



# YewTurn

*The Monthly Magazine for Norwich Wood Turners*  
*Affiliated to the Association of Wood Turners of Great Britain*  
Issue 97 - January 2015



## The Vice Chairman's Report

HAPPY NEW YEAR, and welcome to the first edition of YewTurn for 2015. Our last meeting was a 'hands-on' event combined with Christmas snacks and subscription payment. I have not heard how many subscriptions were paid but thanks to all who did so. On the subject of hands-on evenings: what do you really think of them? It seems to me that we usually have a lower attendance for these events compared with demonstrations and not many members actually take part. Please let committee members know your opinion or bring it up at the AGM in April.

As the first Friday in April is on Good Friday the committee has decided to move the AGM to the following week so our meeting will be on 10th April instead. The proposed demonstration on April 4th by David Lowe has also been cancelled.

I have not done a lot of turning during the past month but I have been processing a load of spalted beech that I obtained in the summer. It was a large branch that fell from a tree in a storm 12 years ago and had been stored in a barn ever since. The farmer gave it to me in return for a few bowls, which I have yet to produce. You have seen some of it in my entry for the Robert Saunders bowl competition. Grumpy planked it for me and I chain-sawed it in to blanks that I could get on my lathe. On the lathe I am using the clubs bowl saver to produce nests of blanks to turn most of the wood into bowls rather than shavings.

As you know the club has also purchased a number of other tools for use by members, including a small record lathe and thread chaser. Please feel free to borrow these tools, all we ask is that you take good care of them and if you cause any damage, own up to it, and arrange for either a repair or replacement.

I will not be at the January meeting so,

See you in February, Barry

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## Hands On Night - 5th December 2014



This turned out to be quite a quiet event, possibly due to it being membership subscriptions night. Also, nobody wanted to get the big lathe out and have a go, so there was a distinct lack of activity in the hall. Those that did put in the effort were Barry Mobbs doing some valued Skew Chisel training, Brian Elmar showing how he carves his figurines, and Jon Simpson attempted to make a trembleur, and showed how to "do it in a small way".

First Barry, clearly there is still a good deal of hostility surrounding the use of a skew chisel, I cannot understand why this is the case. It suffers bad press due to it being easy to get a dig in, but that is only the case if you get the point into the grain of the wood, but surely the same applies to a whole host of other wood turning tools. I still maintain the fact that the skew will ALWAYS give you a superior finish over any other gouge you might use instead, and that can only result in a better finish. I didn't see how many people actually had a go with Barry, but clearly Subhash was man enough to step up to the mark. Some others also had a go, but I didn't get pictures.

Brian says: I am a member of the British Woodcarvers Association and we meet in Lowestoft once a month on Sundays at the Kirklee High School in the wood working room.



Anybody interested in having a look at the level of work carried out should talk to me about dates and come along. Having arrived at about half past six, not a lot of activity



going on but it soon picked up. Two lathes were being prepared so I set up my carving station.

Still no more lathes, but quite a few members were arriving and soon things were swinging, Jon on his lathe was doing long thin things, while Barry was showing the skill of the skew chisel. I wondered how many members would be interested in the wood carving, but as it turned out there were quite a lot of people that wanted



to know so I was busy talking to members all night, in fact while Vic was sweeping up there was still interest in the carving. I didn't do much carving but a lot of carving information was given out i.e., about the carving gouges, sizes, shapes and uses etc. The same with the woods that are good to carve, you can carve most but some are not very good, either too hard or too soft. The best, certainly for a beginner, is Lime wood, it's not got a lot of character but it holds very good detail, Jelutong is another but nowhere as good as the Lime wood. For something harder but with

more interest try American Black Walnut, Oak, Cherry, or Yew (the grain is a bit wild), but if a real challenge is what you would like, try carving Boxwood. As with all your carving tools they need to be razor sharp but with boxwood super sharp is even more important.

**P.S., Those pink SOFT things on the end of your arms, KEEP THEM BEHIND THE HARD SHINY THINGS IN YOUR HANDS.**

Jon Simpson brought his small lathe in, along with a strange collection of bits and pieces. The main purpose of this exercise was to show how to hold small items whilst they are being worked on. The timber being used was a length of Cherry dowel. Jon explained that he often uses pre-cut hardwood dowel when turning small items, as it actually works out cheaper as there is a lot less waste. He gets supplies from [www.plugitdowel.co.uk](http://www.plugitdowel.co.uk), see their web site for further details of the extensive range of products available.



