



YewTurn

The Monthly Magazine for Norwich Wood Turners
Affiliated to the Association of Wood Turners of Great Britain
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The Vice Chairman's Report

Hello it's me again as I van couldn't get to our November meeting. First, as this is the Last YewTurn of 2014 I would like to wish you all on behalf of the committee "A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR". Our November meeting brought an excellent demonstration as usual by Andy Coates. His main project was that essential item for bankers, a cufflink box: it's good to see that they are spending some of their bonuses sensibly. Andy challenged us to identify what he was making and it took a long time before anybody did, which I suppose proves that we are not a load of bankers. You can read more about

Andy's demonstration in a report by Christina, with photographs by Ron. Thanks very much to both of you.

The December meeting will be different this year. It will be a hands-on evening combined with our usual Christmas snacks and SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS FOR 2015. As this is a hands-on evening you will have plenty of time to pay your subscription. Please make life as easy as possible for our membership secretary and ensure that all your subscriptions are paid on time. As usual with our hands on evening the lathes will be manned by some of our more experienced turners but they are not there to demonstrate, but to give you the opportunity to try new techniques or tools. If you have a tool that you are finding difficult to master or a piece of work that is causing you a problem, bring them in as someone will be able to offer help or advice. One thing that I have learned about woodturner's over the years is that they are not only generous with their help but love to give it. With Christmas fast approaching I expect that some of you are making gifts or decorations, why not bring them in and put them on the table for us to have a look at. The year rapidly reaching its end it will soon be a new year and the AGM will be upon us again.

There must be some of you who would like to join the committee and give some more of the long serving members a rest. We also need someone to take over the roles of Editor and Events Secretary which will be vacated by Jon and Bron.

Do you keep a turning, Barry.

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The Andy Coates Demonstration, 7th November 2014



The introduction was done by Barry Mobbs in Ivan's absence, during which he told the members about a CL3 for sale from Mike for £300. This was followed by the presentation of the trophies for our annual competition which had been engraved. Novice trophy to Nigel Garnham, expert trophy to Andrew Moore.

Andy began by outlining his plans for the evening which were to demonstrate making something from scrap, showing us how beneficial a new piece of kit from Simon Hope could be, and how to enhance the value of a box using waste bits of wood. Andy said that he was making a box with a difference and we had to guess what he was making.



Method for box making with a difference - Andy's own idea!

Using a step centre and tail stock support, take an offcut, rough it down, and put a spigot on the back. He commented that he always uses a step centre which allowed for adjustment. Put the spigot in the chuck and put another spigot on the other end. Part off the outer third. Andy explained that boxes looked good if the rule of thirds was applied - the lid was a third of the overall depth. When parting widen the gap to ensure that the tool doesn't bind in the wood. Andy then used a spindle gouge to flatten off the remaining bottom part of the box, checking with a ruler that it was flat.



You then have to decide whether to put the tenon on the lid or the box, Andy chose to put it on the box, making a 5mm cut on the central part. Make 2 V cuts and a central hole on the face remaining in the chuck. Burn the lines in the grooves. Mark off the face into 8 sectors and drill 8 holes between the 2 burnt rings. To a depth of about 5mm. He used a (bluntish!) 19/64ths drill. Tidy up the holes once drilled. Take off the outer ring and finish the edge to match the lid. Part off the inner round, cupping it in your hand to catch it as it comes off. On the front Andy showed us how to use a vernier without the tool ending up in your head, the near point marks the wood and the far point is just offered up to the wood without touching so that it



doesn't dig in. He then measured the removed circle with the holes in it in order to make a recess for it to sit in. He stressed how important it was to clean out the swarf before checking the fit. He also explained that a good fit could be ensured by chamfering the cut. If the fit was too loose then some of the front surface could be shaved off. Clean it up and abrade, and perhaps decorate? (Andy is a great fan of pyrography!).



