



# YewTurn

*The Monthly Magazine for Norwich Wood Turners  
Affiliated to the association of Wood Turners of Great Britain*

## Chairman's Report - January 2013

Hopefully you will all have noticed that Jon has issued the Yew Turn in time to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

The committee hope that 2013 will prove to be a very interesting year, as we have already booked six clubs nights, plus an all day Saturday demonstration by Richard Findley. I would like to see more members offering to do a demonstration for us on one of the club nights. Once you overcome the initial fear I can assure you that it is a very rewarding experience. It has been sometime since I demonstrated my piercing and colouring work and if there are enough new members interested then please let me know and I will see if I can fit in another demonstration.



It was great to have Andy Coates visit the club again on 7th December, he is always inspiring with his work. His reversible tricorn bowl showed amazing skill with the skew chisel, to make the shape between the two parts with the interrupted cut from both directions. This tool is still something that I battle with and I must make it one of my New Year resolutions to overcome this problem.

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I know, as you all keep telling me, all it needs is practice, practice, practice, but I can still turn out the best spirals you have ever seen with it, Ha, Ha! This always seems to happen about ten minutes after I think I have mastered it.

The professionals do make it look so easy but it is very reassuring when they do make a mistake and remind us all that they are also human. This should give us all hope for the New Year.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2013.

Keep turning safely, I van



## The North of England Show at Harrogate - November 23rd - 25th 2012



After an arduous drive up and over the Yorkshire moors from our hotel near Bingley, famous for its 5 rise locks on the Leeds Liverpool canal and its building society, we arrived in a grid locked Harrogate where I was dropping my wife off at the Knitting and Stitching show at the International Centre. One and a half hours after arriving in Harrogate I arrived at the Showground where the woodworking show was being held in Hall 2.

I was impressed by the number of exhibitors squeezed into the massive hall and the show was very crowded with enthusiastic onlookers milling round each display, only thinning out at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon.



The main theme of most of the wood turners this year seemed to be staining. The first turner I came across was Mark Raby who is featured in the December copy of Revolutions. He was doing a bit of turning and explaining one or two turning techniques, then started to stain the article using a defuser and small bottles of pigment stains. The second demonstration was to use metallic paste stains on

the inside of a bowl, applied with a finger, pulling it out to give a pretty swirl effect. I bought the stains then moved on to his wife's stand, where she was trying to show a gentleman the techniques of pyrography with little success. Nearby was a wonderful array of walking sticks decorated with animal and bird heads by Colin Hickmore, a master of his craft. Further on was The Turners Retreat where a young Irishman was demonstrating a hollowing tool setup





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which looked expensive and complicated for the job in hand. They were also demonstrating a set of taps and dies for threading wood which seemed to do a good job on most types of timber including pine but again, expensive unless one had a lot of threaded items to cut.

Onward to the booth demonstrating the construction of Windsor chairs and particularly impressive was the making of the staves in the lathe. Next to them was the Register of Professional Turners giving various demonstrations. West Riding Woodturners

Group had an impressive display of their members' efforts as well as a member performing on his lathe and giving various tips on technique.

There were several other demonstrators there familiar to the NWT club such as Nick Arnull, Les Thorne and the Robert Sorby rep., all attracting quite a crowd around each stall. Luckily, I was wearing my NWT club identity and A.W.G.B. card when I visited the WTA stand, this saved me getting a lengthy sales pitch to join the association and instead got me a friendly chat. Also in evidence at the show were several wood carvers demonstrating their skills and plenty of stalls selling both recognised makes of tools as well as one huge stall selling el cheapo miscellanea. I also visited a few stalls selling turning blanks and stock where I did buy some wood for future projects.



Prices varied quite a bit from supplier to supplier and it was worth looking round for a good deal.

"Now then, there must be 'something' here I want to buy!"



Lunch time was interesting as I shared a table with a gentleman hailing from the Isle of Man who was into furniture making but had over stocked his house. As a result he had just made an Indian canoe to keep him out of mischief. He thought that he may not use it though, as he had just turned 90 and may not be quite agile enough to get into it. There is hope for us all yet.

All in all a good day out except for the traffic, although getting out was far better than the inward journey. My wife also had a good day at the International Centre: we both now need to get out on the street with our begging bowls. On going down to a meal in our hotel that same evening we found that we were sitting on the next table to Alan, another member of the NWT club. His wife, like mine is also a quilter, so they had plenty to talk about. It's a small world.

