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## Editor's Comments

Member Les Alexander has suggested that we should always publish the Post Codes for our various shows and exhibitions. An excellent suggestion which I have included in this edition. May I add that I find [www.streetmap.co.uk](http://www.streetmap.co.uk) to be very helpful in finding my way to these venues.

Our committee and its supporters are in for a very busy time at various shows, all of which have come very close together this year, not forgetting our own All Day Seminar on 12th June. Have you signed up for this one yet? If not please do so NOW. Our Treasurer is waiting to give you your ticket, and we would like to have a full house so that we do not make a loss. This promises to be an excellent day of concentrated turning in the charge of an acknowledged expert. Lunch and refreshments are included, and there will be an "Instant Gallery", a very good raffle and Ticket prize. Don't miss it!

*Alan*

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## POST CODES for shows

Gt. Missenden (On A 413)	HP 16
Mapledurham House	RG4 7TR
Daventry Woodworks	(TBA)
Great Barn, Ruislip	HA4 7SU
Eastcote House	HA5 2FE
Uxbridge Library	UB8 1HD
Amersham Old Town, Bucks	?
Surrey Assn of Woodturners	GU16 6AA
Cow Byre, Ruislip	HA4 7SU
MWA Seminar. Gt. Kingshill Bucks	HP15 6DR

## For your Diary

May 12th Tony Walton

June 9th Workshop

June 12th MWA One Day Seminar

# An Evening with Mark Baker

Mark Baker is perhaps one of the best known wood turners in Britain today. He has been the editor of Woodturning magazine for a number of years, and part of his brief is to keep in contact with woodturning clubs, nation wide. Quite how he fits all this in with his editorial duties is a mystery! He is a well practised demonstrator, who can be guaranteed to produce something unusual each time you see him in action. Most demonstrators are satisfied by producing one special item in each demonstration. Not Mark Baker! For his evening with us he showed two different techniques, and made the whole evening into a teaching session, with a continuous commentary on what he was doing. There was something for everybody, beginners and experts alike.



His first piece was to be a lidded bowl, with the lid made from the same blank as the bowl, using a coring tool. The



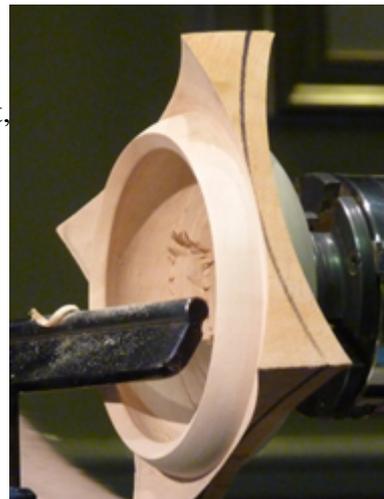
outside shape came first. Using a bowl gouge he soon produced the basic form, which he proceeded to embellish with a series of ridges, paying special

attention to the methods of getting uniformity and accurate spacing of the ridges. Next he used the coring tool to core out the centre of the blank, first turning a chucking spigot. This core would become the lid, but first he finished turning out the inside of the bowl, taking care that a register was left on the lid to eventually seat upon. Care was taken to achieve a good finish from the tool, to minimise the amount of sanding needed. Finally, the lid was made from the piece cored from the blank. By



comparison with what had gone before, this was a simple job.

Mark work with speed, and there was ample time left for his second demonstration. Another bowl this time, but made from an accurately squared blank. Instead of the usual bowl with a square rim, which we have seen many times, this one was to be quite different, with a rim with alternate corners turned up and turned down. The secret lay in the shaping of the rim, which can best be visualised from the photographs. Once the main part of the bowl had been finished, wood was removed from the rim to create the upturned and downturned corners. There are many ways in which this could have been accomplished, but Mark used a



long necked angle grinder with a cutting head. This was very fast, but left a surface needing some sanding. It needed care in handling too. Other slower methods of removing the waste would

have yielded a better initial finish, but taken much longer. "Yer pays yer money and takes yer choice".

We had a very full evening. Excellent designs and techniques, highly instructional demonstrations, and everybody's questions answered. What more could we have expected



## A New MWA Charity

MWA has supported the Shooting Star charity for a number of years. Originally based in Middlesex, It amalgamated with the larger Chase charity, and recently moved out of Middlesex to the main Chase headquarters. The MWA committee felt that the Middlesex link to us has been broken. and has decided that we will in future support St Luke's Hospice (Harrow & Brent),

### About St `Luke's

St Luke's looks after people in Harrow & Brent whose illnesses are no longer curable. We help and empower them to enjoy the best possible quality of life, knowing that their families and carers are supported too. We aim to care for and support people in the place of their choice, whether it be in their own home, supported by our Hospice at Home and Community Teams, in our Woodgrange day centre, or in our Patient Unit. We work in partnership with and provide education and support to GPs community teams, nursing homes, and other healthcare professionals.

St Luke's was founded by the local community, and we rely on its support for 75% of our funding. All our services are provided completely free of charge, and each year, thousands of people support the work of the hospice in many ways. Each year we support hundreds of local people, but there are many more who would benefit from the care and support St Luke's provides. The charity aims to extend its services to even more people in the years to come.

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## February Workshop

The topic for this evening was miniature turning. This follows on from Stuart King's full demonstration in January. Stuart opened proceedings by again demonstrating the basic requirements for miniature turning. Small size tools were needed, and many of these may be



made by the turner from cheap carpenter's chisels ex jumble sales or Pound shops, suitably reground to make scrapers of various sizes and shapes. Small gouges must be purchased of course. The writer has a useful spindle roughing gouge which started life as a deep sweep wood carving gouge. A very thin parting tool can be made from an old steel table knife, or even a more modern stainless one, but remember that the blade usually tapers from the back down to the cutting edge, and grind accordingly. It is important when regrinding, not to overheat the steel and draw the temper of the metal.

The best woods to use for miniature turning are those with very fine close grain. Boxwood is a favourite, but there are many others. Suitable blanks were provided for this evening so that members could have a go, using the tools provided. We were pleased to see quite a few members making moderately successful first attempts, and we hope that they will be encouraged to continue in their own workshops.

**More on Workshop evenings** We have bought sets of new tools for the small lathes, which are much shorter than the standard tools we had before, and therefore more in keeping with the size of the lathes. We hope that members will enjoy using these, especially for our new course planned especially for beginners and would be turners. One lathe will be set aside on each workshop evening for this purpose, and an experienced turner will be in charge. The other lathes will be used for more advanced work. A usual members are encouraged to have a go! Meanwhile, the new sharpening kit will be available at each workshop evening, so there will be no more excuses for blunt tools. Bring your tools in for expert sharpening.

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## Gt. Missenden Show

This was not as happy an event as in previous years. The marquee was very cramped, and there were problems in giving everybody a fair amount of display space. The first day went fairly well though, but the weather deteriorated later, and there was no provision on the site for bad weather conditions, Inevitably, footfall was much reduced, and our takings also. We hope for a better time at future events at Gt. Missenden. Many thank are due to those who helped to set up and break down the stands, and also those who manned our display and demonstrations.

# GALLERY

