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## Editor's Comments

Greetings. I must apologise for my being so late with this edition, especially to those who receive it by post, who may not receive it in time for the November meeting. Part of the problem lies with my computer which has 'lost' the largely completed script, so that I am starting again in the hope that I get it all done in time. Fortunately I work up all the reports and pictures in separate files which are intact, so it is mainly a matter of making up the layout afresh.

The November meeting is the club's AGM, which is particularly important this year as we will be electing new officers, and some new committee members. The retiring officers have been in post for a fair number of years, and are ready to take a rest. They have served the club well, but believe that it is time for some new blood to be involved in running the club. Please attend this AGM. There will be a 'Show and Tell' session afterwards to round off the evening.

*Alan*

**President:** Stuart King

**Chairman:** TBA

**Secretary:** TBA

**Treasurer & Membership Secretary:**  
TBA

**Committee Members** Ben Dick, Mike Mansfield, Mike Wood, Phil Jones, Michael Bonnici & others TBA

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## Diary

**November 13th AGM Plus**

**December 11th Christmas Party**

**Uxbridge Library Show 24th to 29th**

**November**

## Profile Ben Dick

Ben served for 15 years as a bandsman in the Grenadier Guards He plays the Tuba, and other instruments, and is a member of Hillingdon Sinfonia. Since leaving the Guards, some 35 years ago, he has been a self employed builder, with a special interest in carpentry and joinery, following interests he had before he joined up. In 2010, Ben wanted

to expand his skills, built a new workshop, and bought a lathe, and most importantly, joined MWA. Since then he has become an accomplished and prolific woodturner. Ben's work is notable for his willingness to experiment and explore new ways of presenting his skills, especially in the use of colouring techniques.



It is always a pleasure to welcome Ben Dick as a

demonstrator. He always has something new and interesting to show us, and this time it was the attractive tower tops which have appeared on his sales tables at recent shows. These colourful objects feature a spinning top which spins atop a tall tower, and does not fall off when it stops spinning. The tower is made in two parts to save timber. The techniques required to make these and the spinning top itself are really only basic turning, which all of us know



well. Ben's turning skills left the parts needing little sanding, and it was the decorative paintwork which was the core of Ben's



demonstration. To show this, Ben had prepared several tower tops in various stages of finish, otherwise paint drying times would have made it impossible to finish the demonstration. The key to the paint finish is

force. To direct the force correctly on each piece requires special holding fixtures, force. To direct the force correctly on each piece requires special holding fixtures, so producing a tower top as a one off would entail more time spent in making the fixtures than in making the top itself! Ben makes batches of tower tops to provide colourful displays at shows. Some of the colouring can be done without special fixtures



Ben uses small screw chucks to hold the work, and for some effects the screw chuck is tilted a little. Note the box placed around the work to catch any surplus paint that flies off the

pieces. Note also that Ben is able to judge the amount of paint applied so very little has flown off so far! Ben uses artists' colours and a variety of artists' brushes to apply them. First the pieces have primary decoration applied. When this has dried, the piece is placed in the appropriate fixture and dots of colour applied as the piece is indexed through 360 degrees. The piece is then clamped, and the lathe started at low speed to make the paint dots flow up the surface, producing the lines of colour over the background. Ben must have done much experimenting in order to discover how much



## July Meeting Contd.

paint to apply, and how fast and for how long the lathe should rotate. This not easy to visualise, but the pictures will show how the fixtures work. The methods of colouring were quite new to us, and provided a fascinating demonstration skills and originality. Ben explained what he was doing at each stage of

the work, and much interest was shown, not only in the colouring process, but also in the secret of the tops staying on the towers, so there was much inspection of the products! An excellent demonstration, much enjoyed by all, and all the better by being given by one of our own members.

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## New Gazebo for Shows

MWA has had a busy season attending shows at many venues. At many of these shows, only a pitch has been available, without a marquee. so the Club has purchased its own gazebo. The original gazebo was too small, so additional sections have been purchased. Apart from an

sections have been purchased. Apart from an electricity supply, we are now self sufficient. I have not received any reports on the shows, but I do have pictures of the new gazebo, courtesy of Ben Dick, which show the attractive presentation. Obviously money well spent!