Jon explained the use of a collet chuck to hold small items. The collet chuck carries an insert (many sizes available, from 2mm to 12mm, Axminster part no. 610973 ) which compresses down onto the blank and holds it for turning. This also allows the work piece to pass right through the headstock. Jon was using a temporary holder held in place with a couple of house bricks to stop the tail end flailing around and breaking off. This was a bit of a bodge, and at one point it actually started to generate smoke.



At the business end of the lathe we saw how Jon does trembleur turning down to



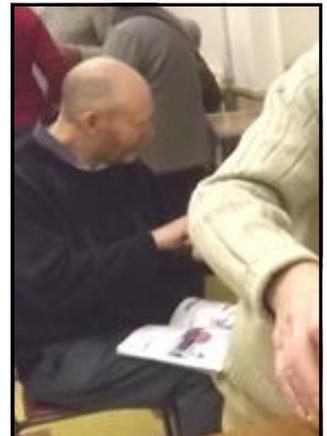
less than 2mm, and supports the work with temporary clamps mounted between the lathe bed rails. Natural string is used to support the work, having it strung around 3 pins to apply equal tension in all directions. Do not use man-made products for this, first they melt, and second, the piece you are turning will break.

Several people, including Christina Martyn had a go at turning small, and only one of them said that her fingers were getting a bit hot (from supporting the work on the back side of the lathe).

Jon re-iterates a valuable lesson taught him by Nick Arnall several years ago. That lesson is as important now as it was when first mentioned. When turning, **DO NOT FORGET TO BREATHE.** It will help you work in a smoother, calmer way, and will improve the work you do.

A final bit for this section. Bill Hudson was spied in a corner deep in conversation with two or three others. I later found out that it was all about how to grind chisels and gouges, how to look at tools and decide if they are good or bad, or even dangerous to use, and the merits of a scroll versus non-scroll chuck. A simple chuck with 4 independent jaws can be a great help at times, but the work involved is often skilled and maybe more complex, hence the reasons why we normally use a 4 jaw scroll chuck.

Bill Hudson suggested that on "Hands On" nights it would be good to have a table set up where one or two members can sit and hold what amounts to a "Doctors Surgery" where others can bring problems or questions, and the experts can offer whatever guidance they have in their experience. A good idea Bill, thanks, we will try that out.



## **FOR SALE**

I have a RECORD CL3 Lathe and RPLB 2448 stand. Complete with a SUPER NOVA CHUCK with spare jaws, a revolving centre and spare tool rests. All in good condition.

Buyer to collect, £450.00

Mike Shoot, Tel: 01603 409007

## An Inspiring Visit



Earlier in the year Broadland Woodturners approached Jon to see if he could supply them with some Wherry Albion Oak for their annual woodturning competition. He sorted through his workshop and found them a decent supply of said Oak and gave it to them with the general proviso that turners could try to make something that appeared bigger than the piece of wood supplied. Also, because this wood was money to the Norfolk Wherry Trust, it would be

appreciated if some of the competed wood turnings could be sold on behalf of the Trust. The club agreed to these guide lines and off they all went.

In November this year Jon and I were asked to attend the club evening at Broadland to judge and give a critique of all the woodturning done by the members for the competition.

I now know how you all feel when I sidle up and ask "Would you like to do the critique tonight?" Not being a wood turner I thought I would have nothing to say but actually it is surprising what you learn by watching and listening and I think I gave a reasonable account of myself. Jon managed to fill in some of the gaps with more technical jargon. To say I was amazed at what we saw on the display table is not an exaggeration. The scrubby bits of wood no thicker than 2" had given birth to some truly beautiful well crafted items. We all know what Andrew Moore is capable of and his segmented turning was a joy to behold. A fairly inexperienced turner had created a pedestal clock with a plaque on the base engraved to show it was Albion Wood. There were unusual whistles, bowls, etc., etc.



This turned out to be a very clever way of having a competition. Everyone having a very similar piece of oak made it more interesting to see the many different ideas which had



come to fruition. The exhibits showed all styles, skills and techniques that you could wish for in a competition. There were hollow forms, several segmented bowls, a decorated flagon, textured plates, gallery bowls, model boats, whistles, a goblet and a box, just to mention a few.

