



# YewTurn

*The Monthly Magazine for Norwich Wood Turners*  
*Affiliated to the Association of Wood Turners of Great Britain*  
Issue 81 - September 2013



## The Chairman's Report

The August demonstration by John Gilbert was very instructive and I was intrigued to see how he was utilising small scraps of wood to fabricate some of his boxes. Waste Not Want Not !!!, well done John.

Mind you, he did manage to give me a bit of a fright when he had a major dig in whilst forming the bottom of one box with his square ended scraper and showering me with bits of wood. Hopefully he was not too offended when several of us nagged him about always using a scraper set at a negative rake and with the handle end always held above the cutting edge, a valuable lesson for all of us.

Talk about lessons to be learned, I am really struggling at the moment, trying to master my Nick Agar platter. It is not the turning that is the problem, but the air brush colouring. The mixing of the acrylic paints to get the required colours, together with the correct consistency to spray properly seems to be very difficult.

I have been getting advice from my wife Carol and also from my sister-in-law who are both very good painters (not the Dulux variety). They keep giving me advice but the information does not seem to sink in. Did any of you realise that shadows are not black, but are various shades subject to the lighting levels.

I will have to get them involved when I am actually painting to get the maximum benefit. Also I have been told that my latest effort is not right as the layout of the leaves gives the impression that the design is running off the platter and is not continuous within the diameter. I think it is time to cut it all back and start again. Back to the drawing board I think.

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I will keep you posted if I ever succeed with this project.

Keep Turning Safely, Ivan



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## The John Gilbert Demonstration - August 2nd, 2013



### Demonstration Subtitle:

"Now, all we have got to do is convert this into that".

For those that don't know, John was a professional carpenter and joiner, but as far as woodturning is concerned, he rates himself as a keen amateur. When asked what his personal interests were, John gave me a reply that a) surprised me, and b) we could all take on board. It was "to do a better job, put detail into my work, and to get a better finish". His main interest is burr's of

Oak and Elm, and box making. A memorable moment was winning the Ralph Jones trophy a few years ago. A pet hate is mobile phones going off at an inappropriate time. Tonight's task will be to make a box from a Lignum Vitae bowling ball.



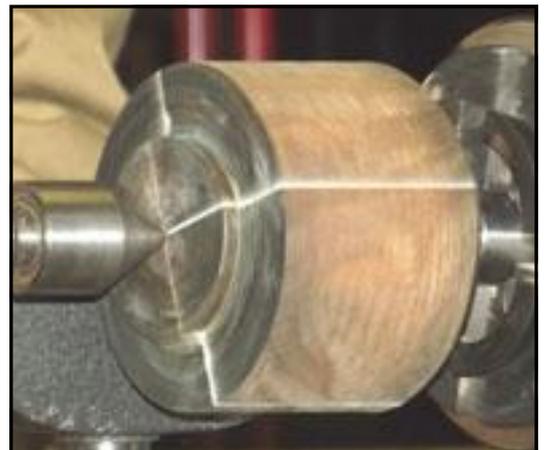
The ball John had selected had got some natural faults in it which were revealed after the piece had been rounded off, so before



the demonstration he opted to remove a 10mm section from the middle of the ball, and took the opportunity to reassemble the 4 sections with Titebond II and a pale Lime laminate.

Like the ball, the timber (Box) for the finial had been planed and jointed in 1/4 sections. Mount the blank in the chuck using tail stock support and round off and create a general taper towards the live centre with a spindle roughing gouge. Use a parting tool to define the point, the shoulder and the base of the finial. At this stage, make sure you cut a small spigot under the finial where it will mount in the lid section. Add your bead and cove detail with a spindle gouge, and finally, work on the point section until the waste drops clear leaving a nice sharp point. Sand and polish as required, and part off.

The base of the Lignum Vitae ball had been "cross cut" with a hacksaw so as to give the 4 prong centre something to grip into. If you use a steb centre this step is not needed. With the ball mounted between





centres it was rounded off with a spindle roughing gouge and a dovetail spigot was cut. With this stage completed, the ball was mounted in the chuck.

Now the blank can be trimmed again to ensure it is in the round, and the open face can be cut with a spindle gouge into a nice gentle domed curve. This will be an inset lid, so trim down the edge of the lid

section, leaving the main diameter of the ball about 10mm bigger than the lid. Cut a recess for the finial spigot to fit into. Sand and finish the lid section, and part it off with a slight under cut. Reverse chuck the lid to finish, sand and polish the underside, and glue



in the finial. Clean the recess in the Lignum with Acetone before gluing so as to reduce the oil content of the area.

