



MID WALES WOODTURNERS

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a branch of

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Newsletter : April 2021

From the Chairman

First of all I would like to thank Colin for his input in the March Newsletter on the subject of hollowing tools which are available at the moment. From my experience I have found that the shielded cutter type will take out the wood very quickly. They may take a little fine tuning for the species of wood, the wetness of the wood or the hardness of the wood. They will clog occasionally, be patient. My favourites are the Hamlet Big Brother series (*first purchased 20 years ago*) and the Simon Hope 6mm carbide tools.

More Hollowing

If you are just beginning to learn hollowing I suggest you have quite a wide opening so that you can actually see what the tool is doing. Also if using one of the shielded cutter tools try removing the centre of a bowl, or a shallow end grain blank as a practise. I thought I would continue with the theme of hollowing this month. As you can see from the photo I have made some small vases with a narrow opening, about 20-25mm. The blanks were about 4 inches long which allowed for parting off on the lathe and 3 inches in diameter, in walnut, cherry, spalted beech, yew, hornbeam and ash.

The outside shape was completed, then I drilled a 10mm hole to a suitable depth. For most of the hollowing I used the 6mm Simon Hope carbide cutter which is mounted on a 1/2 inch short tapered shaft. There is a much longer version of this tool on a 5/8 inch shaft which is a brilliant tool to use for deeper hollowing. It is surprising how much wood can be removed with just a straight tool. You will find that you have to stop the lathe frequently to remove shavings. I used a long 3/4 inch

roofing bolt. The most difficult part is the undercut at the top of the vase. For this I used a small curved scraper with the tool rest close. Light gentle cuts are essential. Sand and polish in the usual way before parting off and hand finishing the base.

Texturing

Last month you saw a photo of a 10 inch by 5 inch vase which was hollowed with the Hamlet Big Brother. This has a 24 inch handle just like the one in the club Library. The timber was part dried ash. The outside was heavily textured with Proxxon long neck grinder. This tool has a 2 inch disc cutter which has chain saw teeth on the edge. It will cut vigorously but can also be used for small patters if needed on other projects. Be gentle for fine control. You can also get sanding discs and a fan sander which has a variety of uses in the workshop. The photo shows a wide rimmed platter about 9 inches in diameter (*oak*) which has long wave patterns cut with the Proxxon. This was also stained with iridescent paints on top of black ebonising spray.

Warning. The long neck grinder has a small toggle switch near its base which can easily be moved when put away in its box. Always check this before switching on at the socket. Also in use the heel of the hand may switch it off during use.

Best wishes and continue to play safe as we are allowed to go further and meet more people outdoors of course. John



CLUB CONTACTS

Chairman : John Morgan : 0193 855 4572 : chairman@midwaleswoodturners.com

Treasurer : Les Symonds : 0167 852 1235 : treasurer@midwaleswoodturners.com

Secretary : Kym Price : 01650 511 572 : secretary@midwaleswoodturners.com