



Waveney & District Wood Turners

E-News

Chairman: Brian Wooden.

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

May 2014

May Meeting

I must confess to being a fan of this month's demonstrator, Tom Kittle so I am always pleased to see him at the club. I felt that this month's demonstration, whilst being different from the norm, was a master-class in basic tool skills and finishing. Although aimed more toward the less skilled among us I feel that the message put across was appropriate for all. There was no finished product as such so I will not give a blow by blow account of the action but will reiterate the main message. It pays to practice! The first exercise was with a roughing gouge and a skew chisel and was carried out on a piece of freshly cut hazel which Tom explained was very user friendly for this type of practice. Roughing down, planing, tapering, vee cuts and beads were demonstrated and the finish achieved from the tool was excellent. If you get bored with practice and want a finished article from your time spent at the lathe then a small mushroom project will provide plenty of practice opportunity as was demonstrated. Also on show was the basic use of a Crown Revolution hollowing tool which, as demonstrated, produces an excellent finish across the bottom of an end grain hollowing project. I personally struggle a bit with mine but find I am getting better with practice (back to the main message) and will hopefully make something fit for the table soon.



The process of finishing was the last part of Tom's demonstration and if you have paid a visit to his workshop and gallery in Holt you will have experienced first-hand the superb finish he achieves on all his finished pieces. (If you haven't visited it is well worth it if you are ever that way.) He almost exclusively uses finishing oil, three to four coats, wiping off the excess before it begins to set then allowing it to dry properly (24hrs) and cutting it back with a very fine grade abrasive pad between coats. Tom does not use steel wool as he has had some problems with tiny slivers sticking to the piece but I know many of you do use it without any trouble.

All in all a very entertaining and informative evening.

Tables



Some really nice pieces on the tables this month but as always it would be nice to see more. I admire the ingenuity shown by Roger Rout in producing the pieces with the Brendan Stemp influence.

Chairman's Choice

My choice for this month is the piece (or pieces) by Roy Edmonds. A beautiful companion set that would grace any fireside. The detail is exquisite and the whole design very pleasing to the eye.



Next Meeting

The next meeting is on June 12th when we welcome a return visit of Simon Hope.

Turning in the Sun

(An article from David Ritchie on his experiences in Crete)

Sun, Sea and Siragas, not the original quotation but seems an appropriate opener for the holiday that Margaret and I have just enjoyed on the Island of Crete, nestling between the Aegean and Libyan sea, Crete is inhabited by the most friendly people we have ever met. We stayed in the resort of Rethymnon the home town of Nikos Siragas. The town itself is split into two parts, the standard new town is the same as most other Greek towns but the Old Town is incredible. It is the cleanest place I have ever been, no litter or Tesco bags here but scrubbed narrow streets, painted white and covered in 'Bougainvillea' in multiple colours. It was in such a street that we found the studio of Nikos Siragas, with whom I had booked a three day course to introduce me to the art of incorporating 'carving' with 'turning.' He is ably assisted by his wife Frances, who does most of the admin and directed us to places of interest on the island.

The course itself was held in his workshop which takes up the ground floor of his beautiful house, it's surprising I was able to concentrate on anything with the views from the open window looking out over the town and sea with 'Golden Eagles' flying by.

Although Nikos uses a variety of woods, Olive being readily available was our choice. Nikos proved to be passionate about his work and pays great detail to his finish prior to applying wax or oil. Many of his tools he has designed himself, particularly his scraper which produces long shavings when hollowing out, where I would have used a bowl gouge on the inside of a bowl Nikos could hollow it out in half the time and achieve a superb finish.

He had patience to spare, he needed it with me, but nothing was too much trouble, his explanation regarding marking out prior to carving, and his insight into possible problems were clearly born from a vast experience of his trade and dealing with people at various skill levels. Whilst ensuring you completed your target in learning new skills, he recognised that your holiday was top priority, and catered for other interests your partner may choose, with a number of 'bolt on' activities, including walking, photography and painting, my wife completed a 3 day course in oils at the same time I was turning.

For us this was a perfect combination, however we booked the holiday first and then the bolt on courses to fit. Nikos is well known and respected in Crete as he has been turning and carving on this beautiful Island all his life. He has also demonstrated in the USA, Belgium and France. He is equally well known in the UK where he has demonstrated at Alexander Palace and a number of Club demonstrations. We are very fortunate to be able to play host to Nikos who has agreed to do an evening demonstration on Thursday 20th November 2014. This is an extra event to our club fixtures for this year.

Further information may be had from me or by visiting his web site at:- www.siragas.gr. Or email:- nsiragas@yahoo.com



Other News

As David mentioned in his article Nikos has very kindly agreed to visit our club on Thursday 20th November, an exciting additional meeting to our programme so please keep this date free in your diary.

Happy Turning.