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## Profile Martin Saban-Smith

Martin Saban-Smith is a relatively recent member of the woodturning fraternity, having taken up woodturning in 2014. He was formerly a professional photographer, and has brought his artistic flair and experience to bear on his work. He is an accomplished and prolific turner who can produce beautiful work in any style, but in his own words “does not do round and brown”. He much prefers to express himself artistically. His enthusiasm was such that he began to make his own wax finishes. They were so successful that he now produces them commercially, marketing them under the trademark ‘Hampshire Sheen’. His products have been extended to include a range of speciality finishing waxes, and water based stains. He travels widely, demonstrating at clubs and shows, takes commissions, and runs classes in woodturning too. He produces regular videos on YouTube and Facebook, which are well worth a visit. His products may be purchased direct or from several major retailers. A visit to [martinsaban-smith.com](http://martinsaban-smith.com) will almost overwhelm you with information!

# September

Martin Saban-Smith is a new demonstrator at MWA. He is the maker of Hampshire Sheen wood finishes and stains, now becoming quite well known in a highly competitive market.



He says, "I don't do round and brown!" and prefers to express himself through the production of artistic and decorative products. His speciality

is making roundels from plain pieces of wood which he turns and decorates. For this evening, he chose a very plain disc of sycamore, which in other hands



would have ended up as a breadboard. Martin prefers to use faceplate rings to mount his blanks, rather than the usual screw chuck. The blank was initially trued up on its

face and edge. Using a very sharp bowl gouge he created profiles over the face and edge of the wood. It was noticeable that the profile had sharply delineated features, the reason for which would become clear later on. Martin's superior turning skills meant that very little sanding was needed. He



prefers to sand with a manual rotary sander, which gives him more control than a power sander. He works through the grits, starting with 240 grit and finishing at 400 grit/ He says the 600 grit tends to glaze the surface, making the even application of stains difficult. When satisfied, he examined the surface carefully, and identified a barely visible grain feature. To bring this out, he applied black stain, first donning nitrile gloves, and applying small amounts of stain to a folded paper pad. He explained that the pad was not only

an economical way of staining, but also gave him much more control of the stain. The sharp edges of the profile minimised any bleeding of the stain. To bring out the grain detail, Martin next sanded away the stain until the grain detail showed clearly.



Martin also applied black stain to the edge of the disc to provide a frame for the art work. Now the creation of the artwork could begin. Using fresh paper pads for each colour, he applied a succession of colours, sometimes overlaying them, and we saw the artwork



come to life. When he was satisfied, he used a hot

air blower to dry off the water stains, and very lightly sanded with a fine grit to take off any whiskers that might have developed. He sealed the surface in preparation for finishing with a minimal coating of diluted sanding sealer, again applied with a paper pad. It was interesting to note the neat pump type dispensers fitted to



the various bottles of his products. These prevent waste, and avoid spillage should the bottles be knocked over, and enabled Martin to measure how much he was using. Martin also added some decoration with a decorating wheel plus some light cuts with the point of a skew. Very light sanding preceded final finishing using Hampshire Sheen finishing wax, over polished with a microcrystalline wax. The result was impressive! When not making for a



## September Meeting Contd.

demonstration, Martin uses a much slower process, using Danish oil to better bring out the colours before waxing.

Martin had on display several of his roundels, unfortunately not conveniently displayed to enable good pictures to be obtained. A visit to his web site is recommended!

Martin was not finished yet. On another blank, he quickly turned a flat rimmed bowl, and demonstrated some of his other waxes, such as liming wax, gold cream and so on. All of which produce impressive results when topped off by his finishing waxes. This demonstration of his skills and artistic flair served also as an

excellent display of the superior product which he makes and markets. His sales table was busy during the coffee break! This was another highly enjoyable demonstration, different from the usual colouring demos.



Another of Martin's roundels

## Gallery

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Paul Burke



Ben Dick



Mike Mansfield



Peter Leach

# More Gallery



Peter Russell



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Martin Bray

