



Waveney & District Wood Turners

E-News

Chairman: Brian Wooden.

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

May 2015

May Meeting

This month's demonstrator was Andy Coates, who, apart from being a professional turner, is the Chairman of the AWGB. When Andy visits he usually has something out of the ordinary for us and this month was no exception. In fact in the words of a well-known football commentator (that well-known I can't remember his name) it was a game of two halves.

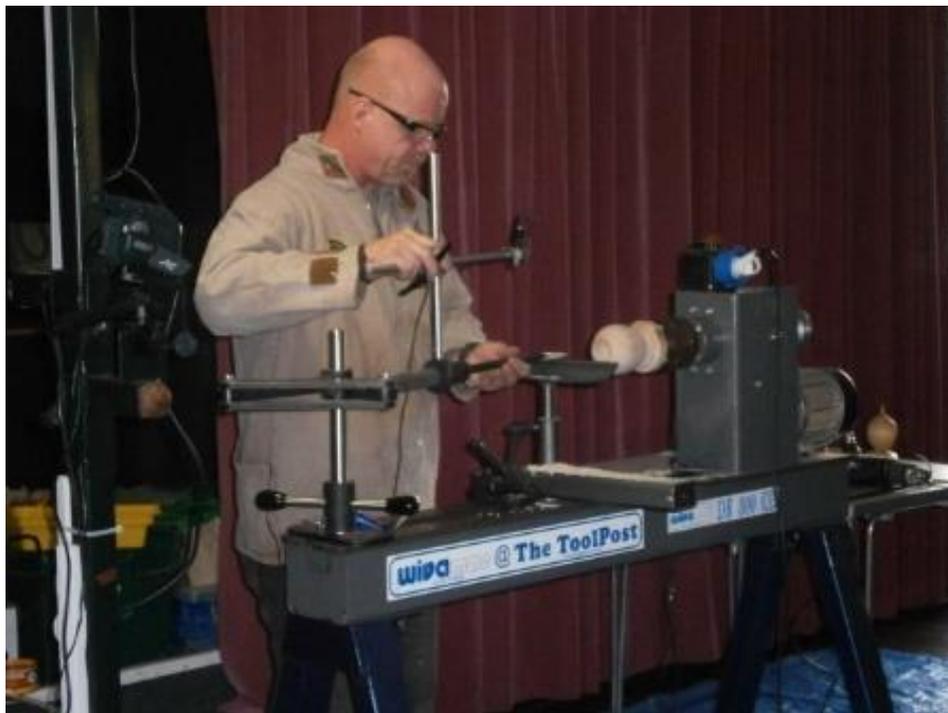
The first piece was a small hollow-form; small because it uses less wood, is less physically challenging and from Andy's point of view more saleable. Although the piece was small shape and form were still properly considered.

Having trued up the blank and got it mounted via a spigot in the chuck a hole was drilled to the depth required. This achieves several objectives, it very easily removes the centre of the blank, it gives an entry point for the chosen hollowing tool and it sets the depth. On reaching the depth of the hole a couple of fine finishing cuts are all that is required.

I personally find hollowing quite repetitive (boring, no pun intended) but Andy changed all that. He used almost every hollowing tool you could think of from a self-made hooked scraper to the latest 6mm carbide tipped tool from Simon Hope. Hamlet Little Sister, a bowl gouge and a toothpick scraper were also demonstrated and the pros and cons of each discussed as they were used; the very expensive and larger tools such as the Roly Monro were mentioned but not demonstrated.

Almost halfway through the process the physical effort and slightly awkward posture when making large hollow-forms (eased somewhat if you can move the headstock along the bed) were discussed and a new piece of kit was introduced to help alleviate this. A Simon Hope designed articulated linkage system was mounted on the lathe and the 16mm shaft of the Hope hollowing tool was fitted into the tool holder. It was very quickly and easily set up so that the 6mm cutter would cut at centre height. With the tool held in the tool holder and on the tool rest it was very easy to guide the tool with no strain and a very easy posture. Andy was quick to point out that the turner still had to beware not to let the inside diameter equal the outside diameter and all the set up did was mitigate the physical strength needed but did not reduce the skill required.

The last twist was the introduction of a laser guide to help in getting an even thickness to the finished piece. Again supplied by Simon Hope it was quickly and easily assembled and set up to guide the turner to produce a 5mm thickness to the form. The last word from Andy was that he seldom struggles to sand and finish the inside of the form as it will not be seen, especially in a vessel with a narrow opening. A very thorough and interesting demonstration using both the earliest and latest kit available.



Hollowing attachment complete with tool and laser device

After the break, something completely different. The turned object was a small bowl but it was the decorating technique that was so unusual. The outside of the bowl was sanded to just 120 grit and a coating of artists gesso was applied. To enable the demonstration to carry on this was dried using a hot air gun and two or three more coats were applied and dried. The blistering and bubbling that occurred during the drying process were knocked back but a textured surface left. Colour (spirit stain) was applied using Andy's favoured palette and a light abrading carried out.

More colour was applied, this time with the lathe running (see picture for precautions) to allow centrifugal force to create the pattern.

From the outside the bowl looked very porcelain-like but with the added attraction of the contrasting wood inside. Our thanks to Andy for a very informative and interesting evening.



Well covered up



Pieces Andy produced earlier

Tables

Lots of pictures this week as I got Eric to take them for me





Thanks to all of you who take the trouble to put something on the table each month

Chairman's Choice.

My piece for this month is this fabulous chair from Roger Rout. It not only looks fabulous but believe me it is really comfortable to sit in. (I felt very privileged)



Training Evenings

We intend to continue with this experiment for the immediate future the next session being Monday 29th June.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Thursday 11th June when we see the return of Mick Hanbury.

For Sale

A reminder that John Moore has a small lathe for sale. It is unused and he is asking £125-00 ono



Please note my new email address. woodenpost@sky.com

Happy Turning