Remove the circular piece (stick a tool in the holes!) and enlarge the recess so that it is a loose fit, and remove the inner part. Andy used a scraper to get a flat base and walls. Reduce the size of the lip that will support the lid. (Andy was a great supporter of loose fitting lids!) Abrade the outside. Re-mount the lid section and measure the tenon across the grain and transfer the measurement to the lid using the vernier as described before. Andy advised working to a pencil line, and keeping the line visible, then checking the fit, again using a chamfer, adjust by



shaving off the surface until a perfect fit is achieved.



Someone guessed at this point that Andy was making a cufflink box (..... how is a girl expected to know that?!). Cut out the waste in the centre of the lid, finish and decorate if required. Put the top and bottom together and tidy up, abrade, and decorate. Remove the tenon by hand or using a jam chuck. Turn a little knob to go on the top of the inner circular piece. Andy discussed various options for decorating, inlay the top, use texture, pyrography, or verdigris cream.



Part 2 A useful tool:

Andy took a sycamore offcut, roughed it out and put a tenon on the back. Put a spigot on the other end, turn the piece round and mount it in the chuck. Rough it off again and start to shape a hollow form, forming a shoulder shape first, then continuing the curve using the bevel on the tool. Ensure that the base remains sufficiently strong to endure the hollowing process. Andy discussed the use of a cabinet maker's scraper which another prominent turner had regarded as dangerous. Andy demonstrated its safe and successful use in smoothing out tool marks on the curve of the





vessel. He showed us how to position the scraper low down at 7 o'clock with the lathe in forward, or if in reverse on top of the piece. He concluded that if used at the correct angle it was not dangerous!. Use a spindle gouge as a drill to make a central hole in the piece, but don't go too deep. Andy discussed the best tool for hollowing and recommended a hollowing tool with a 6mm cranked shaft on a round bar. The cranking enables control of the depth of the cut. He said that some turners using a fixed head lathe encountered shoulder problems when turning a lot of hollow forms. He explained that David Elsworth had suffered sufficiently to motivate himself to make a saddle so that he could sit astride his lathe and avoid the shoulder stress! The U.S. had developed a "snake" for an exorbitant price but this had been further developed in this country by Simon Hope. Andy set up the tool (which will take a Hamlet Big Brother and Simon's own tools) and with the lathe at about 700 revs he was able to achieve easy hollowing using just his fingertips. It was still necessary to keep stopping to remove the swarf! Andy noted that the arm does not prevent the tool going through the sides of the hollow form! However it does take out the physical stress.

The arm comes in 2 sizes, with a shorter one for smaller Axminster lathes like the mini and midi. The only depth restriction is the length of the tool! Andy also said that he thought it would soon come with a laser fitting to enable the depth of the wall to be assessed. Andy finished by saying that he could turn a hollow form much more quickly without the tool, and by twisting the tool could adjust the depth of the cut!

Part 3 Using Scrap wood:

Andy explained how scrap pieces of wood could be used to add value to boxes by inlaying lids. Flatten off the top surface. Make a recess of about 4mm, ensuring that the base is flat and side walls perpendicular. Make extra V cuts in the base to take up more glue. Using the vernier measure and mark up, cutting a slight taper again to enable the fit to be adjusted perfectly. Ensure the surface is concave to flat. Glue

the piece in using accelerator. At this point Andy described some of the hazards associated with using superglue – how he glued his finger to his eyelid in his early days, and how one demonstrator stuck himself to a lathe!, so always take extra care.



Words by Christina Martyn, pictures by Ron Lansdell

Table Critique, November 7th, 2014

Andy was very complimentary about the standard of work produced by our club members in general, and encouraged us to enter the competitions.



A Paperknife by Paul Disdle with a hand carved blade and deliberate tool marks. Wood is thought to be green tulip. A nice piece.

A Christmas tree, also by Paul Disdle This was a nice piece, well finished, and would easily sell at craft fairs etc.



2 bowls from Barry Mobbs in Spalted Beech. They had a very nice shape and good finish, but Andy spotted that one had a very thin bottom!

A Norman Helmet & stand from Ash and paint by V. Lewis-Lavender. Very good with wonderful colouring.

This is a beautiful, wonderful piece of work, and would have walked the Open class in the London competition.





