



YewTurn

The Monthly Magazine for Norwich Wood Turners
Affiliated to the Association of Wood Turners of Great Britain
Issue 85 - January 2014



Vice-Chairman's Report - Greetings To You All

Welcome to the Christmas issue of YewTurn. Ivan was not well enough to attend the December meeting, I hope he made a speedy recovery and I am sure that you all look forward to seeing him fit and well again in January. On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year with lots of time for wood turning. We would also like to thank you for your continuing support of the club and your regular attendance at the meetings, this confirms to us that the club is working well for you. That does not

mean that things should not be changed or improved though, we need your continuing input and comments to steer the club in the direction you would like.

If any of you have not yet paid your subscription, please do so at the January meeting, and at the same time, please complete the Gift Aid donation form, this allows the AWGB to reclaim income tax.

At the December meeting, Simon's main project was a small beaded box with a lid enhanced with a textured pewter disk. This was a very interesting demonstration and at the end of the evening he discarded two pieces of spalted beech which I subsequently rescued from the bin. I have made a similar style box from one of them and will do another before the next meeting and bring them in for the table. The wood may not be good enough for a professional turner but for me it is good practice even if the finished article ends up on the wood burner.

As most of you will already know the club will have a stand at Tudor Rose's Woodworks which is to be held at Daventry on 10th & 11th May 2014. This event was highly recommended by Simon Hope and is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Norwich Woodturners at a prestigious show.

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The Simon Hope Demonstration, 6th December 2013



Simon Hope first started woodturning at the age of 11 while at school in Devon, and later, he joined the armed forces as a carpenter. His passion is for demonstrating, and making his own tools. Great pleasure is gained from any new challenge. A pet hate is large turnings that have no shape, and the un-lawful transfer of property from one person to another. At the age of 26, he was one of the youngest to be on the register of professional turners. Simon has vast experience in demonstrating to woodturning clubs across the UK and Europe, and has been a full presenter at the

AWGB seminar at Loughborough University. Simon brings a wealth of turning techniques, new ideas, humour and enjoyment to every demonstration he does. Before the demonstration started, Simon told me he was going to make a Spalted Beech box with pewter trim and an African Blackwood finial.



Simon very quickly noted that when turning he likes the lathe to run as fast as it can (within the bounds of safety). This will always give you a better finish. With a block of Spalted



Beech between centres, it was quickly rounded off with a spindle roughing gouge. Looking at the result, Simon very soon decided to start again because the blank had quite a good selection of worm holes in it. So, with a new block of Spalted Beech mounted between centres, it was rounded off and a dovetail spigot was cut at both ends. During a brief pause while Grumpy got the spindle speed a notch higher, Simon told us an interesting story relating to his work with pewter. A few years ago he ordered a pewter

melting machine complete with a small lifting gate at the bottom end to allow the melt to be poured into whatever mould he was working with at the time. A while later, while demonstrating in France, he took a phone call from home. The police were wanting to interview him, most urgently. Upon his return to home, sure enough, the police were most definitely waiting for him, and demanded to know why he was trying to buy a bullet making machine. Seemingly it took several hours to convince them that he was



actually a decorative woodturner and the machine was not being used in any illegal way. Assuming that he had lost the machine, he managed to buy one on Ebay from Birmingham for a few pounds less than the first, THEN, the first machine also turned up. So, lots of scope to make ~~bullets~~ turned trimmings from pewter.



With the wood blank now running at about 3000 rpm Simon parted in at the classic 1/3rd - 2/3rds point, leaving the larger box section attached to the chuck. When you part in, make sure that the cut is wider than the blade to ensure no binding or heat build-up takes place.



Rough down the exterior of the box to give the basic shape using a long grind bowl gouge, and complete the job with a square ground bowl gouge. This all seemed to happen in less time than it has taken me to type it. Using an Ashly Iles beading tool the whole of the exterior was beaded. A first pass, end to end to give the layout and basic cut, then a second pass to finish cutting all the beads to a perfect shape.

End hollowing was started with a spindle gouge held with the flute pointing at the traditional 10 o'clock position and worked from centre to rim. This was followed by using the same gouge to drill the centre to the final depth. The main part of the hollowing was completed using a carbide cutter mounted on a square steel bar which holds the cutter at the optimum angle.



A recess was then cut down the inside of the rim to carry the lid, and the outer end was carefully blended into the first bead on the exterior surface. Having set the depth of the lid recess he completed the interior of the box and sanded / waxed to a final finish.



