



MID WALES WOODTURNERS

www.midwaleswoodturners.com

a branch of

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Newsletter : January 2021

From the Chairman

Best wishes to all members and their families for a better, safer and some return to normal in 2021. I will continue with your help to put out a monthly newsletter so any contributions would be most helpful e.g. photos, comments on a new tool or some information on a project.

This month as you can see we have three photos of some of Gwynne's finished pieces. I have always found it amusing as one of his essential things he carried in his car while working around the local farms in Mid-Wales was a chainsaw. Need I say more.

This month I will pass on some thoughts on finishing which I have learnt over many years of woodturning.

- Spend as much time on finishing as you do on the turning.
- View in a good light, daylight is best.
- Make the final cuts with a newly sharpened chisel.
- Work through the sanding grits in the proper order and do not continue to use clogged or worn out abrasive.
- With most items I go to 400grit but occasionally to 600grit.
- A handful of shavings will burnish the surface.
- A newer product is Yorkshire Grit and Chestnut cu-n-polish which really work well with no harmful dust.

Choices of finish

- If the item is food related then the best finish is food safe oil
- The type of wood effects the choice of finish
- My standard finish is cellulose sanding sealer followed by cellulose melamine. This gives a hard wearing shiny surface finish
- You can also use a micro crystalline wax if you want a very high gloss
- For small items I use the sealer followed by friction polish (including pens)
- For burrs which may have small voids it is best to use an oil such as Danish oil or one of the wax oils (*osmo polyx oil, chestnut hard wax oil, tung oil*).
- Several coats may be needed as oils are deigned to soak into the wood.
- You can wet sand using oil as the lubricant. This works well but is a bit messy.

Over the years I have tried out most new products but I now stick to the ones I have mentioned. Therefore find the ones that suits you best for the projects and the woods you use most often. Oh, one more thing read the instructions on the labels!

Best wishes John (Chairman)

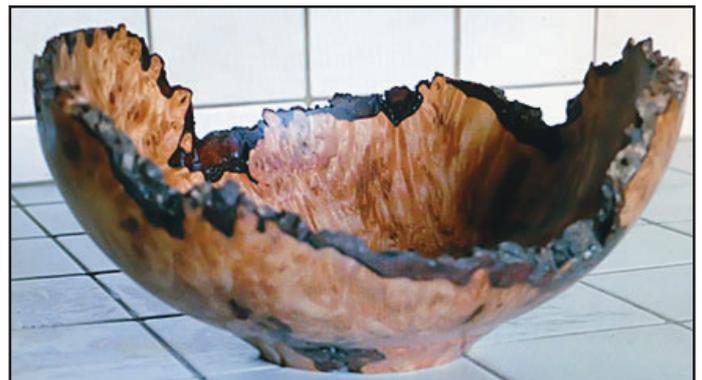
Work by Gwynne Stephens



Lidded Bowl in Tiger Oak - 12 inches diameter



Burr Ash bowl - 17 inches diameter



Natural top bowl in burr alder - 10 inches diameter

Christmas Cards

by Colin Panter

For the last few years, rather than send conventional christmas cards to close friends and family, I have turned a novelty christmas decoration each year, starting with a christmas tree, then a snowman, and so on. This years idea is a winged bowl in oak, with a robin perched over the bowl.

Nieces will have a bowl filled with bath bombs (*whatever they are, although I am assured they are currently on trend*), adults some snowball shaped chocolates, and so on. The photograph shows the first 6 bowls, one containing dark chocolate mints as an example.

I originally made a sample to test the idea, and found the bowl needed to be larger to suit the smallest robin I could get (the ones I used are made in felt, specially plundered early from christmas stock by the helpful ladies at No. 1 High Street gift shop in Newtown). I also refined the turning operation and made the total number required, ten, in operational sequence.

To turn the outside, I used a screw chuck to hold the work, and started to form the bottom of the wings. Personally I prefer to use a bowl gouge in a push cut against the grain, taking successive light cuts to the bottom of the wing. Although I could use a pull cut so that I am cutting with the grain, I find this more difficult to control and more likely to leave cutting marks that have to be removed by hand sanding, and careful final cuts with a sharp tool against the grain leave a good finish.

Although the wood blank is rectangular, it is symmetrical and balanced and so I cut at a reasonable speed (around 1250 RPM) so that I get a good ghost image of the wings which helps judge the starting point and stability of the cut. For the first one I brought up the tailstock in case I had a catch and the screw chuck didn't hold, but soon realised it wasn't necessary and didn't have a single catch. Once the bottom of the wing was formed, the outside of the bowl was shaped and a tenon cut on the base to act as a foot for the finished bowl, but also for mounting in a chuck when turning the top.



This process was repeated for each of the ten bowls, by the last one it was very quick and accurate, if a bit boring!

The top/inside of each bowl was then turned, mounting the tenon in 35mm jaws, and the same process used, cutting the top surface down to the wing thickness required (4mm in my case), leaving enough wood to form the bowl rim with the top of the bowl made to look in line with lower bowl beneath the wing. To get a sharp corner between the top of the bowl and the wing a spindle gouge ground with a shallow angle was used, the lower wing also acting as a scraper to remove any ridges left on the top of the wing. I only "scraped" the solid wood section around the bowl though, scraping wings seems fraught with danger to me and I haven't tried to do it even with light cuts.

The final operation was to hollow the bowl in the conventional manner, and finally I used a shear scraper to remove any toolmarks and minimise the subsequent use of abrasives.

The finish applied was three coats of oil, which I used to bring out the figuring in the oak, with a top coat of wax. I didn't use food safe finishes, but will make sure that all the edible bits in the bowl are individually wrapped just in case!

At the time of writing, my only problem is that the various lockdowns prevent me getting the finished "cards" delivered, for now at least!

MEETING COSTS

Members : £9 each, Family Members : £15 per family, Guests of members : £10 each, Non-members : £15 each

CLUB CONTACTS

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