

Forthcoming Attractions

January 9th - Social Evening

February 4th - Demo by Mark Hancock

March 5th - AGM

April 1st - Demo by Dave Springett



**Woody's
World**
The Newsletter of



December 2009

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Answers to Quiz

Circle answers you got correct

1) A 3; 2) B 3; 3) C 3; 4) B 3; 5) A 3; 6) A 3; 7) A 3; 8) B 3; 9) A 3, B 2, C 1; 10) B 3; 11) B 3; 12) A 3.

Now add up your points.

How did you get on?

25 - 30 Wow! Congratulations! You can be chairman next year.

13 - 24 Good score! How do you feel about treasurer?

0 - 12 Have you tried needlework?

Compiled by David Tilley, who should find better things to do in dark evenings.

The **December meeting** will be a hands-on evening, recreating last month's Christmas table decorations, as demonstrated by Viv Harvey.

In the **November meeting** Viv bought a few variations on the table decoration theme and showed how to make one of the simpler ones, like the one on the right, shown here.



Viv started by mounting the Elm base piece in a screw chuck. He fits a thin piece of plywood or two between the chuck and the workpiece so that the screw sticks in no further than it needs to.

Viv is a great fan of using whichever chisel you are comfortable with, and started facing off the workpiece using a roughing gouge. Assuming that the workpiece is just about the right diameter there's no need to make it completely round at this early stage, as you'll be profiling the OD later anyway. I tried this last week and had to get it nearly round as the lathe was wandering around my garage.

Viv uses a parting tool to make the recess that'll be used when the base is reversed in the chuck. In this case a pip was left in the dead centre for decorative purposes.



On the outside diameter Viv rounded off the bottom edge and added a lip with a skew chisel, using it as a scraper. Then the bottom of the base was sanded off initially using a disk pad (the breeze block finish) and then using 240, 320 and 400 grit Abranet, and 600 grit after a coat of sanding sealer. Viv applied friction polish as a finish, with a coating of Carnuba wax over the top.

Time now to turn the workpiece in the chuck and to profile the top. Viv used the roughing gouge perpendicular to the face to avoid digs. When I tried this I cut a huge chunk out of the workpiece, and swore a lot, so I think I've missed something here. Like the man says, "Use whatever tool you're comfortable with".

On the outside edge Viv cut a small vee and burnt a line in, using a thick copper wire. This is an excellent opportunity to burn your fingers if you forget to leave on the insulation on the copper at each end.



Having completed the profiling and sanding of the top face, leave the drilling of the mounting holes for the candlesticks until they have themselves been turned, as you may want to experiment with the exact placing of the candlesticks. Viv uses a 19mm Forstener bit to make these holes.



Now for the candlesticks. Viv uses a steb centre to start turning these. I found these for sale at www.poolewood.co.uk/acatalog/Steb_Centres.html, starting at around £27 plus the dreaded VAT. Remember that VAT goes up again at the end of the year!



Again, Viv uses the simple route and doesn't fuff about marking out the centre of the wood, he just does it "by eye" and that's generally close enough. Once the wood was roughed out to diameter, Viv again used a parting tool to turn the spigot ready for mounting the candle sticks in the chuck.

Viv recommends using the battery operated candles. The world having now gone completely mad, it's now considered better to have a non-biodegradable, lithium battery operated candle than it is to have a nice proper wax job. Still, if it prevents burning your house down I suppose it's worth it. Crikey, that was nearly a rant!

Anyway, these battery operated candles are available from many "Pound" shops, Wilkinsons, Aldi, Lidl, Hoobycraft, Meantime, and I found them on Ebay. Prices vary, so it makes sense to shop around.

The centre of the candlestick, can be turned out with a spindle gouge, finished off with a skew. Alternatively use a parting tool and skew finish with a skew, or spindle gouge, or use a Forstener bit, if you have one the right size. If you end up going too deep for the candle, you can always turn back and detail the top face, and claim that this was always the plan. Nobody will ever know.

Once the centre candle hole is done, finish off the outside profile, making sure you don't break through to the candle hole., or your fellow Offchurch turners will taunt you horribly, especially if you do it at a hands-on evening.