Like Mick Hanbury last month, the interior sanding was completed with a beeswax / oil mixture to give a near perfect result. This method is particularly useful when used in the bottom of boxes. With the box parted off, the lid section was mounted in the chuck and was used to make a jam chuck to reverse mount the box so as to allow the bottom to be finished off with a slight undercut. Add rings etc. to the underside.



With the jam chuck still in the lathe, the edge was converted from a jam fit to a smooth fit, and a small recess was cut in the centre to fit a set of pin jaws on a second chuck. At this stage, the bulk of the waste on the lid was removed while a good hold on the blank could be maintained. This was followed by parting off a small section which now resembled a wide brimmed hat. Now re-mounted in the pin jaws, the top of the hat was rounded off.

Using a scrap piece of DRY wood in the lathe, Simon cut a trench with a parting tool. This was to be the mould for the pewter trim. With some pewter stock in an old saucepan, it was heated over a low cost camping stove until molten. Having been left for a few moments to settle without heat, the melt was poured into the mould, and given a slight tap to settle it. When cool, superglue was run round the edge, and well dosed with activator. Treating the visible surface of the pewter as "the bottom", it was skimmed off and the centre was



cut out to give a round recess to allow it to mate up with the wooden top previously cut. The outer edge of the recess was also cut to form a small dovetail to fit into the pin jaws on the chuck. With the pewter removed from the mould, it was mounted on the pin jaw chuck, and the top surface was skimmed. There are lots of products on the w.w.w. which allow you to give pewter and other non-ferrous metals an instant patina. With a quick spray, the pewter ring was black, and was then given a small dose of texture with a mini-proxon carver. Don't forget, all the pewter trimmings

can go back into the melting pot, and not into the bin.

With the top hat lid section mounted in the pin jaws, the pewter ring was mounted and rotated so as to score the wood, thus showing how much was to be turned off to allow the ring to sit flat. This was followed by refining the shape of the dome, and drilling the crown of the lid to 4mm diameter to allow the finial to be mounted. When drilling like this, try to use a small hook tool to score the inside of the hole to form a couple of grooves. These will allow the mounting glue to form a good key when the finial is finally attached.



With a piece of African Blackwood in the pin jaws, it was turned down in a long sweeping curve measuring full diameter near the chuck, and 4mm at the free end. A couple of grooves were cut near the end, as was done in the lid section. This piece was then sawn off at an acute angle, and the cut face was sanded on a drum sander mounted in the lathe.

That's about it, you now have all the component parts to assemble a finely turned box and lid, trimmed with a pewter ring and a Blackwood finial.

We had a bit of spare time at the end of the evening, so Simon launched off into a whistle. With a 5" long by 1" square piece of beech in the lathe, it was rounded off, the free end



was trued up, and a dimple was put in the centre. A 16mm forstner bit was then used to drill to a depth of 50mm, followed by Simon used a gouge to reduce the wall thickness to about 5mm. Measure 19mm and 31mm from the free end, and saw a notch into the tube,

starting at the 31mm point, cutting back to the 19mm point. The depth of the notch should be about 6mm (1/3rd the diameter of the tube). Turn a 16mm diameter plug, put a flat on the top, and glue it into the tube up to, but not beyond the 19mm point where the notch starts. Turn a ball beyond the 50mm core depth, decorate, and part off. Use a fine saw to shape the mouth piece, then sand and seal as necessary.



A great demonstration, thanks Simon

A Short Message From Ivan

I am very sorry that I was unable to be with you all to see Simons demonstration, I understand that it was very good.

No one was more fed up about it than I was, but I didn't think you would thank me for spreading my germs this close to Christmas. I did forget about the cameras until Carol asked at 5pm., "had I done anything about getting them to the club," that was a close shave.

I would like to thank everyone for their help throughout the year and to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

I hope to see you all on 3rd of January 2014, Ivan.

The Table Display, December 6th, 2013



A pair of pieces from Paul Disdle, our new webmaster. First a 3 stemmed jewellery stand made of Beech, a great idea



and second, a storm glass made of Iroko.

A fine hollowform from Brian Hollett, a visitor from the Broadland club. Nice colouring with stains.



Now Ron Lansdell, first a selection of children's toys, all very practical and good fun.

Second, an excellent selection of pens made from acrylic, Purpleheart, Sheoak, and Yew, good shapes and well finished.





An excellent decorated platter, nicely turned, and well coloured without colour bleed, from Dave Fisher.