With the main section back in the lathe, commence the hollowing of the box section.

Before you get too deep, cut a recess for

the lid section. If you make a mistake at this stage you will still have plenty of timber in the box blank to allow you to recover. Keep in mind the fact that if you do choose to recover, you will stand a chance of losing the grain match between lid and box base.



After cutting the lid recess, start cutting down the

inside wall of the box leaving a 1.5mm shoulder to carry the lid.



All seemed to be going well and then "BANG". most of the front row were showered with Lignum dust, and even standing behind the camera did not prevent I van from being hit in the eye with a shard. The ball stayed in the lathe (just) but became difficult to centre, needing a new dovetail spigot and lid recess to be cut. Once again, we have graphic proof that when using a scraper, you MUST



use it "Handle High, Tip Low".

Cutting out the box section with a flat bottom and straight sides was completed without further incident. Sand and polish the interior and exterior in the normal way. This is then followed by parting off and reverse chucking to finish the bottom.

If you wish to put felt in the bottom of the box, polish the internal walls, BUT NOT the bottom of the box. You can then apply a layer of double sided carpet tape to the bottom and then press in a piece of felt. Use the hard round end of a steel ruler to ensure the felt gets well into the corner, and then trim out the excess with a sharp craft knife, leaving a clean cut disc in the bottom.

To use up some spare time, John took us through the rudiments of making a second box using a piece of Olive wood which like the ball, had been glued up in 1/4 sections.



The simplified, basic steps of making a box



1) Make the finial in the chuck with tail stock support, don't forget to add a spigot at the base, sand, seal, polish, part off.

2) Mount the blank in the chuck, having first cut a dovetail spigot. Round off top face and down the edge. Cut recess to mount finial. Sand, seal, polish, and part off the lid section. Reverse chuck to finish the inside, and attach the finial.

3) Cut the exterior and interior of the box section, leaving a narrow ridge to support the lid. For maximum capacity, leave the sides and the base square cut. Sand, seal, polish, part off, reverse chuck and complete the bottom.

A good demonstration John, thanks very much

Table Critique by John Gilbert, August 2nd, 2013



A Walnut bowl from Paul Disdle. A nice piece, lovely grain and well finished, no chucking point, excellent.



Vic Cracknell showed a small screw top box. Very nicely finished, no marks to be seen, excellent.



A pair of laminated forms from Roger Rout, made of Sycamore and some darker wood. Spot on accuracy and very tight glue lines. well turned, and a very good exercise in gluing bits together.

An Oak burr platter with an oil finish from Roger Rout. Beautiful timber which had been nicely turned. No chucking marks and a good finish.



An offset finial from Eric Harvey, made of Yew. A nice exercise, well done, I cannot fault it because I could not do it.



Maurice Hanchet displayed a table lamp made from a Grass Tree root. A simple pleasant shape which is well finished, a nice piece. As here, make sure that a lamp is heavy in the base so as to help with stability.



Andrew Moore showed a bud vase laminated and layered from Ash. Segmented right through, a nice piece with good shape, well done. Ash can be difficult to finish, but this is excellent.

Eric Harvey displayed a winged bowl made of Mulberry. Hard to machine due to the "propeller effect", excellent, no sanding marks, a lovely piece.



Another pair of pieces from Eric Harvey, this time from burrs, thought to be Oak. Neither of them would be easy to machine due to the odd shapes, but very well done, nice effects.



I van Tatnell showed his first attempt at a platter inspired by Nick Agar, made of Beech with an Acrylic finish. An excellent attempt, well done. I van noted that there were faults on the piece. John's only comment was that if it was 10 feet up a wall it would look fine.



Barry Mobbs showed a good example of a thin stemmed goblet made of Sycamore. Lovely, I would be hard pushed to do that. An excellent effort, well done.



Another piece from Barry, this time a box made of Beech, and finished with paste wax. An excellent piece, a suction fit for the lid and all finished well.

Mike Shoot seemed reluctant to have this piece mentioned, but when pressed he said it was made from Lime with water colouring and was then given a gloss finish. John noted that he was not sure how this was done on the lathe, but it was a fine example of one of many facets of woodworking, excellent. I should say here that even though we are a wood turning club, we are only limited by our individual skills, and if you are happy to put it on the table, I am happy to put it in the newsletter (Ed).



