



# Waveney & District Wood Turners

## E-News

Chairman: Brian Wooden.

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

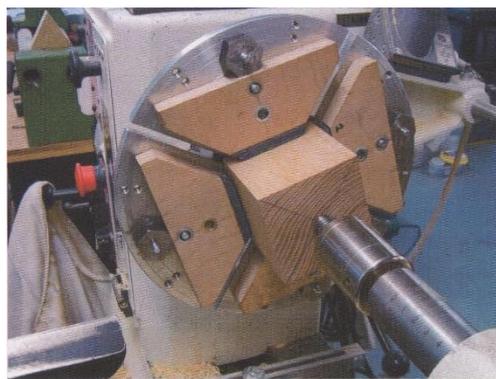
**August 2015**

### **August Meeting**

Our demonstrator this month was Paul Howard. Paul had visited the club once before for an AWGB training day but this was his first visit as a demonstrator. His chosen piece was a sphere in a cube (not a cube in a sphere as I was first told – now that would be something).

The required material is a cube of almost any hardwood about 75mm x 75mm x 75mm but all sides must be exactly equal and smooth. A square is drawn on each face of the cube about 13mm in from the edge (use a 13mm thick block flat on the bench and turn the cube 24 times to quickly and accurately achieve this). To hold the cube in the chuck Paul used a set of Axminster Wood Jaw Plates fitted with nylon blocks to form a square of the right size to receive the cube.

This is Paul's Mk1 version, rubber faced blocks on a set of cole jaws. (The newer version is smaller and neater).



He ensured that the cube was central by drawing circle on the face of the cube to touch each of the lines previously drawn. One corner of the face was marked to correspond with a datum marked on the chuck to ensure that during further stages it went back into the chuck in the same place.

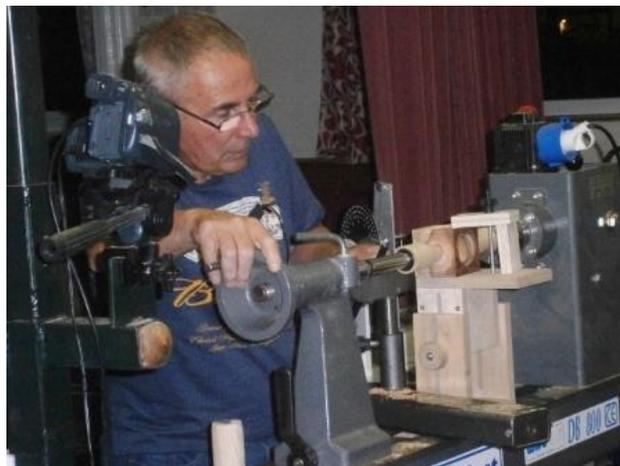
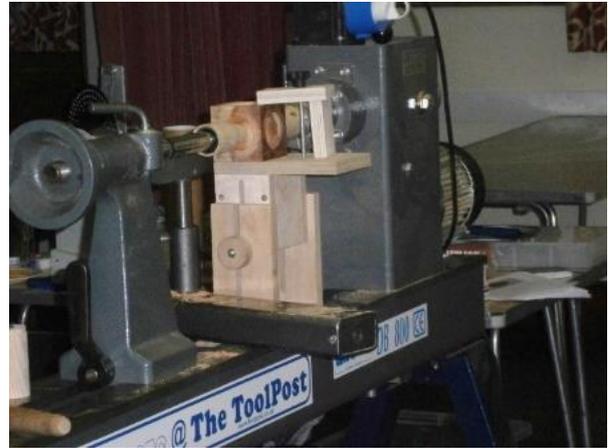
Using an “easy-beader” type tool two beads were cut outside the marked circle taking care not to strip the top off the bead through over-zealous cutting. A narrow parting tool was used to cut a groove 7mm-8mm deep just inside the pencilled circle allowing enough room so as not to chip the first bead. Paul then used a narrowly ground spindle gouge to form the face of the sphere inside the previously cut groove. These operations were repeated a further five times to complete all six faces of the cube making sure to number the corner of each face opposite the datum mark on the chuck. The next operation was to free up the sphere within the cube. This was carried out using a specially ground parting tool (about half the depth was ground away) held against a tool-rest shaped to keep the tool at 45degrees to the work.



