



# Waveney & District Wood Turners

## E-News

Chairman: Brian Wooden.

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

April 2014

### April Meeting

This month saw a welcome return visit to the club of Mick Hanbury. Mick's piece was to be a two part hollow form, an ovoid urn/vase with a decorated top and neck.

The vase was turned from a piece of green sycamore and Mick really made the shavings fly when roughing it to shape between centres. In common with lots of other turning projects the rule of thirds was brought into play, the base being about one third the maximum diameter and the maximum diameter being at two thirds the height of the piece. Although described as an ovoid vase you may be surprised to know that the widest part of a hens egg is almost exactly at half its height and so does not comply with the rule of thirds (another piece of useless information unless you are asked to turn a dozen eggs – ask Nick). A spigot to fit the chuck was cut at the headstock end and the piece was mounted in the chuck. The shape was refined to leave a waste piece at the bottom of the vase and create a pleasing curve to the top.

To begin the hollowing process a twist drill was mounted in the tailstock and the vase drilled to the depth required. Mick said he preferred to take the centre out with a drill as it was quicker and easier than with a gouge as the linear surface speed of the timber was at its slowest in the centre so a slower tool movement was required. This done hollowing proper was commenced. The size of the opening through which the hollowing was completed was determined by the expansion diameter of the small jaws Mick had fitted to his spare chuck (take this measurement when the jaws are round when looking at the face of the chuck) so that the piece could be held here after hollowing to remove the spigot and waste wood at the base.

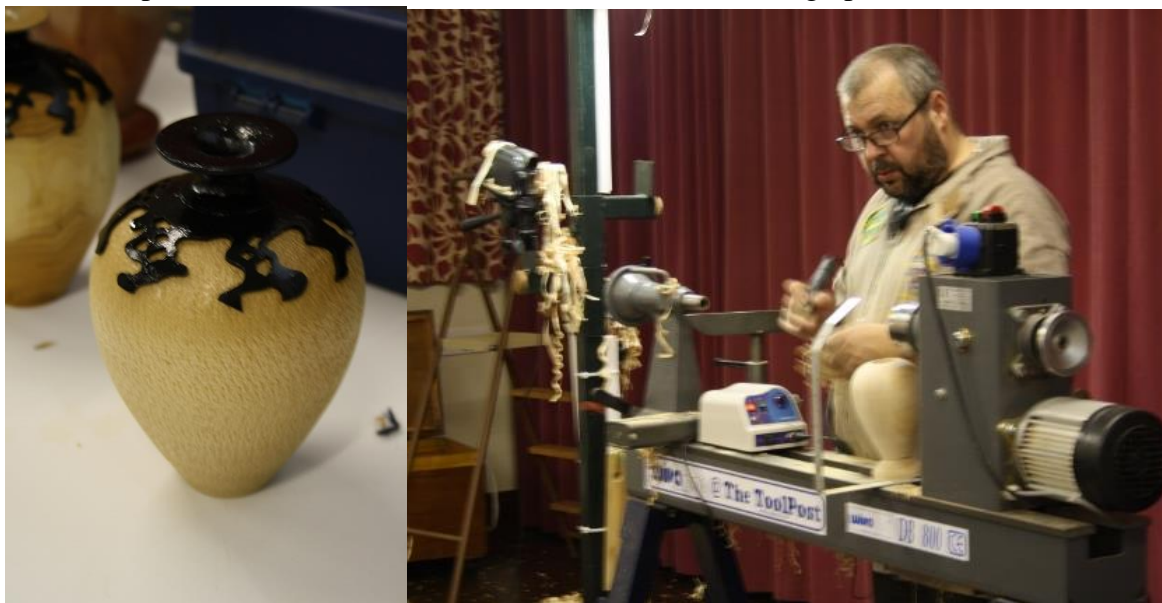
After a short demonstration of a Simon Hope hollowing tip (a narrow tungsten carbide scraping tip fitted to a substantial shaft) removing wood very quickly used in the conventional fashion leaning across the lathe to cut on near side of the vessel, another hot tip was forthcoming. After checking that the chuck was secured to the spindle by grub screws Mick reversed the lathe and was able to cut on the far side of the vessel from a comfortable upright stance. (NB do not try this if your chuck does not have grub screws to lock it to the shaft –it will end up in your lap). At this point Mick asked us to imagine it hollowed and finished (he said hollowing was boring - a subtle play on words although I don't think it was intended) and we took a break.