Congratulations go to this small but enthusiastic club for a job well done. The competition items were subsequently sold at the Norfolk Wherry Trust Laying Up Supper and raised £244.

Unfortunately, many of the pieces sold quicker than we expected, to the extent that we were unable to get a good photo of many items. That said, the pictures we do have provide a good flavour of what we saw.



Two different organisations working together is exciting to see, and I do feel that more clubs should try working together with their local community in some way.

Bron Simpson

### The Table Display - 5th December 2014



An Ash fruit bowl from Ron Lansdell. A pleasing shape and well finished with lacquer.

Ron also showed an Elm salt and pepper mill.  
An excellent finish with Acrylic lacquer.



Alan Drake showed an excellent cufflink box made of Oak and Cherry, as demonstrated by Andy Coates last month, lovely.



Andrew Moore showed a fine Ash and Mahogany segmented pot. Not too much you can say about this, other than superb.

Also from Andrew, a

conical bowl made of Walnut, Ash and Mahogany, tight joints and well finished. With this type of work you spend more time cutting and gluing than you do turning.

Roger Croome needed a trained eye for this project. About 10 days of effort were involved, with the majority of it taken up with painting. Very nice.



A small piece with a difference from Subhash Davda, made of Lignum and Coconut shell. An excellent effort, very nice, well done.

Alan Fordham has also made a salt and pepper mill, this pair were made from Silver Birch. An excellent effort, and well finished.



Roger Rout showed a chair he had made from Ash. Good joints, very nice.

## Some Important Messages From The Events Secretary

The sharp-eyed among us have noticed a bit of a problem in the proposed calendar for 2015 in that the AGM planned for Friday April 3rd coincides with the Easter weekend, along with an all day demonstration from David Lowe on Saturday April 4th. Neither of these dates are a good idea, as many members are likely to be tied up with family matters over the weekend.

So, the 2015 AGM is now set for FRIDAY APRIL 10th, one week later than previously planned. Unfortunately, the all day demonstration from David Lowe had to be cancelled due to him not being available on the alternate dates we were able to offer.

As noted to you all in a previous issue of the newsletter, I shall be giving up the post of Events Secretary at the 2015 AGM. I have enjoyed it and found it a worthwhile task to carry out for Norwich Woodturners, and I hope that there is an enthusiastic wood turner amongst you that would like to take over from me.

The role is not arduous and it should be remembered that the aims behind the role are to:

- \* Foster a greater awareness of the turners art and craft.
- \* Provide a forum for the exchange of information between all levels.
- \* Promote the art of woodturning to the public.
- \* Promote and encourage higher standards in woodturning.
- \* Promote woodturning to the younger generation.

I hope that I have put some of these aims in place during my time. I encouraged, with the help of the few, to promote woodturning at Woodworks 2014. This was a big event and open to the public for anyone to come along. Also, without doubt, the work done at Norjam helped promote Woodturning to the younger generation in a very successful way. I have also tried to give the club a varied program of both club and professional turners and hopefully, I encouraged a few less experienced woodturners to take part in in the activities of the club, or even have a go at demonstrating.

Now it is someone else's turn. I shall not leave them to flounder as I already have a booklet all ready and waiting to guide them if they should want it. I will also be available at any time if there are any queries.

I am sure that someone who is enthusiastic about the craft would find this role a pleasure and privilege to commit to.

See me at the January meeting if you would like more information and would like to be counted as someone who wants the club to develop and grow.

Bron Simpson

## A Day In Yorkshire



November saw my wife and I travelling north to Yorkshire to visit, for her, the Knitting and Stitching Show in the International Arena and for me, the North of England Woodworking Show at the Showground, both in Harrogate. This time we stayed in the Premier Inn at Leeds Bradford airport, a much easier journey to Harrogate than last time, when we stayed at Bingley.

Cynthia was delighted with her visit as the show also included quilting which is one of her hobbies and with me out of the way she was able to browse and spend at her leisure.

Down the road at the Showground the show was well under way when I arrived and I should have taken the first opportunity to buy one of the many bundles of planed oak boards, good value at £12. I had to settle for ash, still good value, when I came back later.



There was a lot to see, including around a dozen wood turners, also wood carvers, furniture makers and tool suppliers all giving demonstrations.