Ron Lansdell

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## A Message From The Editor

As you will appreciate, this newsletter has been issued a week early. Whether you are a member of Norwich Woodturners or not, I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year' to all who are reading it. This is the sixth newsletter I have put together now for the club, and I hope you are enjoying them.

Please don't forget that although I am perfectly happy to put it all together, it is very nice to have material offered for inclusion, whether it be something as simple as a bit of humour, or a full demonstration report. As an example, at the meeting in November Ron Lansdell said that he would do a report for me on the Harrogate show, which can be found elsewhere in this issue. The important fact here is that I did not ask, it was freely offered, Thanks Ron, it is much appreciated. The only thing I do ask is that if you go to a show or an interesting demonstration, **PLEASE** take some pictures and write a couple of paragraphs about what you saw. If need be, come and tell me about it. I am quite happy to record your words and do the write-up for you. All such material will then get included in the first available issue.

From the January meeting I will be asking all those who put something on the display table to fill in a slip to go with the piece. All I will need is a) your name, b) a one or two word description, and c) the materials used in the making. Please help by supplying this information, then we can have a much better write up of the display in this newsletter. Take care, have a good Christmas, and see you all in January. **Best Regards, Jon Simpson**





## The Andy Coates Demonstration, December 7th 2012



It gives me pleasure to be able to write about Andy Coates once again. As a member of the Waveney club, Andy leads a busy professional life with his gallery and decorative demonstration work. A memorable moment for Andy was two gents in another club getting up and walking out when they found out he was going to do some colouring. One of his pet hates is the word "Artistic", so I will endeavour to not use it in this demonstration report.

Tonight's demonstration - A Double Tricorn

Opposed Bowl, sounds interesting, let's see what turns up in the next couple of pages. He started with a cube of Beech?, Sycamore? or something, which had been trimmed on 2 opposing corners, leaving a small flat large enough to mount the block between a steb



and a live centre.



Using the

long point of a skew, Andy proceeded to cut in on the centre line, gradually making the cut wider and deeper until he was into a continuous cut round the whole piece. This will create a central groove with side facets. Commence the removal of the side facets working from the external points down to the central groove with a small spindle gouge. When completed, this operation will

provide you with the opposing backs of two conjoined bowls. Work slowly, and with care so that you finish with both sides matching.

Working on the open face at the tailstock side, use a bowl gouge to reduce the external waste down to a central spigot which can later be used to re-mount the piece in a pin chuck. Again, with the bowl gouge,





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commence the removal of the centre of the bowl section. Pick up on the edge with care and work into the bottom of the bowl section. When hollowing, **DO NOT** go past the external centre line, otherwise you will find that the bowl on the other side has no bottom (could be painful).



Try working the other bowl from the headstock side if you have enough room, but if not, turn the piece round on the lathe and work on the tail stock side. The net result will be that you have 2 three cornered bowls, joined back to back, each with a central spigot.

Check both faces, decide which is

best, and mount that side in a pin chuck. With the other side free you can then turn away the central spigot. That done, you can commence cutting and clearing on the headstock side, and basically, getting to the point where you can part off. Here, Andy's words were "Cut away as much as you can.....oops.....it was on the floor with a corner knocked off. I must say, it is very good of these professionals to copy what we mere mortals do every day of the week. Final



actions were to re-mount between a neoprene jam chuck and a live centre to do a bit of cleaning up. Finish and polish till your heart is content.

Second half we saw a large block of Sycamore in the lathe to make a spinning top. First between centres to round off and cut a dovetail spigot, then in the chuck. With the free end trued up. Andy marked the end section about 20mm

wide by 5mm thick to be cut off as a ring. Having parted into the end of the blank, 2 holes were drilled into the periphery at 180 degrees to each other. Having done that he completed the parting off operation to give him a thin ring which was the same diameter as the block, with what amounted to a through hole. If you need to continue working on the ring to bead the edges etc, convert the lump in the lathe into a jam chuck and re-mount the ring.





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Mark the ring diameter plus a 1/4" onto the block left in the lathe, and commence reducing all that section into a spindle of the correct diameter to fit snugly (without binding, through the drilled holes in the ring.

