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## Editor's Comments

Members who receive the print edition of the Newsletter will have noticed that it is now in full colour. This is something I have wanted to do for a long time, but commercial photocopying in colour is ruinously expensive. The purchase of a new Canon printer, which prints double sided pages and is economical with ink, makes it possible to produce the print edition in house, and in colour. I hope you enjoy it!

In this edition, I have added maker's names to the pictures in the Gallery section of the Newsletter. This is something which the makers deserve.

Members will all be getting their Membership Renewal forms soon. Please correct any mistakes in your data, and return the forms with your payment as soon as you can to the Treasurer, Derek Pollecutt. Do remember that your payment to MWA includes your AWGB sub. *Do not pay anything to AWGB!*

More good news! The MWA website is at last up and running again. Vanessa Sanderson has taken over the heavy responsibility of remaking the site on a new platform. The format has been completely remade. Do take a look. You will be pleased with what you see!

Communications about the website should be made directly to Vanessa.

*Alan*

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**December Meeting. December 12th**

**Christmas Party**

# October Meeting with Steve Heeley

This was Steve Heeley's first demonstration for MWA. He also is an agent for Chestnut Products, and had a table offering various wood finishing materials for Members to purchase.



He also had a table displaying items which he had made, but unfortunately it was positioned in very low light behind one of our projection screens. It also had a large "do not touch" notice on it which was quite off putting! To be fair, some of the items were of a delicate nature, and easily damaged.

Steve didn't say much at first, but we understood that he would be making a box, which he would decorate. He worked like a man in a hurry, with quick movements, unlike the smooth routines we are normally used to. He put an ash blank between centres and quickly reduced it to a smooth cylinder, upon which he marked the positions of the body of the box and its lid,



approximating the proportions to the rule of thirds. Chucking spigots were turned on both ends, and the two parts parted off. He used a thin parting tool,

without side relief, which resulted in scorching of the wood. Box turning followed the usual methods. Steve had not left a witness on the parts to mark the size of the spigot for the lid, preferring to

transfer the size later with dividers. Most of the hollowing of the parts was done with a spindle gouge, with sparing use of a scraper to finish off. The fit of the lid was kept tight to facilitate later operations. Interior surfaces were sanded, the final grades done after waxing, followed by buffing to a finish. As he worked Steve commented on what he



was doing, highlighting important points, and made sure that details were seen on our projection screens. The outside profile of the lid was partly completed before it was fitted, with the waste wood still attached, to the body of the box. This enabled tailstock support to be provided for the finishing cuts, and the turning of the finial. The grain was aligned between lid and box, and the



shape of the assembly refined by light cuts, followed by dry sanding to a fine finish. The finial was finished last of all, and the remaining waste finally removed.

Steve applied sealer to the finial only, and brought it to a good finish. Decorative grooves were applied with the point of a skew chisel, and emphasised by burning with the edge of a scrap of Formica instead of a burning wire. the join between lid and box was marked with a plain groove.



It was time to decorate the box. Steve drew shapes upon the lid of the box to guide his decorations. Using a flexible shaft drive and a small rotary burr, he carved the pattern

he had sketched out. It was a slow and exacting process, as the grain of the wood tended



to deflect



the cutter. the Now it was time for some colour. With a compact airbrush set, Steve sprayed a variety of layers of different colours, beginning with bright

colours,

and progressing to darker shades. The extreme controllability of the air brush was a crucial factor in the process. He ended up with a dark overall finish through which the brighter colours were still visible.



## Steve Heeley contd

After a drying it only remained to part off the waste from the bottom of the box, and the job was done. Much of Steve's demonstration was basic stuff which nevertheless offered a few hints and tips useful to less experienced turners. Decoration showed methods and equipment less familiar to us, and added to our store of woodturning knowledge. Altogether a well planned evening, with a lot crammed into the limited time available.



## A Reminder.

At the October meeting, Rob Lucas asked members to donate items to be sold by The Worshipful Company of Turners in aid of the Red Cross at a prestigious Craft Fair in London. We all have accumulations of small saleable items resulting from demonstrations etc. I certainly have, and will be bringing a selection to the November meeting to be collected either by Rob or Stuart King. You are invited to join me in supporting this well known charity. Don't leave it until December, because the event will have happened by then! Alan.

## Small Lathe Progress Report

You will remember that MWA generously presented me with a Carbatec lathe which was considered to be too small for club purposes. It was mounted on a hefty box construction of thick chipboard, with the lathe mounted on a substantial piece of kitchen counter top, and the motor, all one fifth of a horsepower of it, slung below. The whole assembly was too heavy for me to lift unaided, too low to use just standing on the floor, and too tall to use mounted on a bench or workmate. Something had to be done! After some thought, I decided to strip the whole thing down, and mount the lathe on a small chipboard platform, with the motor behind it. This has made the assembly manageable, and mounted on a workmate it is the right height to use while standing. I need to make an alternative stand so that I may turn while sitting, as old age makes standing at the lathe uncomfortable after a short time. I have an old workmate in the garage which I don't use, so the next step will be to dig it out and see if its legs can be shortened to bring the height down to perching on a stool level. If it works, I shall have an ideal set up which will pack away in a small space when not in use. I am looking forward to doing much more turning in the near future. Alan

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# Gallery



Peter Leach



Peter Russell



Derek Pollecutt



Ben Dick



Richard Hartshorne



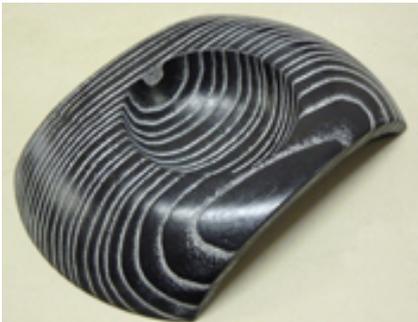
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Ralph Pooley



Mike Mansfield



Ben Dick



Len Tyler



Peter Russell