### Can-Vac For Sale

Axminster WV2P dust and chip extractor bin complete with hoses (p/n 202192). 5 years old, but still in good working order, dual 1600 watt motors, original cost was £224, this star buy is now available for £50.00, contact Jon Simpson on either 01692 678959 or 07818 445308, or email [jonandbron@googlemail.com](mailto:jonandbron@googlemail.com)





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## Norwich Woodturners On The Wherry Albion - Monday 5th August 2013



So after many months, the big day had arrived. Planning for this day out actually started back in April when I first made the announcement during a club night. Take up was slow to start with, even though I only needed 11 people to say "Yes, put me (or us) on the list". As the weeks went by the list gradually filled, up to the point that two people on the list actually

wanted more places than were available.

During the whole of the summer there were only two days that we could all be together, and the chosen day turned out to be Monday 5th August.

By Saturday 3rd August we were looking at the weather forecast every few hours, and all we could see was wall to wall rain for all day Monday. By Sunday evening there was light at the end of the tunnel in that the forecast had become cloud with the odd shower. As the day turned out, we had a 10



minute shower at about 8 am., and then another short sharp 10 minutes about 3 in the afternoon, and the rest of the day was bright and breezy. I had a really good day on the river with Ron, Roger, Bill, Keith and Glyn (along with a mixture of wives, friends, and family). I should also thank Henry the skipper, Charles the mate, and last but by no means least, my wife Bron who kept everybody watered and fed, all day. Well done gal, you get a gold star.



I hope to repeat this event next year, when those that missed out will have a chance to find out what we got up to, and what a wonderful relaxing day out we all had.

The following report was provided by Bill Hudson, please enjoy





As I strolled along the lane towards the Albion base at 08:15 there was barely a breath of wind and a few spots of rain were falling, I looked at the dark clouds and thought "what have I let myself in for, booking this trip kindly arranged by Jon (our newsletter editor)". I need not have worried, it turned out to be a glorious day in all respects.

The Norfolk Wherry Trust base was a hive of activity. Jon was busy attaching the small tender to the rear of the Albion and ensuring there was adequate fuel in the

tanks. The skipper and mate were making the vessel ready, and Bron was doing the most important task, loading lunch and ensuring sufficient water and biscuits were in the galley

for tea making throughout the day. It was not long before Roger G., Glyn and Ron arrived with their respective guests. Jon introduced us to Henry our skipper and Charles the



mate. Henry gave us a thorough safety briefing which included a few must not do's to avoid the possibility of injury. After donning life jackets we boarded the Albion and we were



ready for the off. Jon pushed the Albion out into the cut with the tender and Henry steered us toward the Thurne. I noticed a few beads of perspiration on Jon's forehead, thankfully the outboard was doing the real hard work, the quant poles remaining stowed on deck. The tender had to be used to push us for the first mile or so as the wind was full head on. Then the time came to raise the sail, volunteers were called for but the wiser ones amongst us held back – lots of cranking of a manual winch was involved. Wind speed was approx.

12 to 15 mph (10 knots) and as the sail went up it was surprising how the Albion responded to the wind despite its size. Henry signalled for the outboard to be killed and we were under way on wind power alone. Charles the mate by this time had done the on-board housekeeping, stashing all the ropes to minimise trip hazards. He by now was stationed at the bow ready to ward off other boats that were not giving way to sail as is the rule on the river and remained there happily in the sun for the mornings cruise.





At the mouth of the Thurne Henry swung the tiller over, pointed the Albion into the Bure and we were soon heading upstream toward Horning. With time to relax in the sun and watch the world go by, Roger and I asked if there was better than this. This stretch of river was very busy with holiday traffic. We had a taste of what it must be like to be a "Celeb" as camera's were pointed at us from all directions. There was a vast array of wildlife to see along

the river and its banks, and then came the star turn, a Marsh Harrier came into view and treated us to an amazing aerobatic display as it hunted the reed beds. For such a large bird its agility in the air was something to behold. For the short time we could see it its efforts were not rewarded and off it flew, maybe to try another patch. Next piece of entertainment was when Charles shouted a warning to Henry that a boat was in our path just around the next bend. Of course the skipper had already spotted it, Henry seemed to miss nothing standing there

totally relaxed but with eyes everywhere. A sail powered vessel had managed to get stuck in the reeds but was lucky that a Broads ranger boat was to hand



to pull it clear. By the time we reached it, it was back in midstream and ready to be on its way. Some of us chuckled somewhat when the unfortunate helmsman turned to face us and displayed his tee shirt which had "Muppet" emblazoned across the front.