One thing that was of topical interest was Simon Hope demonstrating his hollowing rig which Andy Coates demonstrated at the club a couple of weeks earlier. He now has the laser set-up mounted on the rig and showed us how that all worked. Very impressive.



Next it was on to Andrew Hall, the hat man, to watch his demo, he makes it look easy. He works with wet wood and gets lots of failures as things dry out but the variety on display was eye catching. The curling of the brim was obtained using elastic bands and a simple framework.



Walking past the Windsor chair makers I stopped to take a photo of a chap using a special plane to shape the seat. I was soon handed the plane and invited by him, also a member of the public, to have a go, which I did. I was surprised how easy it was to use and how quickly the shape came with the right tool and a sharp blade.

There were too many demonstrators to mention each one, but another stall that did catch my eye was the Rocking Horse Shop. They were demonstrating their craft and

were showing their finished articles. Wonderful. If anyone is interested in making one they do sell complete kits including the wood and instructions I understand.

This was the second year I visited the show and was still very much entertained by it, well worth the visit. Whilst in Yorkshire we also visited Ilkley, a lovely little town with plenty of different shops, then it was on to the moor and onward to Leeds, now a huge and very busy city, but be warned, they grow speed cameras up there, something between 20 and 30 cameras in about 8 miles.



The following day we met friends, who took us to the ancient and redundant Salt wool mill, now restored into a shopping centre for literature, art and antiques. Artist David Hockney has a large influence there and indeed the third floor is devoted to an exhibition of his work and life. Again, a worth while visit.

Ron Lansdell



## A Morning With Andrew Moore

For many months now I have been planning to do an article based on the work of Andrew Moore. So often we see his work on the display and competition tables, and I know that many members say "how is such accuracy and skill achieved". Also, a common phrase used (mainly by Jason I should add) is "this is a man with too much spare time".

With luck, the article that follows will explain a little of what we all want to know, how Andrew achieves his unprecedented standards. Do not expect to read anything here about turning and finishing, this is simply an attempt to explain as much as I can about segmentation. The turning is nothing different to what we all do on an every day basis.

First, a bit of introduction. Andrew is a member of both the Norwich and the Broadland clubs, and has been turning for a little over 4 years. A valued memorable moment was a little over 2 months ago, winning the Ralph Jones Trophy in the experienced category. A pet hate is dust, it gets everywhere, including inside you, the turner (or should that be, the segmenter).

We started a general discussion about "Why", and the response was very simple, "I have a passion for technical content. As several have said, with this type of work you spend a good deal of your time designing, drawing, measuring, cutting, sanding and glueing. Only then do you get to the turning and finishing, very much a minor part of the job. One of the books I value is 'The Art Of Segmented Wood Turning - a step by step guide' by Malcolm Tibbetts. I do not favour the projects shown in the book, but the technical content is excellent".