2 Lacewood dishes from Maurice Hanchet. A nice pair, in beautiful wood with nice flat bottoms and a good Danish oil finish. An earlier conversation about the shelf life of Danish oil was noted - it will probably leave a sticky finish if the tin has been open for more than a year!



A Beech vase from Brian Balaam. Another nicely shaped piece with a good finish that would do well in a competition.

An Alder bowl from Bill Hudson. This was a nice bowl in an under rated wood with a good shape. There was a ding at the bottom that meant the bottom had to be redone. At this point, Bill would

like to share a simple but very effective tip received on the night. John Gilbert's tip was to lay damp brown paper over the crease and apply a warm to hot iron. This should pull the fibres of the timber and lift them. Warning: Take it steady so as to not overheat the wood and damage the surface. I tried it and bingo like magic the crease came out, and all that was required was to burnish and re-polish the area of damage. This saved me a great deal of work and my thanks go to John Gilbert and Vic Cracknell. I now wonder how many other simple tips are in the club members lockers that could be shared. That is a question that I have been asking for months Bill (Ed.)



News From "Down Under" And A Request For Help

As always last month, I received a copy of the latest newsletter from the Northern Club in Victoria, Auz. They are all available on the Norwich Woodturners web site, I hope you all find them interesting. The thing that I find most interesting is the fact that there is no hesitation in the club to commit to many meetings per month, and my main question is "why is there no attempt to make a similar commitment to a club in the UK?". Answers on a post card please.



In their latest newsletter Alan Arnup mentioned:

I took a piece of wood to a club meet for identification. It has us baffled for the moment. Basically I have a tree lopper friend who has never seen anything like it in this area and asked if I could assist him. He did not give me any leaves, pods etc. but it does have bark on it. The heartwood is a vivid violet/purple.



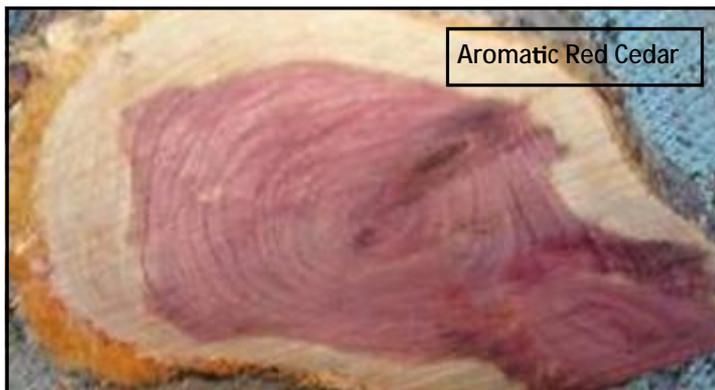
SUGGESTIONS TO DATE:

JUNIPER: One "expert" at our Melbourne Working With Wood Show yesterday was emphatic that he was correct. He was selling Cedar timber.

MEXICO RED PINE: Another "expert" at the Show was adamant that he used to have a bit of it and that it was imported as an ornamental tree.

AROMATIC RED CEDAR: A suggestion by a timber milling mate that it was a possibility. Japanese Cedar and Eastern Red Cedar were his other guesses.

SOME KIND OF PINE?: Another expert at the Show said he used to have a bit of it and he recognised it by the smell. The smell is offensive and gives the impression it has been sprayed with "Flytox" which is a supermarket product used to kill flies.



The offensive smell was quickly confirmed by members of our club who almost vacated the room when I brought it in for viewing. Needless to say our car had to be

fumigated on my arrival home or divorce proceedings were going to be instigated.

The photo of ,Aromatic Red Cedar is one I gained off the Internet and those noted as "Unknown Wood" are photo's I have taken. Your members are welcome to offer opinions if they wish.

Best Regards, Alan Arnup

Grumpy Does A Good Deed



In August I had a call and a visit from a lady by the name of Sarah Brennand. She got our club details from the internet, and asked if I knew anybody that could repair a child's chair for her. Naturally, I said I would try to help, and took over temporary ownership of the chair. Having looked at it, the obvious person to pass it on to was Roger Groom, and it was duly delivered on the September Club night. All that follows is a progress report written by Grumpy.