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(Paul's was made from steel but for one-off jobs a wooden one would work). The cut was made at 45 degrees into the side of the sphere until daylight could be seen through the cube. This was again repeated for the other five faces taking great care on the last as this is when the sphere is released.

The next phase required a couple of cupped friction-chucks, one to fit in the chuck and the other over the revolving tail-centre, and a clamp to hold the cube central and clear of the sphere. The pictures will illustrate this better than I can describe it.



The top left picture shows the set-up on Paul's lathe and the other two the set-up used at the club.

With the cube locked in position and the sphere between the cup-chucks, although there was a slight knock to start with so the speed was kept low, it was relatively straightforward (for Paul) to turn the accessible part of the sphere. The sphere was released and moved to gain access to the rest of the surface and the turning completed making sure that only the minimum was removed so that the sphere remained inside the cube. It was sanded through the grits by threading a strip of abrasive through the cube and adjusting the sphere in the chucks until the whole surface was completed. The inside of the cube was hand sanded using abrasive folded over a thin strip of wood. All in all a novel and interesting piece and a very good demonstration.

On completion of the cube project Paul made a very simple whistle which he explained had been very popular with the scouts at Jamborees he had attended, mainly at Gilwell Park. (It was commented that it probably wasn't so popular with the Scout Leaders.)

### Table

During coffee break Paul gave a simple, but helpful and encouraging critique of items he selected from the many available. Thank you all for continuing to support the table in a really positive fashion.



## **Chairman's Choice**

My choice this month is Roger Groom's exquisite small lidded vase. Having been given permission to pick it up I could not believe how little it weighed. It was, I'm told, finished with black acrylic paint with a coat of clear lacquer. (I'm sure Roger will put me right if that is incorrect)



## **Training Workshop Project**

In order to test the feasibility of running a monthly training workshop we used members and other borrowed equipment and began in March. The object of the sessions was to teach beginners the basics with a strong emphasis on all aspects of turning safety. This safety emphasis was a recurring theme throughout.

David Ritchie agreed to take the lead and we began in month one with spindle work basics such as turning square to round with a roughing gouge and making planing cuts, vee cuts, forming beads, and cleaning end grain with a skew-chisel. The end result aimed for was to teach confident, safe tool control and personal safety at the lathe.

In month two the spindle gouge was introduced and as well as discussing tool profiles and the need to keep the bevel rubbing we cut curves, beads and coves with the stress once again on personal safety and tool control.

Month three we looked at mounting methods such as face plate, step centre, screw chuck and pressure plate; the tools introduced included the bowl gouge and parting tool. Bowl design was discussed noting the importance of using the blank available to the best advantage, whether to have a foot or flat base and deciding from the outset on the overall shape. Planning ahead can avoid faults and disappointments down the line. The importance of a well sized, good clean spigot was emphasised to ensure that the blank ran true when re-chucked.

Months four and five followed similar disciplines, again emphasising the need for good tool presentation and control. As always workshop safety was paramount and all aspects of this were revisited during the sessions.

We would like to thank all the course participants for their enthusiasm with a special thanks to those club members who came along as volunteers to assist in the training (the trio of Rogers deserve a particular mention for travelling from Norwich) and whose company made the sessions and discussions over tea break that much more enjoyable; Thank you all.

## **Future Training Workshops**

As you all know by now a Lottery funded grant has enabled us to buy equipment to ensure a good future for our workshop evenings.

The next session is on **September 28<sup>th</sup>** and please note that the new start time is **7.00pm**. Would those of you who would like to continue please give some thought to the projects you would like to undertake, the blanks you will require etc. For those who are new to turning will be joining us for the first time you will be made very welcome and it will be no problem for us to mix and match to individual requirements.

The full programme booked so far is in 2015

September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup>, and November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Provisional dates for 2016 (where did that year go) are

January 25<sup>th</sup>, February 29<sup>th</sup>, March 21<sup>st</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 31<sup>st</sup>, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Grant Celebration**

As we have to finalise numbers for this event could you please make sure that David is made aware of any changes in your requirements at the September meeting. Your help is as always much appreciated.

## **Sotterley Visit**

Our thanks to Nick for the invite to Sotterley. I was otherwise engaged but will get someone to write a brief report for the next issue.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on September 10<sup>th</sup> when Andy Coates will be the visiting demonstrator.

## **Another Picture**



Some of Paul Howard's work

Happy Turning