

Charnwood are holding an open day at their Leicester office on 18th August- there is ample parking they say. See net for details.



**Woody's
World**
The Newsletter of



Aug 2012

Forthcoming Attractions

Tonight @ 7:00pm - Steve Heely
 Sept 6th @ 7:30p.m. -Hands on
 Oct 4th @ 7:00pm - John Johnson
 Nov 1st@ 7:00pm - Viv Harvey
 Dec 6th @ 7:30 pm Hands on
 Jan post Christmas Social
 Feb 7th @ 7.00 pm Graham Bell
 Mar 7th @ 7;30 pm A G M
 Apr 4th @ 7:00 pm Malcom Hill

Thin Bowls

Our July meeting should have been our own Mick Smets but he was unable to be there so our Chairman Ken took his place. His aim for the evening was to show us the problems of turning thin shell-like bowls. It turned out to be an interesting evening on what can go wrong when you haven't had time to prepare everything fully. The key problem on the night was the strength of the wood held in the chuck. Ken was attempting to hold the bowl's base in the chuck and not mark it with the crushing of the jaws. So the base was relatively small diameter.



Editor's digression

" do not know much about wood turning but in my time at work I have been involved in many timber structures. Timber varies enormously in its strength. Put simply you have three strengths. tension, compression and shear. In wood, tension is measured parallel to the grain and vertical to the grain. Compression is when the fibres of the wood crush under load. If you have the jaws holding the ring from the outside then obviously the wood is being crushed. If you hold your piece with the jaws inside then you are putting the wood generally into tension. But there is local crushing and, of course, the fibres at the interface with the main body of the bowl are in shear. So, yes, it is a complex problem and there is no clear answer stresswise as to what is going to be the best method of holding your bowl. Across a range of woods the working maximum stress can vary by a factors of two. Not only that but allowable tension parallel

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can be three times that perpendicular to the grain. Age too is a factor but you know that if you have ever tried to turn very old oak."



First bowl showing the failure Second bowl being shaped up of the foot.

After the first rather suspect piece of wood flew across the front row there followed a discussion on what constitutes a good grip. There was also a definite movement away from the front on the grounds that tea needed to be got ready.

The second piece was shaping up well see picture above. However this too decided to rebel and once Ken started on roughing out the middle it came under strain, decided that thin wall bowls were not its thing, and flicked out of the chuck with a broken foot.



It is worth noting that this failure is actually across a third of the base. Whilst the first bowl was suspect material and rather expected to fail this failure came out of the blue. The front two rows were now empty. It is worth noting that all the blocks went away from the demonstrator.

Should you ever do a demo this fact is perhaps worth remembering- you will be safe.

Ken's main point got rather subdued by the issue of how to hold a block whilst you do your turning. But he did have time to demonstrate the key factors in thin shell-like bowls. They can be difficult to hollow out. Once you have carved out the bulk you are left trying to thin down the sides. These will flex as you push your bowl gouge into the wood. This flexing is sufficient to cause snags and in the worse case you may actually cut through the side. Ken suggested that it was a good idea to leave the centre proud as this will offer some support to the bowl edges.



Note the centre has been left in

Do not approach the cuts aggressively, it pays to scrape rather than cut. A conical shape is easier to gouge than straight sided. See bowl Ken is starting to carve in picture above.

It was an interesting evening even if it did not go quite as Ken intended.

Other news:-

The club has a new wide slim television which proved a real improvement on our little old box set.

David Tilley is doing a stint teaching "monks" in Israel.