A superb pair of bowls from Vic Cracknel, both made from Sycamore. Good shapes and coloured well.



A Singapore ball made of Oak, Walnut and Ash by Jon Simpson. Quirky and well made.



Alan Calver displayed a barley twist spiral form, made of Spalted Ash. It may have looked better if the twists were in opposite directions.

Finally this month, a fine pair of salt and pepper mills from Maurice Hanchet, made of Walnut and Cherry. Very nice turning and finish.



Bits From The Editor

Well, it was an interesting month. At the end of November we had the gift of pen blanks from Australia to which we responded in a like manner, sending them a selection of English timbers (which I know were delivered on December 5th, not bad). On December 6th our blanks were given out to the club members, and I hope to be able to get some photo's of the completed pens early in the new year. Just for the record, they went to Jon Simpson (Osage Orange), Paul Disdle (Burdekin Plum), Brian Balaam (Camphor Laurel), Chris Wright



(Coachwood), Barry Mobbs (Cooktown Ironwood), Alan Drake and Ron Lansdel (Sheoak) and Robert Saunders (Southern Mahogany).



To encourage others, I have now made my pen, and here is a photo, just to prove it.

When Bron and I went to Cressing Temple in September I happened to meet up with Bill and Christine Hudson. A conversation started, and went along the lines of "There you are dear, that's the man you need to see to get your pen made." It seems that Christine had asked Bill to make her a pen, and the request had remained outstanding for several months (or years). I offered to make it for them, and then the real challenge started, that was getting Bill to remember to bring the blank to a club night. I finally got the blank on December 6th, and here you can see a pair of before and after pictures. Now Bill, all you have to do is get Christine to think that you made it.



A final message, A Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to you all, and see you on January 3rd 2014.



The Forthcoming Vacancy Of Secretary To Norwich Woodturners

As most of you know I am relinquishing the post of Secretary at the next AGM. In order to try to make the changeover as seamless as possible, I have been asked to list the duties of the Secretary, in order that hopefully someone will put themselves forward to take up the post.

May I say firstly that this is my interpretation of what is required, not necessarily the thoughts of others.

- 1) Deal with all correspondence sent to the club. This is mainly by email, and a lot of it can be sifted, as not suitable for circulation. Make all relevant detail available to the members via email, the newsletter or at the next meeting.
- 2) Book the hall (yearly) and pay the fees to the Hall committee. Arrange to pick up the key for the hall on club nights and Saturdays, and return it after the meeting, this is within ¼ mile of the club.
- 3) Act as signatory on club cheques.
- 4) Buy new DVD's and books for the club library. This gives you the chance to view them before anyone else.
- 5) Manage the clubs tool hire.
- 6) Be an all round nice bloke, or lady, and helpful to the rest of the committee.
- 7) Arrange Committee meetings if required. At the moment most decisions are made on club nights, so there are very few meetings required.
- 8) Keep the tea boot stocked up (chargeable to club).

There may well be other duties you can think of, but I don't do them.

You will no longer have to deal with arranging events, as the new events secretary now deals with this. The program booking was the hardest bit, but now no longer part of the Secretary's duties.

Doesn't sound too hard, does it. It would be great for the club if we could get a willing helper and he/she can be mentored prior to the next AGM.

Time to stand up and be counted. Thank you in anticipation,

Grumpy

Maintenance, and Looking After Your Investment

How many of us wood turners spend time on maintaining our equipment in good order?
Cleaning and oiling moving parts! Making necessary adjustments!

Recently I was asked to see if I could sort out a couple of problems with another turner's lathe. One of the difficulties was not being able to drill the centre of a rotating blank with accuracy from the tailstock. I had come across the problem before, and it has always been on lathes with twin bed bars. The bench on which the lathe is mounted may have warped, inducing a twist in the lathe bed, thus moving the tailstock out of alignment which will prevent accurate drilling of the work piece. The second problem was described to me as a rattling sound in the headstock. I wondered if perhaps the pulley had a loose grub screw, but on examination I found that it was OK. This lathe was of the type which has an adjustable bronze bearing fitted, and this was found to have worked loose. After taking up the necessary play and tightening the collars firmly, the lathe was tested, and all was well (panic over). Lathes with these bronze bearings are supposed to run warm, and will need a spot of oil after every couple of hours running time. I use multi-grade engine oil in my old Coronet lathe, 20/50 is fine for this. This bearing system has been employed by the Coronet Company of Derby since the 1940's as far as I know, and since Record Power bought out Coronet, they are still using the same system on their own equipment today. If kept properly adjusted and lubricated, these bearings will last for many years. As an example, I purchased my Coronet in the 1970's, and the bearings are still in good order.