We continued in a relaxed manner to just below Horning where a 180 degree turn was executed with apparent ease. We retraced our steps for a short while and turned off the main river into a cut leading to Ranworth Broad. The crew moored Albion alongside the staithe with unerring precision and Bron announced 15 minutes to lunch. This gave us time to hop off and stretch our legs. Sure enough, an excellent spread was laid before us on the



table that is in what was originally Albion's cargo space. The fresh air must have given us an appetite as very little was left. We set about the washing up, Roger, an expert in these matters leading the team, leaving the crew to talk to the public who had gathered on the bank. Some were welcomed aboard for a guided tour as P.R. is vitally important to the Norfolk Wherry Trust.

During lunch the wind had freshened and Henry, after a period of study, decided to reduce the sail size. So we all set to putting in an extra reef ready for the return trip to Ludham. Out came the quant poles and we were clear of the



staithe where some expensive looking motor cruisers had moored. The wherry was turned, up went the sail, and we were underway again, across the broad and out to the junction with the main river. With Charles up front on both lookout and traffic control duties Henry swung the wherry out onto the main river. As we sailed down the Bure we were given the opportunity to take the helm and to hop into the tender to circle Albion and take photo's of it from the water. Thankfully all went to plan

and no one got wet. Half way down the Bure Jon and the crew did the good Samaritan deed giving assistance to a day launch who's engine appeared to have given up the ghost. Jon disappeared in the tender to assist the stricken day boat and re-joined us a few minutes later, assured that all on board were safe and help had been called for. With this the sky changed and a few drops of rain started to fall but no sooner than most had donned wet gear the sun re-appeared and we shed the waterproofs as fast as we could. A few with wise heads sheltered below deck for those few minutes and avoided struggling in and out of waterproofs in a confined area, not an easy task when wearing a life jacket.

At Thurne mouth we left the Bure and headed back up the Thurne, passing the picturesque Thurne mill. Henry called for the sail to be stowed, this was lowered, furled and lashed. Henry's timing, like everything else, was impeccable. The job done just as we turned into the cut to Ludham and home. With the aid of the tender's outboard progress was made for the half mile or so back to the Wherry base. Power was cut and the Albion was skilfully guided back into its dock with the merest of touch to the tyres hanging from the dock side. Before the eye could blink we were pulling on ropes and she was made fast. Those who had not already disembarked then did so and life jackets were removed, belongings gathered and thanks were given to the crew. As we left the waterside for the short stroll to the car park the general conversation was what a wonderful experience it had been and how well we had been looked after.

Personally and no doubt on behalf of all my fellow passengers I would like to thank Jon for his efforts in arranging the trip and the weather plus his work as crew member. Henry and Charles for their time, and boat skills and most importantly to Bron not only for the wonderful spread she laid out for lunch but also for the constant supply of tea and biscuits throughout the day. It was an experience I will remember and should a trip be on the offering next year it's a day I would recommend without hesitation to anybody.



Bill Hudson

## Do We Need To Worry About Being A Safe Teacher

No doubt many will dismiss this article (in whichever publication it appears) because the title implies that the content may be a bit boring. I would also expect many to dismiss it because they already know how to be a safe demonstrator or teacher. Even so, I have decided to raise this question as a direct result of some 'Hands On' work I did at my local club, the Norwich Woodturners.

I have come to appreciate a problem that really needs to be taken on board by all those who make themselves responsible for showing others how to turn, and I (no more than a keen amateur) am included in this category. We that take on the role of teacher all have an absolute responsibility to ensure that students under our guidance operate in a totally safe manner, plus, we have a duty to point out ALL of the following, and I would suggest that extreme caution needs to be taken at something like a hands on session due to the combination of two very important factors:

1. The teacher in charge may well be a keen amateur who has no formal training.
2. The student may well know nothing, and almost certainly will not know when he or she is doing something either wrong or in an inappropriate way.

