

Herts and Beds Woodturners

Training Day 9th September 2017

The hall where we hold our monthly meetings was booked from 9am until 3pm and after a fairly seamless set up the turners divided into six pairs; each pair an experienced turner and a learner. Seven lathes were set up including the new Axminster club demo lathe.

The learners had been encouraged to bring their own lathes and tools, as that is what they would be using after the event. In one case the lathe bought in refused to give up its faceplate so the extra lathe came in handy.

We all started with spindle turning using Sycamore (supplied by Home of Wood, see details below) and by 10.30am the first beads, fillets, coves and parting cuts had been produced, along with some satisfied smiles (and even a captive ring!)

Tea and coffee were available at any time on a help yourself basis; lunch was a BYO or from the local shops and was very sociable with people sharing their experiences.

Then on to bowl turning, again using the Sycamore blanks provided. This was for many the first time that they had tried this, so quite a new experience. The focus for both sessions was on tool manipulation and tool control to give basic skills and confidence that learners could take away and with practice enhance their turning.

There were a few issues with learners' equipment and these were addressed and mostly solved (the benefit of people using their own equipment)

All of the people involved were canvassed by e mail later for feedback on the day. All said that they had learned new skills and had enjoyed the day. There were some issues with timing of the activities, but these could be easily addressed should we do this again.

This type of one-to-one learning follows the pattern used by the Cambridge Woodturners, so a big thanks to them for allowing me to attend their session as an observer.

Big thanks also to the AWGB for the discretionary grant that covered all costs for the day.

As for the future – there was a fair amount of work involved in setting this up, but I do not see why we as a club should not do it again and cater for a mix of

turning abilities with people asking for a particular technique or process and matching that with an experienced turner.

Thanks to all involved.

Bruce Edhouse
Herts and Beds Woodturners

The Sycamore spindle and bowl blanks were supplied by
Paul Norcott
Home of Wood
Rye Harbour Road
Rye
East Sussex
www.homeofwood.co.uk
07957 942 452

Some photos of the training day







Safety Note: It is recommend that at all times when cutting wood eye projection is worn. As a minimum this should be safety glasses, a full face shield would provide additional protection. You only get one pair of eyes so look after them.