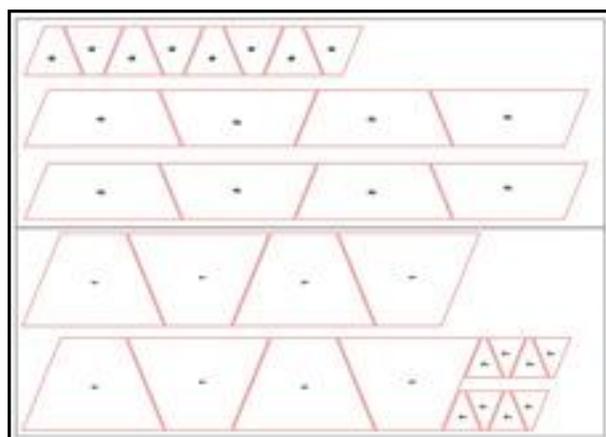
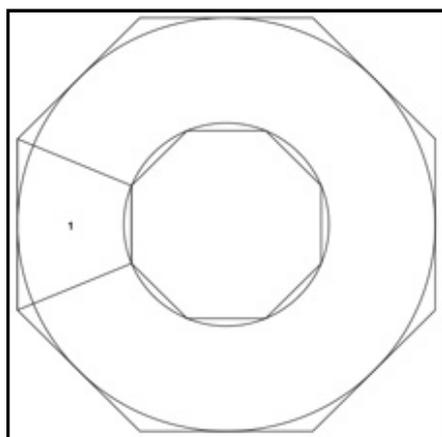
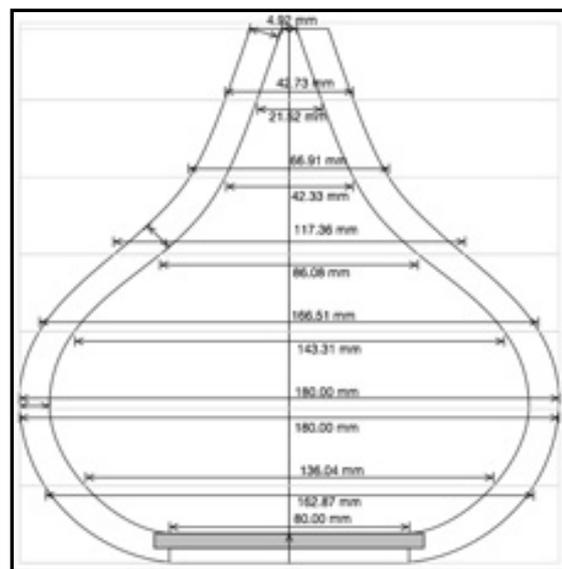
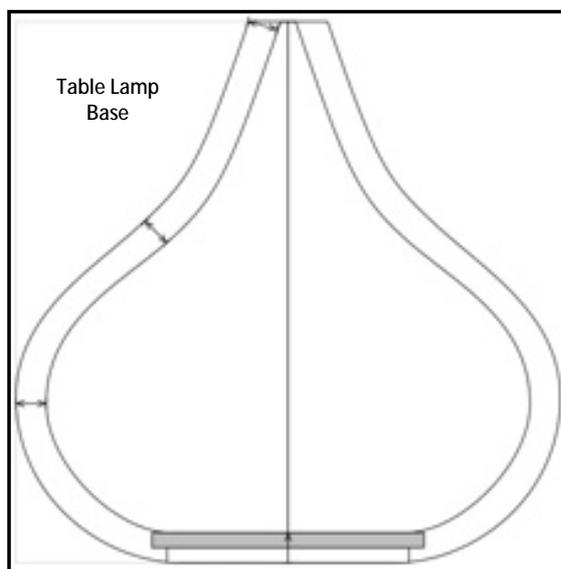
Whatever you intend to make, the first step will always be the same, design it, make some layout drawings and templates, and then start cutting. To take care of the design aspects, Andrew uses a piece of software called "iDRAW". Those with a bit of knowledge will already realise this is MAC software, as indicated by the initial letter "i". This software package has a crowded but coherent interface offering text, lines, shapes and curves, alongside many fancier features. The net result being that you can design a form, measure all aspects of it, split it into layers and segments, and all important, create a set of line drawings to enable you to print them out and apply them to your timber. A PDF

help manual walks you through all the program's features in plain English.

If like me you are an MS Windows user, you will find that many and varied drawing programs are available, and all offer a varying list of features for you to make use of. As a side note, I use Microsoft Publisher to write this newsletter, and as an experiment, I used it to draw circles, I added segment lines at specific angles, I isolated a 4 line shape representing one part of a segment ring, and duplicated the same shape 7 more times to form a complete set of templates to make a ring, all in about 15 minutes, and that was without spending anything on extra software.

These four pictures show the detail you need to get a project started. Top left, make a drawing of the form you want to create. Note the bottom is inserted from the inside and will be fixed in place with silicone sealer to allow movement to take place. Top right is an illustration of the segment layers, the thickness of which are NOT governed by your design process, they are defined by the thickness of the timber you are going to use. Bottom left is an isolated segment ring showing one of 8 segments each of which cover a total of 45 degrees (1/8th of a circle). Bottom right, we see a selection of segments laid out on a cutting sheet ready to stick onto the timber.