Tool rests need to be smooth and free of nicks and grooves. These can be removed by draw-filing back and forth along the length of the rest. If your chisels and parting tools have sharp corners, they need to be softened to avoid damage to the tool rest. This can be done by drawing the corners along the face of the grindstone wheel, and finally, smoothing the corners with worn abrasive paper.

The headstock spindle is in need of regular attention. Use an old toothbrush to clean debris from the lead thread, not forgetting the internal threads in faceplates and chucks. The dust will clog and hamper movement of the jaws. It may become necessary to dismantle your chuck to clean out and re-grease the scroll and jaw slides in order to improve the jaw action. Grease will eventually dry out and become useless due to the ingress of fine dust. Attention needs to be given to the inside of the head and tailstock spindles. Clean them out regularly to aid the positive seating of your Morse fittings.

Do not hammer your drive centre into the wood, it is much better to make small saw cuts



across the end of the blank in which to engage the drive centre. Look at your drive centre, is it damaged, if so, re-sharpen the prongs so they are able to penetrate the wood.

Keep the lathe bed-ways clean and clear of sealer and polish in order to maintain easy movement of the tool rest and tailstock. After sanding, make a point of brushing abrasive particles off the lathe bed.

Do not over tighten clamping levers, as this will eventually stretch and distort the nut and bolt threads. If you need to use extreme force to tighten up wood between centres, there is undoubtedly something wrong elsewhere.

Make sure you maintain your grindstone wheels in good condition by regularly dressing the stones to keep them free of debris; an industrial diamond stone dressing tool is the most effective for this.

Air filtration units need to be attended to, either cleaning filters of dust, or replacing them if cleaning is not possible. A blow through from an air compressor outside the workshop is ideal.



Keep a regular check on all the cables that tend to trail around the workshop. If you are not careful, they can become pinched or damaged. Replace or repair them if you have any doubt, and don't be too proud to have the work done by a qualified electrician.

Too often, maintenance seems to be tedious, but I'm sure that we would get more enjoyment (and better results) from our turning sessions if we paid more attention to it.

[A Merry Christmas From The Wizard Of The Workshop](#)

[From Page One \(About WoodWorks 2014\)](#)

We already have some volunteers but more are needed to man the stand and perform on the lathe on either or both days. It is not far away so a day trip should be no problem and there will be opportunities to meet many other clubs, compete in competitions and display the skills of Norwich Woodturners. If you would like to take part or contribute some pieces for the display please talk to Jon and Bron, or any committee member.

[Merry Christmas, See you in January, Barry](#)

Forthcoming Events For Your 2014 Diary

| | |
|---|--|
| Friday 3rd January | Grumpy Makes a Rattle (or two). |
| Friday 7th February | Barry Mobbs - Program TBA. |
| Friday 7th March | Roger Foden - Program TBA. |
| Friday 4th April | 2014 AGM. |
| Sat-Sun 10th-11th May | WoodWorks @ Daventry 2014. |
| Friday 6th June | Mark Baker (GMC). |
| Friday 1st August | Jon Simpson (craft goods) and A. N. Other. |
| Saturday 2nd August | Rolly Munro - An All Day Demonstration. |
| Friday 3rd October | The Ralph Jones Trophy - Competition Night. |
| Friday 7th November | Andy Coates - Program TBA. |
| <u>May/Jul/Aug/Sep/Dec to be arranged</u> | |

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And Finally - Do Drive Carefully At This Time Of The Year

A senior citizen drove his brand new BMW Z3 convertible out of the car salesroom. Taking off down the motorway, he floored it to 90 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left. "Amazing!" he thought as he flew down the M40, enjoying pushing the pedal to the metal even more.

Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a police car behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. "I can get away from him - no problem!" thought the elderly nutcase as he floored it to 110, then 120, then 130 mph. Suddenly, he thought, "What on earth am I doing? I'm too old for this nonsense!" So he pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the police car to catch up with him.

Pulling in behind him, the police officer walked up to the driver's side of the BMW, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 10 minutes. If you can give me a good reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go." The man, looked very seriously at the policeman, and replied "Several years ago my wife ran off with a policeman, and I thought you were bringing her back".

"Have a good day Sir, and you will drive carefully during the holiday won't you"