



# Waveney & District Wood Turners

## E-News

Chairman: Brian Wooden.

Secretary: Eric Smith. Treasurer: Ken Rodgers. Events Secretary: David Ritchie

May 2013

### May Demonstration.

Our demonstrator this month was Tom Kittle from Lapwing Woodturning. Tom has been a regular visitor to our club and always manages to instruct and entertain to a high standard. His subject this time round was a small hollow-form, the shape of which the origins were ancient Chinese porcelain. As an aside we were encouraged to seek design inspiration from all manner of sources including museums and galleries.

This particular form was, as Tom explained, slightly top-heavy to the western eye but was very popular in the Orient.



This is a picture of a similar shaped vase taken from the web. A spigot was cut on either end of the piece to allow for re-chucking. With the top end in the chuck the base was finished to take Tom's trade-mark wax logo and a longer parallel spigot formed which would make the plug for the bottom through which the vase was to be hollowed. The plug was then parted off (after marking it with a pencil to assist accurate grain alignment when plugging the bottom) leaving about a 1mm tell-tale on the bottom of the body to assist with sizing the hole for the plug. To assist with the hollowing the piece was drilled using HSS drills in the morse taper of the tailstock. After hollowing the plug was fitted and glued. At this point Tom did a 'Blue Peter' and produced a piece at the same stage but with fully dried glue. A series of small circles were cut on the base to disguise the plug joint (this is easier if

you have aligned the grain properly) and the final outer shape was roughed out with due care and attention paid to the shape of the hollow. The piece was then reversed in the chuck, using the bottom of the vase as this would be finally finished at a later stage, and the hole drilled in the neck and the flair of the neck was cut and finished. The piece was again reversed in the chuck using a piece of turned softwood as a friction drive in the neck of the vase supported by the tailstock (remember that the tailstock support point will be covered by sealing wax). The final shape of the piece was then refined ready to be sanded to a final finish. Tom's choice of finish is 'finishing oil' and he sticks to the same one as he now fully understands its characteristics under all conditions so enabling him to obtain an excellent finish consistently. Another very interesting and entertaining demonstration with some superb nuggets of information to be picked up along the way.

I think I've got things in the right order but I think it would work as described.

## Mini Kiln

A few years ago we used to brew wine and as a method of doing so, I constructed an insulated box which held two demi-johns of wine, in a controlled environment. It proved to be very successful. However, times change, and we gave up the hobby. I was then left with the box, taking up space in my workshop, until I decided that it would make an ideal mini kiln for drying part turned boxes, bowls etc etc.

The box is made of plywood with an inch thick layer of polystyrene inside for insulation. The heat source is a light bulb (60 watt) linked in with a thermostat from a central heating system. I had to modify it a bit to make airflow possible, and to place racks to lay the turned items on. Because this kiln does not have a dehumidifier, airflow has to be controlled by leaving the lid very slightly ajar. Holes were drilled at either end, low down to induce the airflow to, pass through the lid opening. Hot air rises!!

This kiln could be made a lot simpler by just taping together pieces of kingspan and placing a light inside, but beware, if you do not have a thermostat fitted, it can get very hot and could well ruin all your hard work. Items left, say  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch thick, will dry in less than two weeks. A lot quicker than the paper bag method (not as quick as the microwave). I have had great success with this unit and so far have not lost a single item. I set the thermostat at 20-23 degrees. I also have a full sized kiln for drying furniture wood which runs at 35 degrees, but it does have a dehumidifier.

The photos show the mini-kiln and my Arrowsmith dehumidifier kiln with approx 30 cu ft of Oak for furniture ready to go.

I weigh the pieces regularly until the weight stays constant, when they are returned on the lathe, without the warping and twisting which often happens. If you decide to make one, ensure that you are confident to do the electrics, and if not, get a qualified sparky to do it for you. Happy days.



## **Roger Groom**

My thanks to Roger for this very interesting contribution to E News. (shame about the wine)

## Points Competition

Advanced	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mark Leggett	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ken Rodgers, David Ritchie
Novice	1 <sup>st</sup>	Edward Judd	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Len Stout

## Pictures From the Tables



## Chairman's Choice

This month I could not resist this piece from Mike O'Connor. It is an exquisite little box and the decoration both inside and out is extremely fine and detailed



### Articles etc.

If you have something that may be of interest to other members, eg a how to do it article, or something to sell or maybe something you want, email me at [woodenpost@btinternet.com](mailto:woodenpost@btinternet.com) and I will be happy to include it in the next edition. Perhaps you would like to comment on a piece on the table and I will include a “Members Choice” feature.

### Future Events

The Tom Kittle whole day demonstration will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September and it will greatly help with the planning if bookings with payment can be made at the June meeting. This will give us time to advertise it wider should there be any places available.

### Next meeting

Thursday June 13<sup>th</sup> The demonstrator is Chris Norton who will be accompanied by his wife, Rita.

### This Month's Project

A plate, platter or bowl with a handle or hand grip.

### For Sale

Peter Child Pyrography machine, condition as new, includes Peter Child pen, a reel of 23 swg Nickel Chrome wire for tip making, a few pre-formed wire tips, instruction booklet and a patch lead to use Razor tip pens. The photograph shows a fixed tip and a BPH Razor Tip pens in the foreground, this is for information only and the sale does not include the Razor Tip pens.

**Sale Price £65.00**

Current prices are £99.75 for the basic Peter Child machine, £4.90 per reel of tip wire and the Razor Tip patch lead is £12.50. Total new price £117.15.

Razor Tip pens and a wide range of pre-formed tips and general Pyrography accessories are available from Woodworks Craft Supplies.

<http://www.woodworkscraftsupplies.co.uk/index.php>

I apologise for not having the machine at the last meeting, but I had a senior moment and forgot to put it in the car. You are welcome to visit me at Holton near Halesworth to view the machine and try it.

Contact: Mike O'Connor, Tel. 01986 873650, e-mail [mike.aoc@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.aoc@btinternet.com)



### **Further Information**

Following on from Roger's article on drying Eric and David were told of a technique that is supposed to speed up the process and reduce damage rates in difficult timbers. It involves rough turning unseasoned blanks and boiling them in water for about an hour per inch thick, draining and air drying for 24hrs and then bagging in a paper bag to allow the drying to complete. The whole article can be found on the web at

<http://www.woodturningvideosplus.com/boiling-green-wood.html>

I found it quite interesting reading but I'm sure the wife would like me to produce something more edible in the kitchen.

## **Demonstrator Training**

We have been invited by the AWGB to run a course at our club for the purpose of giving competent turners the necessary additional skills to become demonstrators.

This course is open to all and if there is enough interest, we need four participants, we can go ahead and make firm arrangements with the AWGB, Mutford village hall etc.

There is no fixed charge but a donation toward further training would be appreciated.

If you are interested please speak to Eric Smith at the next meeting.

## **Basic/Specialist Training**

We have also been requested by the AWGB to run either a basic turning course for relative newcomers to turning or a more focussed course such as hollowing, decoration etc for intermediate turners.

We are again looking for four participants for either type of course and as before there is no fixed charge but a donation toward further training would be most welcome.

If you are interested in either type of course please speak to Eric Smith at the next meeting.

Happy turning