

Waveney & District Woodturners



Chairman: Andrew Platt

Secretary: Paul Sharman Treasurer: Chris Petch Events Secretary: David Ritchie



Mark Baker

Mark is a regular visitor to our club and is a highly regarded and popular demonstrator who is also author of Woodturning and Woodcarving magazines.

He has demonstrated extensively at clubs throughout the UK, USA and Canada. He has even demonstrated on woodturning cruises and written numerous articles and books on woodturning:

Mark started with a short history lesson, saying how the evening's demonstrations were to reflect Hawaiian vessel shapes based on vegetables and how vessel shapes throughout the world and in history have influenced design. Lesson over!

He brought along two chunky pieces of wood, one walnut (a bit wormy apparently) and a large piece of Burr London Plane (a bit cracky) and asked members to choose which one to turn. They chose the London Plane.

Butternut Squash Vessel

Mark inspected the wood and after taking into account the cracks, decided which was to be the top and bottom. It was mounted between centres with a view to creating a spigot on one end so that it can be mounted securely in his chuck whilst rounding it off. The piece was quite old and very dry and would not be easy to work. It was then remounted in the jaws and the tail stock brought up.



He then rounded it off using the roughing and bowl gouges once again. It was interesting to see Mark use his hand held above the roughing gouge as a shield against the chips of wood flying off. A spigot was



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formed on the base end which he had to ensure had parallel sides to suit his particular chuck jaws. At this point Mark pointed out that a general rule of thumb for spigot sizes was not to go below 40% of the vessels diameter.

He then began to create a shape that was to reflect that of a Butternut Squash using a spindle gouge. A spigot was turned at the top end which would be used to hold the lid. The curved base was started first where allowance was made for a foot. At this stage Mark inspected the cracks (10mm deep) and discussed ways of dealing with them without the piece exploding, in particular when hollowing out. One option he mentioned was to insert small thin wedges across the cracks (stitching) which can be done in various ways – straight or butterfly section.



Mark had a catch at this point and explained to members how this came about and how it was related to the gouges flute position when presented to the piece. He demonstrated different flute angles and just how the gouge would react if presented to the wood.

The Butternut shape was created and Mark discussed parting off what was to be the lid using a thin parting tool. He also mentioned using a larger tapered parting tool when working into a larger piece and passed round an example.

The lid was parted off. The outside was then scraped smooth using a Skew Chisel and the front edge rounded off slightly. Mark also demonstrated how craftsmen in the past used to hold the skew down low over the rest and draw it upwards on to the wood to achieve a smooth finish. That was a first for most members including me.



His attention now turned to hollowing out the vessel. Forstner bits are commonly used nowadays but Mark decided to use an old method where a spindle gouge would be used. This was done by pushing the gouge into the centre of the wood which then automatically formed a hole very much like a drill. From there you can work outwards to hollow the piece. Before doing so he discussed dealing with the deep crack on the outside by wrapping tape around the vessel using cloth reinforced Gaffa Tape.

The hollowing process began using the Spindle Gouge then progressed with a combination of a large bowl gouge and a carbide tipped cutter. All of which were worked inwards on the centre line of the piece. Mark pointed out that the small cutting head of the carbide cutter helped avoid vibration as he worked deeper into the vessel. The deepest part was accessed using a Flat Head Cutter on an extra long arm in his quick release handle. When doing so it was good to have a reference point on the handle in order to present the cutting edge at the correct angle inside the vessel. An angle of 10 degrees was mentioned.

A lot of vibration was caused during hollowing so Mark checked the grip on the chuck jaws and they did need tightening. The inside was smoothed off using a Tear Drop shaped scraper and taken off the lathe.



The lid was re-mounted on its spigot. The diameter of the base was then transferred to it and hollowed out using a spindle gouge. The outside was shaped using a spindle gouge once again.

The lid was taken off and the base re-mounted. Mark proceeded to thin the walls slightly up towards the top edge using his skew chisel as a scraper. The lid was put on with a tissue in between and held in place with the tail stock while he finished shaping it using the spindle gouge and skew chisel. The tissue made for a tight fit while he completed the top of the lid without the tails stock in place.