**TOP TIP 1: Draw your segments in a bright colour, not black. It makes them easy to see against a moving saw blade whilst cutting.**



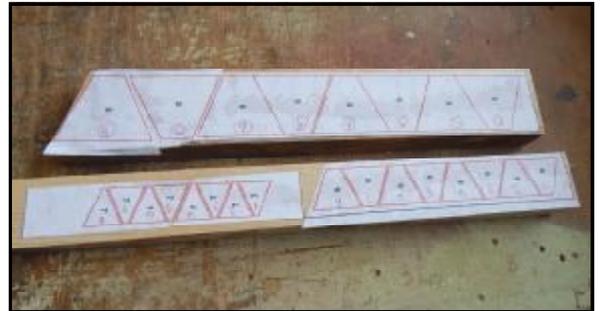
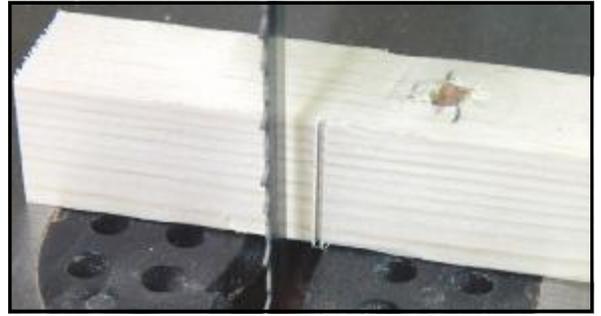
When you design your cutting sheets, make sure you space the pieces out so as to leave enough room for the saw blade.

**TOP TIP 2:** Check that the cutting table on your scroll or band saw is set at right angles to the blade. Do this by cutting into a block of wood, then stop the saw, turn the block round and check if the back of the blade will fit in the slot you have just cut. If not adjust the table until it does.

Use a good spray adhesive to fix the templates onto your timber. Mark each piece with its segment layer number and its sequence number from the plank. This might be important if there is a particular grain pattern that needs to be allowed for, then start cutting.

Cut between the lines, and NOT into them. If there is waste wood on the parallel edges do not bother to cut it away, you might find it saves the day if a measurement has gone wrong somewhere, and it will eventually get removed during the turning process anyway.

Some say do all the cutting and trimming, others say only cut and trim as you need pieces, it is your choice. As seen here, you soon end up with enough segments to make a ring (1/2 ring ?).



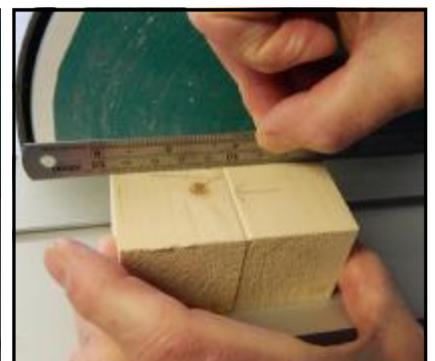
**TOP TIP 3:** Check that the work table on your disc sander is set at right angles to the disc. Putting a set square on the table and against the disc is not good enough. Try sanding one face of 2 blocks of wood, then turn the sanded faces towards each other, pinch them together, and check that the tops are flat and level. If not, adjust the table until the test is spot on.

**TOP TIP 4:** On the disc sander, Andrew uses standard sheets of abrasive cut into a circle.

Apply the discs with spray adhesive.

Remove with heat.

Clean up with white spirit.



As hinted at on the previous page, you build a segment ring by constructing two "half rings", each consisting of 4 sequential segments. Each half ring has 8 edges to be trimmed, but at this stage, trim edges 2 to 7 only, leaving the first and last until later. Sand edges 2 and 7 first, then on the 2 centre segments, sand one edge free-hand and the other using the mitre fence set at 45 degrees. At all times you should try to sand mid way through the line.

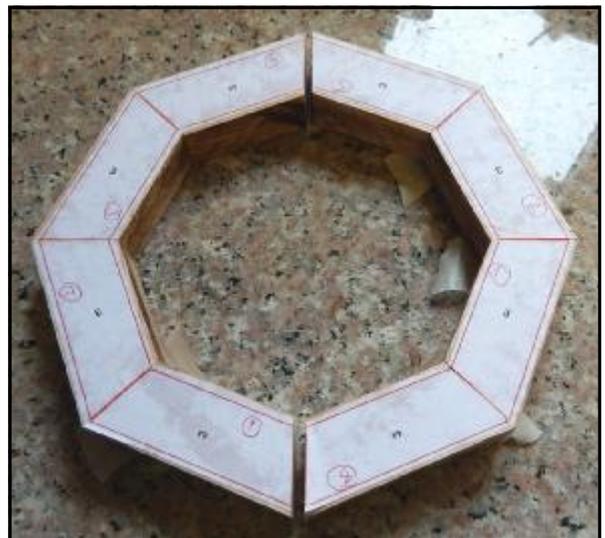


**Top Tip 5:** Andrew recommends the use of D4 wood adhesive (a waterproof PVA), Resintite, or Cascamite to glue the segments together.

