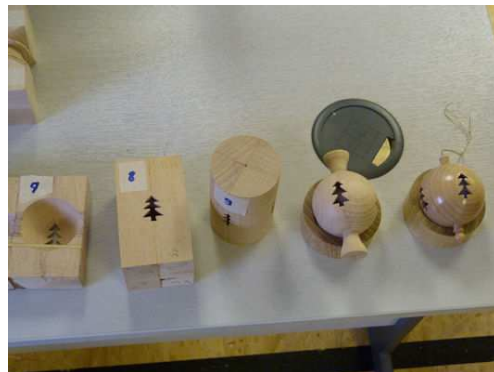
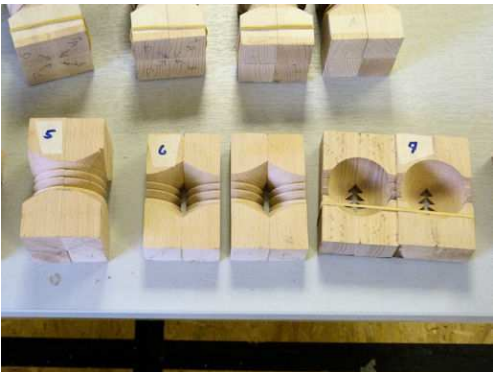
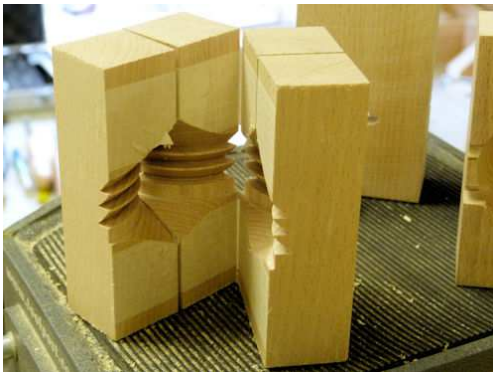
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4JdA9zdUel>



He also had some other fascinating examples of his work, such as the vase inside a zipped vase and the lidded box within it's "mould" which could be closed round it (held together with magnets) and a pyramid with a sphere within it which could be rotated. Another intriguing piece was the abstract form.



Also there was Willy Vanhoutte (Belgium) demonstrating how he produces his involute turned Christmas baubles; an 11 stage process shown in the photographs below.



If you have yet to visit Toolpost in Didcott for one of their open weekends then I do recommend you do so sometime. Apart from travel costs it's a free day of excellent demonstrations with refreshments thrown in.

Hugh Field



Forthcoming events

1st December

Ted Gill - a reconstructed bowl

January 2018 (date TBA)

A G M

Club Competitions

December – Novice

A candlestick

Challenge (open to all members)

An offset candlestick

Premier (open to all members)

Decorated hollow form

Other events

17th - 19th November

North of England woodworking and Power Tool Show

Hall 1, Great Yorkshire Showground

Harrogate HG2 8QZ

This is the largest and longest established retail woodworking show in the country.

Go to www.skpromotions.co.uk/ for more information.

Hints and tips

This section is for any tips or advice you would like to pass on to other members. If you have discovered something you found useful that you think may benefit others, please pass it on.

Members sales items

This section is for listing any turning or woodworking tools or related items you have for sale.

Any submissions to editor@mswa.co.uk, please.

DVDs

The club has a selection of Woodturning DVD's for use by registered club members use only. You can borrow them for just £2 per month (some are free)! If any members have DVDs which are not on the list, but which they would like to donate to the Club, they would be most welcome.

See Ron Dixon who has agreed to manage the DVD library.



Abrasives and other items (when available)

Mirka Abranet 70 x 125mm Sheets:

5 x Mixed Grit Pack (120, 180, 240, 400 and 500) = £2.00 per pack

Mirka Abranet 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £1.50 per pack

Rhinogrip 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £0.90 per pack

Flexipad Sanding Pads (for above discs):

50mm Velcro Conical Spindle Pad with 6mm shaft = £8.82 each

J-Flex Sanding Paper:

5 x 1m lengths mixed grits 120, 180, 240, 320 & 400 = £9.50 per pack

Donations of items for sale to add to club funds are always welcome.



Club information

Your club committee for 2017 is:-

Chairman – Dawn Hopley

Tel: 07860 501 379

chairman@mswa.co.uk

Other important people responsible for:-

Refreshments: David Neal, David Dawes & Ron Dixon

Secretary – John McElroy

secretary@mswa.co.uk

Equipment: Mark Pickering & John Meers

Treasurer – Phil Williams

treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Cameras: John Meers, Ted Gill, Vance Lupton & Dawn Hopley

Assistant Treasurer - Vacant

Events Secretary – Vacant

events@mswa.co.uk

Club shop: Ron Dixon

Newsletter editor – Hugh Field

Tel: 0121 329 2911

editor@mswa.co.uk

Webmanager – Philip Watts

webman@mswa.co.uk

Health and Safety Advisor

Hugh Field

health.safety@mswa.co.uk

Please use phone numbers only if absolutely necessary.