The whole vessel was taken off and a piece of round waste wood mounted to be used a jam chuck. It was turned to accommodate the neck of Butternut vessel. Mark cut off most of the waste on the base first before finishing the curved base. He noted that the base of these were normally left quite heavy so they would stand upright.

Classic Greek/Roman Urn

For this shorter demonstration Mark used the wormy walnut piece which he mounted between centres and turned to round using his roughing and his bowl gouge to put a spigot on the base. In doing so he found a fair amount of spalting and had to cut it away and re-cut the spigot accordingly. This led to a shorter piece than he wanted which is known as a design modification. We have all had those.

He created a spigot on the bottom and started shaping the curved base using push cuts and shear scraping with his spindle gouge. It initially looked a little egg-shaped, but not for long. The piece was mounted in the jaws, faced off, and a concave rim was created on the top edge in the style of classic Greek/Roman pottery.



Mark started hollowing using his 1/2in bowl gouge and changed to a 5/8in one as it needed to be stronger as he went deeper into the vessel. In order to finish the bottom inside he used a shallow grind bowl gouge. The outside was then finished using a spindle gouge and shear scraping.

As a general comment Mark said that concentrating on shape and safety are extremely important.



THIS MONTH'S TABLE ENTRIES



CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE

Our chairman, Andrew Platt has chosen the lovely Yew Bowl entered by Len Stout.

Although it has to be said this was a difficult decision.

COMING UP

NEXT MONTH

Ryan Barker – Thursday 10th August

A young man rapidly gaining a reputation on the demo circuit.

TRAINEE/IMPROVERS NIGHT

Monday 25th September at 7.00pm

This is an opportunity for trainees and novices to improve their skills on a motivational and relaxed social evening hosted by your club committee - not only that, tea and biscuits are provided.



2017 SHOWS

7th EUROPEAN WOODWORKING SHOW – 16th-17 September

Witham Rd, Cressing, Braintree, Essex CM77 8PD

Described as the best woodworking show of its kind in the world. It is demonstration led with an eclectic mix of woodworkers of furniture, basket makers, chair makers plus fabulous wood turners, carvers, bodgers, pyrographers, knife makers, marionette makers, Japanese joinery, toy makers and finally, toolmakers.

ALL DAY DEMONSTRATIONS

Les Thorne – Saturday 24th June

The Village Hall, Little Yeldham, Essex CO9 4QT

Starts at 10 am til 5 pm - Tea/Coffee and biscuits in the morning and afternoon including buffet lunch.

Tickets at £15 can be obtained from Brian Partridge Tel: 01473 828489. Email: brianpart@aol.com

Gary Rance – Saturday 30th September

Full day demo by probably the best and most highly regarded Turner in the country.

This is an AWGB Birthday sponsored event, open to other clubs and the public and advertised on the AWGB website and in Revolutions. This is expected to be a very popular event so get your tickets and those of any guest you may wish to bring as soon as possible from David Ritchie from 13th July at the Club.

Cost £10 per head which includes a buffet lunch.

27 Members already booked to date. To ensure a place make sure you get your tickets next month.

Paul Howard – Saturday 7th October

Full Day for Trainees – Paid for by AWGB

Mutford Village Hall, 10am – 4pm

Lunch will be provided at a nominal cost (TBA)

AWGB 30TH BIRTHDAY BASH

To celebrate 30 years the AWGB have awarded grants to clubs throughout the country to host events, details of which are on the AWGB website here: <https://www.awgb.co.uk/awgb-30th-birthday-bash/>

AROUND THE CLUBS:

*(Hold the **Ctrl Key** down and **Click** on the link)*

Somerset Woodturners - <http://www.somersetwoodturners.org.uk/>

South Downs Woodturners - <http://www.southdownswoodturners.com/>

South Puget Sound Woodturners (USA) - <http://www.spswoodturners.org/>

Staffordshire and South Cheshire Woodturners Association - <http://www.sscwa.co.uk/>

YOUTUBE VIDEOS:

*(Hold the **Ctrl Key** down and **Click** on the link)*

A Craftsman's Guide by Mark Baker (DVD Preview) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPqXcWZrtpo>

Turning a Lidded Vessel - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4S_s-3UgDg

Woodturning Lidded Boxes - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfwrgXRqq5w>

Lidded Box with Milliput Epoxy Inlay - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKoeYu1s8j8>



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