**Top Tip 6:** You need to work on a firm flat surface. Get a stone floor tile from your favoured tile supplier.



Glue 2 sets of 4 segments together using masking tape to hold the parts together. In half an hour or so you ought to be able to sand the remaining edges and glue the 2 half rings together.



Underneath ring 1 you will need a sacrificial piece mounted in the chuck you intend to use. Make sure you have a flat surface on this piece, either by turning or sanding. Put a circular guide line on the base and glue ring 1 in place.

Invert the whole thing on your building board to allow the weight of the chuck to hold everything in place. When dry, turn a recess in the centre to receive the bottom board constructed from 4 thin pieces timber. Make sure the 4 grain lines run in a circular direction, and that it is not over-tight in the recess.



Fix this piece in with silicone adhesive to allow the bottom to move a little when finished.





When everything is dry use white spirit to release the cutting patterns from the timber and a scraper and white spirit to clean the surface. Sand the open face of the assembly using a sheet of abrasive attached to a backing board. Sand



the bottom face of the next ring on your sanding disc with the table removed (wear a mask). Draw a new target circle on the assembly, glue on the next ring, and let the weight of the chuck hold everything in place as before. Repeat this process all the way up the vessel until you get to the top ring.



Basically, that is all there is to do, the rest is down to your ability to turn and finish, and I am not going to tell you how to do that. You can see the completed lamp base above right, spectacular to say the least.



While I was in Andrew's workshop I spotted this platter base, much too complicated to describe in detail here, but I am sure if you want to know more, Andrew will be more than happy to tell you more about it (3 puns, all unintended) .



Also, I saw these rings. Cut from a laminated board. The first set have been cut on diameters of 4, 6, 8. and 10 cm (for instance), and the second set have been cut on diameters of 5, 7, 9, 11 cm. You then stack the rings in sequential sizes, i.e., 4, 5, 6, 7, etc. Clearly, this world is as broad as your imagination.

Thanks for a very enjoyable morning Andrew (and a nice cup of tea).

Jon Simpson

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Web Site:			<a href="http://www.norwichwoodturners.co.uk">www.norwichwoodturners.co.uk</a>

## Forthcoming Events In The 2015 Diary

Friday 2nd January	Darren Breeze
Friday 6th February	Barry Mobbs
Friday 6th March	Nick Arnull
Friday 10th April	<u>2015 AGM - Please note - the date has changed</u>
Friday 1st May	Carlyn Lindsay
<b>Fri. 15th/Sat. 16th May</b>	<b><u>WoodWorks @ Daventry - WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT</u></b>
Friday 5th June	Hands On and Mini Demonstrations
Friday 3rd July	Simon Hope
Friday 7th August	Club Demonstrations by 2 members
Friday 4th September	Mick Hanbury
Friday 2nd October	The Ralph Jones Trophy - Competition Night
<b>Saturday 3rd October</b>	<b>Sue Harker - An All Day Event</b>
Friday 6th November	Andy Coates
Friday 5th December	Hands On Night & Membership Subscriptions

## And Finally - 18 Holes On The 25th

Four guys were playing their weekly game of golf, and one remarked how nice it would be to wake up on Christmas morning, roll out of bed and without any argument, go directly to the golf course, meet his buddies and play a round.

His mates all chimed in "Yeah, that would be great, let's do it, we'll figure out a way to meet here on Christmas morning."

Months later, that special morning arrives and there they all are on the golf course. The first guy says "Boy this game has cost me a packet! I bought my wife such a diamond ring that she can't take her eyes off it."

The second guy says "I spent a load too, my wife is at home planning the cruise I gave her, she's up to her eyeballs in brochures."

The third chap says, "Well my wife is at home reading the manual and admiring her new sports car."

They all turned to the last guy in the group who is staring at them as though they had lost their minds.

"I can't believe you went to all that trouble and expense for this game of golf. I slapped my wife on the bum and said Merry Christmas darling, it's a great morning for either sex or golf and she said:

"It's chilly out darling, don't forget to take your sweater and scarf."