If you want to support the end of the candlestick with a revolving centre while you do the outside, put a bunched up piece of cloth in the end candle recess, to protect it from the point of the centre.

Once all the candles are complete, with their mounting stubs, place them on the base to get the positioning right, mark out and drill

the mounting holes. Make sure that the holes are deeper than the stubs are long!

Once assembled and glued you're now ready to add the decorations. No rules here, there are many different Christmassy things to add to the decoration. I'd be inclined to not fully secure any very Christmassy decorations, as this will limit the use of the thing just to the festive season, which seems a shame.



One of the decorations that Viv bought with him had a drilled out thin section. I'm sure this technique has a proper name but I can't find it. Answers on a postcard. This was done by using a Dremel. You may remember that Mick Hanbury demonstrating this back in April. Exactly the same technique was used for this.

These table decorations are reasonably easy to make and will make nice gifts and ought to sell well too.



The Woodworker's Christmas Quiz

All answers have something to do with wood, (what did you expect, needlework?)

- 1 What was the family name of the children's TV puppets?
 - A) Woodentops
 - B) Wooden Grangers
 - C) Chipmonkeys
- 2 Of what wood was Noah's ark made?
 - A) Olive
 - B) Cypress
 - C) Eucalyptus
- 3 What wood is usually used to smoke salmon?
 - A) Ash
 - B) Scots pine
 - C) Oak
- 4 African black wood and ebony - different names for the same wood?
 - A) True
 - B) False
 - C) Don't know
- 5 Knotting is made from:
 - A) Shellac
 - B) Varnish
 - C) Boy scouts
- 6 What is a strake?
 - A) Plank of a medieval ship
 - B) A medieval fishing ship
 - C) The prow of a wooden fighting ship
- 7 What is Westonbirt?
 - A) A Gloucestershire arboretum
 - B) A Somerset wood
 - C) Part of the New Forest
- 8 The name of a cartoon woodpecker?
 - A) Birdy
 - B) Woody
 - C) Pecky
- 9 The tree with which Eve interfered?
 - A) Not named in the Bible
 - B) A fruit tree
 - C) Apple
- 10 In-cannel is what?
 - A) A cut made on the inside of a bowl
 - B) A gouge with the bevel on the inside
 - C) Groove for collecting sawdust in a bandsaw

- 11 A runner is?
A) Strip of cloth for oiling tools
B) Strip of wood in which drawers rest
C) Boy fetching woodturner's lunch
- 12 What is shaker?
A) A style of simple furniture
B) A plank likely to split in the future
C) A Woodturner on the way home from the pub

Answers on the back page.

.... From John Davies:

Offchurch Woodturners AGM 2010

It may seem a bit soon to be talking about next year's AGM but apart from the New Year Social we've only got one other meeting after tonight. As I mentioned at this year's AGM I will be standing down as chairman in March 2010 - I feel that after two years as secretary and two as chairman then it's time to stand aside and get some new ideas to take us forward.

Also for some reason the day job has been taking more of my time over the last nine months. I've missed one meeting this year due to last minute work commitments and it's been a close call on a couple of other occasions. Next year looks to be equally busy - good in some ways, bad in others!

Mary is also going to be standing down as secretary and Roger will be standing down as vice chairman so that leaves three vacancies on the committee which need to be filled. However I can assure you that we'll all still be members next year. Mary is happy to carry on with the membership secretary's role and to help take your money at the door each month and I'm sure that Roger will continue in a leading role on hands on nights! If it helps I'm happy to take the vice chairman position for next year to help the new chairman and to fill in at meetings when needed.

I think that the club is in generally good order. We have a small but very friendly and loyal membership, the club finances are reasonably healthy and we've started to plan the programme for next year. We'll have the first six months arranged by the time the AGM comes round.

If anybody feels that they would like to take on one of these positions, even if it's just for one year, then I'm more than happy to have a chat to explain further. Unfortunately if these positions are not filled then we don't have a committee and the club would have to fold which I think would be a great shame.