In August, Jon received a call from a lady asking if anyone in our club was willing to repair a child's chair which had a broken rung. I replied and said I would have a look at it to see if it was feasible. Jon brought it to the next meeting for me to have a go.

The chair was, or looked like, a school chair from my school days. It was post and rung construction with all the rungs being turned, plain and simple. The lower front rung had snapped quite near the mortice due to severe cross grain in the wood. The front left leg was also at a very strange angle and loose where it fitted into the seat. I cut out the broken rung which left the problem of how to get the old plugs out of the mortices.

Several small holes were drilled into the plugs. Vinegar was injected into the holes and left for a while. The vinegar dissolves the glue and with the aid of a small chisel the plugs were easily removed. The leg had been nailed through the seat to keep it in place. This was removed with a pair of pincers, and the leg fell out which made it easier to fit the new stretcher.

The new stretcher was turned and fitted into the cleaned up holes in the legs. Because of the loose leg I decided to use Gorilla glue in the socket, however even with a sash cramp, I could not get the leg to go vertical, so it must



Chair With New Front Rail Fitted
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have been like this from the start. I finished the rung with patinating wax which darkened it a bit but it will take a while to colour up to match the rest of the chair. Vic tells me that a used tea bag is a good thing for staining wood like this. Sarah was well pleased with the result, especially after I told her a bit of the history behind the chair.

The chair was made during or just after the 1939-1944 war when any materials which may have assisted the war effort, had to have a licence from the Government to be used. It was called a Controlled Commodity and had the CC mark stamped on the side of the seat. I think that wood had a CC41 licence.



This repair led to a further job of making another child`s chair, mainly jointed, based upon some pictures given to me by Sarah. This has also been completed now and has been collected. Surprisingly, this has led to a request for yet another child's highchair to be made, so watch this space.

Grumpy

Sarah Brennan says: Roger has been marvellous to work with. He fixed the small chair which was broken. You wouldn't even know it had been fixed. I then asked Roger if he was interested in making a chair, he said yes. Within a month, he had made a chair for my nephew out of English Oak. Arthur (my nephew) loves his new throne. Roger is now making a high chair for us out of Ash. We are thrilled, and are eagerly awaiting the new high chair.

Will ALL Members Please Note

Friday 5th December is a hands on night. Because Bron and I have been away, this may not have been publicised as well as it could have been.

PLEASE: Lets see a range of unfinished projects brought in to be discussed. Lets see a few different members having a go on a lathe (bring yours in if you can).

Lets see a few questions being asked of those that ought to know the answer.

ALSO - IT IS MEMBESHIP SUBS NIGHT

So PLEASE Bring Your Money And Pay Your Membership For Next Year

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Forthcoming Events In The 2014 / 2015 Diary

Friday 5th December	Hands On Night & Membership Subs.
Friday 2nd January	Darren Breeze
Friday 6th February	Hands On, and Mini Demonstrations
Friday 6th March	Nick Arnull
Friday 3rd April	2015 AGM
Saturday 4th April	David Lowe - An All Day Event
Friday 1st May	Carlyn Lindsay
Fri. 15th/Sat. 16th May	WoodWorks @ Daventry - <u>WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT</u>
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
Saturday 3rd October	Sue Harker - An All Day Event
Friday 6th November	Andy Coates
Friday 5th December	Hands On Night & Membership Subs.

And Finally - BE WARNED

To My Darling Husband:

Before you return from your overseas trip I just want to let you know about the small accident I had with the pick up truck. Fortunately it was not too bad and I really didn't get hurt, so please don't worry too much.

I was coming home from the park and when I turned into the drive I accidentally pushed down on the accelerator instead of the brake. The garage door is slightly bent but the pick up fortunately came to a halt when it bumped into your car. I am really sorry, but I know with your kind-hearted personality you will forgive me. You know how much I love you and care for you my sweetheart. I am enclosing a picture for you, I cannot wait to hold you in my arms. Your loving wife.



P.S. Your girlfriend phoned