I decided to write this article to make myself ask the question that in my opinion is all too often ignored and that is "Am I Qualified To Teach Woodturning"? On many occasions I have worked with individuals, and having now thought about it, so many things I do are done without conscious thought. I would be very interested to hear your views on what follows. I doubt if it is a complete list, but I have tried to cover as many issues I can think of and I am indebted to those that offered their words of wisdom to include in the piece.

So, where do we go from here? The answer, I think, lies in recognising and accepting that WE SHOULD ALL take note of the following (no matter how clever we might think we are). Complacency may well be the first step on the road to "Accident and Emergency". Hopefully, it should serve as a good guide to how we bring a turner who has unknown skills to a lathe, please let me know what you think.

Before any turning happens, give a brief health and safety talk, and ascertain what the student does or does not know. Explain the dangers of things like long hair, floppy sleeves, an un-controlled neck tie etc. Also consider watches, rings, necklaces and other items of jewelry.

Explain that the lathe is one of the safest machines in a woodworking workshop (this gives immediate confidence with the machine) but that each year a couple of people are killed using one, so it needs treating with respect. Introduce the parts of the lathe including the

head and tail stock. Make reference to what the tail stock is used for, and when it can best be removed to provide better access or safety. Don't forget stopping and starting the lathe and the speed control. Explain the importance of starting slow and building speed up.

Whenever possible a turner should wear some form of dust or face mask. Some sort of protection for the eyes is desirable at the very least, safety glasses should be worn.

Explain the importance of comfortable working height, the correct stance and body position, and how the bevel controls the cut. Explain that it is necessary to be able to move smoothly from the start to the end of the intended cut. Set the tool rest to the correct height and check the clearance between the wood and the tool rest. Rotate the wood by hand before applying power.

The first tool to introduce should be something gentle, like a spindle roughing gouge. Mount a rounded off piece of wood between centres and rotate the wood by hand while the student holds the tool. The tool will make a cut and lift a shaving, bringing home the fact that they are using a very sharp tool. Explain the basic idea of getting the tool on the tool rest and at the same time, the back of the tool on the wood. Start by moving the tail end of the handle back and up until the cut starts.

The cutting tool must be supported by the tool rest before it touches the wood. If the tool contacts the wood without any support the result can be an almighty dig in, the consequences of which could be lethal, and are completely unpredictable. Failure to get this bit right will normally give you a short sharp adrenalin rush at the very least.

Only when both the student and the teacher are happy should the lathe get turned. At this point the student simply makes cuts along the spindle with the roughing gouge, gradually becoming more confident as they go. Once they are happy with this you can put a square piece of timber in the lathe and they will repeat the operation, this time taking it from square to round.

At all times you should stand next to the student, paying absolute attention to what is going on and ready to step in if need be. Do not be tempted to stand back and talk to others while the student gets on with it.

Only when all of the above has been completed without incident should you consider progressing through various other tools and shaping cuts.

So, was it a waste of time putting these points together? I am not the first to do so, and I will certainly not be the last. As to whether or not it was a waste of time is very much dependent upon your personal assessment of your own skills as a teacher of woodturning. Am I right or wrong? Do we pay enough attention to the potential dangers? I Think Not.

Jon Simpson, Email: [jonandbron@googlemail.com](mailto:jonandbron@googlemail.com)

## Forthcoming Events For Your 2013 Diary

Friday 6th September	Andy Coates - Program TBA.
Friday 4th October	The Ralph Jones Trophy - Competition Night.
Friday 1st November	Mick Hanbury - Program TBA.
Friday 6th December	Simon Hope - Program TBA.

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## And Finally - Sent In By Our New Friends "Down Under" Who Says Aussies Don't Have A Sense Of Humour

What do you call a world-class Australian cricketer? Retired.

What do you call an Australian who can hold a catch? A fisherman.

Why can no-one drink wine in Australia at the moment? They haven't got any openers.

Which Australian spends most time at the crease? The lady who irons the cricket whites.

What's the height of optimism? An Aussie batsman putting on sunscreen.

There's no difference between an Aussie batsman and an F1 car, blink and you can miss both.

The only difference between Cinderella and the Aussies is that Cinderella knew when to leave the ball.

The Australian batsmen and Michael Jackson both wore gloves for no apparent reason.

What's the difference between Michael Clarke and a funeral director? A funeral director doesn't keep losing the ashes.

The Australian skiing and bobsleigh teams have asked the Aussie cricket team for a meeting. They want advice about going downhill fast!

What do you call an Aussie with a bottle of Champagne? A waiter.