Work in sections, turning, sanding, and finishing as you go until the whole length of the stem has been completed. Add a gentle dome (from stem to edge) on the upper face of the top, texture and decorate as you feel

fit. Turn the underside of the top, keeping it quite heavy and quite low down. Finish the parting off with a small point to give it something to spin on. Drill through the centre of the shaft to provide a lacing hole for the cord. Put the ring on the shaft, put a cord into the lacing hole, wind it up, hold the ring, a sharp pull, and see how she spins. Thanks Andy.

Jon Simpson

## Open Workshops

So far, the take-up of "Open Workshop" sessions has been slow, there not being enough interest to put on any sort of fixed or regular sessions at the moment. This may well of course change over the next few months, as and when the idea takes off. We have however identified five members who are happy to 'open up'. If you want to take advantage of the service you only need to get in touch with the people listed below, and a session can be arranged at a time convenient to both parties.

I van Tatnell	Hollow forms, piercing, colouring, pyrography	01692 630287
Roger Groom	Hollow forms and spindle turning.	01603 423336
Barry Mobbs	Spindle and bowl turning	01692 581321
Roger Rout	Enjoys turning in general.	01508 480278
Jon Simpson	Craft items and small turnings	01692 678959



If anybody uses this service could they please keep me informed so that the events and outcomes can be noted in these pages.

Jon Simpson

**Stop Press:** It was announced by Reg Hawthorne (AWGB Chairman) on Thursday 20th December 2012 that the A.W.G.B. has now gained charity status. They look forward to an interesting future.



## The Table Critique, December 7th 2012



As always we had a good selection of pieces on the table.



Clearly this month, some had been inspired to have a go at pen making following my demonstration last month. Amongst others, Jon Simpson, Roger Groom, Alan Drake and Chris Wright all had pens on

display. Also on show was a clever, multipart cotton reel caddy from Ron Lansdell. The top pulls off to reveal a thimble, and the rest disassembles to reveal cotton trays etc.



Clearly, Eric Harvey had been spending too much time looking out of the window at the rain. His pieces were quite spectacular, made of various combinations of Oak, Elm, Chestnut, Mulberry and Anjan.



Vic Cracknell put a bowl on display inspired by Les Thorne. It showed interesting colour variations where the grain changed from end to side, and then back to end grain.

As always, many other pieces did not make it onto these pages. More often than not, that is due to a lack of information, a situation I intend to remedy as of the January meeting.



Maurice Hanchet showed a small bowl with wonderful grain patterns in a piece of Laburnum.

Roger Rout, as always, came up with an interesting "crescent moon" hollow form made of Sycamore.



Andy's parting comments: A really good table, as always.

## Some Sad News

I'm sure a lot of members will remember Steve Arnott. Unfortunately, we have to report that sadly, he passed away in early November after having suffered with cancer.

His widow has asked me to sell his tools, many of which I will have at our meeting on 4th January. Some of the major items are listed below, and if anybody is interested in any of these you can ring to get first refusal or see me on the night.

From Record Power, a DML36sh MK2 Lathe with leg stand and bowl rest in mint condition, an RP 3000 collet chuck, an RP 1/2" chuck and arbour, and a revolving centre. From Robert Sorby, a set of 6 turning tools and a spindle gouge. Also, an Axminster AWED E2 dust extractor, a Rexon SS-16a fret saw, an Elu Router and a Trend router bit set. Much more will be available on the night.

Vic Cracknell, 01603 412394

## What's Important In This Life ?

It's important to have a woman who helps at home, who cooks, cleans, and does a good job. It's important to have a woman who can make you laugh. It's important to have a woman who you can trust and who doesn't lie. It's important to have a woman who is good in bed and who likes to be with you.

*But most of all, it's important that these four women don't know each other.*



## The Wizard Of The Workshop Puts A Sewing Kit Inside An Acorn



As can be seen, this acorn contains a small sewing kit. I first spotted this in an article by Tobias Kaye in the Woodworker magazine in 1985. As a result I started making some of these to sell at craft fairs. At that time, they were made with friction fit 'pop off' lids, whereas currently, I make them with thread-chased tops. I use boxwood for this job as it is ideal for thread-chasing.



The dimensions for the box are determined by the size of the thimble that is required, so that is what you need to make first. The thimble was made from a 1" diameter blank mounted in the chuck, a 3/8" diameter hole is drilled in the end and opened out to leave a tapered hole using a 1/4" square ended scraper, after which I sanded and sealed the inside before proceeding further. The next step is to check the depth and mark the outside for length. A small gouge and a skew chisel were used to shape the outside, and make some 'gripper grooves' prior to parting off. The remaining wood in the chuck was used to make a spigot to reverse mount the thimble in order to shape the top, add more grooves, sand, and finish.



