



# Waveney & District Wood Turners

## E-News

Chairman: Brian Wooden.

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

March 2015

### March Meeting

This month we were delighted to welcome back our good friend Tom Kittle from Lapwing Woodturning in Holt. We also welcomed his wife Susan who we are pleased to say accompanies Tom on most of his visits to us.

Due to a strained back Tom's proposed demonstration was shelved (it was to have been a large hollow form which needed more brute force than Tom had available) and we were given an insight, not only into small item production turning but in selecting suitable designs for when a neighbour says "can you make me something with this" and offers a lump of cherry or apple etc. that has just blown over in his garden.

One of Tom's regular commissions is for a Yorkshire charity called Acorns so he has designed some small novelty items that can be turned quickly when required from small pieces of wood.

He took inspiration from the old bobbin making process where blanks from unseasoned timber were turned to the round, drilled through the centre and roughly shaped before being trayed up and put in a loft above the boiler house to fully season before being turned to their final shape.

Tom carries out the same operations and puts his unseasoned rough-outs five or six at a time into a paper bag and leaves them in his workshop until they are required for finishing. The bags are weighed every couple of days to check the drying process. The bags absorb the moisture coming out of the timber and this then evaporates from the surface of the bag giving a fairly well balanced drying system for these small pieces.

The turning was fairly simple and mostly carried out with a skew chisel with the piece between a stub centre drive and a standard live-centre in the tailstock. As always Tom stressed the importance of design and even though he was turning acorns and thistle head shapes he ensured that the proportions of each were correct even leaving a pip on the top of the acorns. The blanks had been drilled to suit their final purpose, some to become light-pulls (drilled with a stepped drill to enable the drilling to be done in one operation), some bottle stoppers using a tapered chromed stopper and others to be key-rings (a 7mm hole for a brass tube kit).

In order to demonstrate the production turning aspect Tom made three light-pulls in very short order changing the blanks without stopping the lathe. The use of the skew chisel was awesome and the finish from the tool extremely good keeping sanding, and therefore time spent, to a minimum. The cup sections of the acorns were textured with wheeled texturing tool touched intermittently to the wood to produce a random pattern.

Also on the agenda were a pair of door wedges, an acorn turned on each end of a square blank ready to be cut into two wedges on the bandsaw.



Tom was also kind enough to do a critique of members work with encouraging words and advice for all. All in all a very informative and entertaining evening.

### Tables

There were several pieces on the tables, I just hope I've included pictures of them all. My thanks to all who brought a piece, or pieces for the tables.





### **Chairman's Choice**

Although I confess to preferring unadulterated wood the intricate caving and the superb use of colour made Ivan Tatnall's piece stand out for me this month.



### **Beginners and improvers Night**

We are looking forward to the first of these nights on Monday 30th March when we hope to tackle spindle turning techniques. We have three or four booked in but if you do feel like paying us a visit, to turn or mardle, I will make sure the kettle is on.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is April 9<sup>th</sup> when our demonstrator for the evening is Simon Hope who always has something new for us.

### **Mini Exhibition**

We will be at Lowestoft Library again on April 11<sup>th</sup> from about 10-00am to 4-00pm with a few pieces on display in an effort to publicise the club. If you are down that way please give us a look.

### **Lathe Wanted**

A new member has asked if any has, or knows of anyone who has, a lathe for sale. If you do, please contact me and I will put you in touch.

Happy Turning