After the break a small bowl blank (already spigotted) was mounted in Micks spare chuck and he commenced to turn the piece for the top cap and neck. The outside shape was created to match that of the vase (this was stood alongside for reference still in the other chuck as shown in the photo).



A spigot was made where the neck would finally be and the piece re-chucked. Hollowing of the inside was then commenced down to a wall thickness of about 2mm but leaving a spigot in the centre to fit both the chuck, for completing the neck and top, and the hole in the top of the vase (remember this is chuck size too for completing the bottom of the vase). As the wall of the bowl approached the desired thickness Mick demonstrated how important listening to the lathe was. He touched the back of the gouge onto the wood to show that the thinner the wall the higher the sound pitch was, he almost ran up the scales as the thickness varied. With the lathe stopped the vase section was offered up to the top and rotated in the bowl, the wet vase leaving a mark on in the bowl indicating a high spot which required some adjustment to get a perfect match. If making this from dry timber a dab of wax on the vase section will produce the same effect inside the bowl. Such was Mick's accuracy it only needed this one fitting before the acceptable fit was achieved. The piece was then re-chucked and the neck completed.

When completed it was removed from the chuck for the carving operation.



As you can see from the picture (I'm not sure whether it was Mick's hands shaking or mine) the tool used was a dentists' style drill, but electric, fed from a variable speed control box and the cutters were very small, very short tungsten carbide milling blades. The cutting was done freehand taking care to ensure the rotation of the cutter was with the grain direction to reduce the chance of

the wood and cutter taking control of the direction of cut. This top piece was finished with a coat of black acrylic and would later be glued into place on the top of the vase.



More of Mick's pieces in a similar style with one also using pyrography as a decorating medium.

Mick was also kind enough to give a critique on the table pieces along with some very useful hints for improvement and many encouraging words.

Our thanks to Mick for a very informative and entertaining evening.

### Tables



All in all an excellent display of pieces again this month; please keep them coming. To see others work displayed, novice and advanced, both encourages and stimulates club members to try different things and is only good for us all.

## **Chairman's Choice**

I'm beginning to wish I hadn't started this; you do not make it easy for me. However my choice for this month is Nick Shore's sycamore platter. I think the design, the beautiful piece of wood and the excellent finish complement each other to produce a stunning piece.



I must just add that I thought Ken Rodgers' oak natural edged salver was also a super piece.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on the third Thursday of the Month (a peculiarity for May) ie Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> when our guest demonstrator will be Tom Kittle.

## **Other Comments**

I would like to thank all of you who arrive early and stay late to assist with the set up and clear up of the hall; as they say "many hands make light work". I would especially like to thank the "*technical set up team*" of John Peek, Len Stout and Colin Brown whose efforts seem to be improving the image quality on the screens month on month.

## **Other News**

As published in the last enews a Beginners Training Day was held at the club on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April. The two instructors were Brian Partridge, who is the South Eastern representative on the AWGB Executive and Paul Howard, a professional wood-turner from Tiptree in Essex. Five club members attended plus one other local AWGB member. I will not bore you with the details but suffice it to say a good time was had by all and for me personally a much needed refresher on tool handling was very useful.

We are very grateful to those members who loaned lathes to ensure the events success. They were Andrew Bailey, The Norwich Woodturners and Eric Smith; Terry Horton had also offered one but in the event it was not needed. Thank you one and all. Extra special thanks are due to Eric Smith who not only lobbied the AWGB to get a local course but who also acted as steward for the day keeping us topped up with coffee and tea etc. As ever he was there to the last, turning off lights, checking taps, checking doors and returning the key. Thanks Eric.

Happy Turning.