I proceeded with the usual method for box making by roughing down between centres, then with the blank in the chuck, I parted through for the lid and base. I hollowed the lid first, and chased the female thread, before forming part of the outside shape.

With the base blank mounted, I proceeded to size a spigot on which to chase the male thread, and when this was done the blank was hollowed out to the required depth and a 7/32" hole was drilled inside the bottom of the base to take the needle case.

The next thing to do is make the needle case. Remove the chuck with the base still attached. Do not be tempted to take the base out of the chuck yet, as it MUST stay concentric until completed. Turn the needle case using a second chuck if you have one, or a Jacobs chuck if not. After deciding on the length required, I drilled a 3/32" hole in the end, stopping short of the bottom, after which the outer diameter was turned to fit



the pre-drilled hole in the base. Put the original chuck back onto the headstock and glue the needle case into the base using a centre point in the tailstock to maintain good alignment until all is set firm.

Now finish turning the outside of the two halves of the acorn box by first screwing the top on to the base to turn off the "top waste" prior to sanding and finishing with melamine lacquer. The base was then shaped and parted off, and the remainder of the wood left in the chuck was hollowed sufficiently to allow a female thread to be cut, allowing the base to be re-mounted to remove the "bottom waste" and complete the finishing. When doing this last bit, take care to not break through into the hole you drilled for the needle case.

To make the bobbin, I drilled a 7/32" hole in the blank first, and then with the tailstock supporting the end, I brought the overall diameter down to approximately 1/2" (to fit inside the thimble) before cutting the recesses for the cotton. I wound the cotton on by first, wetting the end and starting the wind by hand, and then by turning on the lathe at low speed to complete the winding operation, keeping the thread level and even throughout the winding process. I then parted the bobbin off with the long point of a small skew chisel to finish. As an afterthought, when all you wood turners have used up the cotton darning your socks and replacing those missing shirt buttons, you can then refill the bobbin by mounting it in the lathe between a dead centre in the headstock and a live centre in the tailstock. You could also use this method if you choose to part the bobbin off before you fill it.

The whole job was then buffed with a polishing mop impregnated with carnauba wax on the lathe. This project takes a lot of concentration and double checking, but with care, the results you achieve will be very satisfying.

WOW

## Forthcoming Events For Your Diary

Friday 4th January	Grumpy demonstrates stool making.
Friday 1st February	Barry Mobbs Demonstrates Spindle Turning.
Friday 1st March	Tom Kittle - Program TBA.
Friday 5th April	2013 AGM
Friday 7th June	Hands on night - show us what you are made of.
<b>Saturday 22nd June</b>	<b>An All Day Demonstration From Richard Findley.</b>
Friday 5th July	Nick Arnall On Sharpening And The Use Of The Skew.
Friday 4th October	The Ralph Jones Trophy - Competition Night.
Friday 6th December	Simon Hope - Program TBA.
A Demonstration Date for Mark Baker is awaited. May/Aug/Sept/Nov meetings all TBA.	





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### And Finally, Please, BE WARNED!

Over the last month or so I have become a victim of a clever scam while out shopping. Please don't be naive enough to think it couldn't happen to you or your friends, IT COULD.

Here's how the scam works: Two seriously good-looking, voluptuous girls come over to your car as you are packing your shopping into the boot. They start cleaning your windscreen, their damp skimpy T-shirts revealing a good deal more than is right and proper.

When you thank them and offer them a tip, they'll say 'No' but instead ask you for a lift to another supermarket. You agree, and they both get in the car.

On the way, they get VERY friendly, and as you pull over to remonstrate, one of them steals your wallet and makes off while the other keeps you distracted !

I had my wallet stolen in November on the 4th, 9th, 10th, twice on the 15th, the 17th, 20th, 24th and 29th. Then it happened again in December, on the 1st, 4th, 6th, 10th and 13th, and then twice on the 17th.

So please warn all the older men you know to be on the lookout for this scam. The ~~best~~ worst times seem to be just before lunch and at about 4:30 in the afternoon, and for some reason, you are more likely to be a victim on either a cold or damp day.

Aldi have wallets on sale for £1.99 each. At Lidl wallets are £1.75 and look better. Other supermarkets and outlets also sell good value wallets should you need to stock up.

Ed.

