

# Waveney & District Woodturners



March 2018 E-News

Chairman: Andrew Platt Secretary: Andrew Bigg Treasurer: Chris Petch  
Events Secretary: David Ritchie Committee Member: John Peek Webmaster: Len Stout



## Tom Kittle A Special Kind of Turner

We were very pleased to welcome back our old friend Tom Kittle.

Tom has been closely associated with the club for many years and despite being retired still makes time to come along and teach us a few turning tricks interspersed with “Billy” jokes.

He started by reminiscing about his teaching days and how he approached it, and noting that there were many new turners in the room.

With that in mind, the demonstration was more of a back-to-basics

exercise which started by mounting a piece of oak 6in dia x 1½in thick on the lathe using a faceplate and truing up the outer edge.

Tom pointed out that he likes to make shavings in doing so, thus confirming he is cutting the wood correctly and producing a good initial finish and not just creating dust.

He also mentioned that vibration during turning is a real problem in getting a good finish, and to counter this he preferred to use a short tool rest. It was also essential to move it close to the piece being turned so that there was minimal overhang and once again less chance of vibration and flexing of the tool.



Tom sharpens his gouges with the same bevel which allows him to present them to the wood at the same angle automatically, saving time, an essential factor in production turning.

First thing was to form a slight dish in the base and use dividers to mark where

he wanted to create a spigot that would perfectly fit his chuck jaws. A very useful tip for beginners.

He stopped momentarily to point out the need for protection against dust and noise. He feels that constant power tool noise over the years seems to have affected his hearing. “Or was it his age?” he asked.



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On commencing, Tom started cutting outwards to form slight ogee shape on the underside, “feeling” the cut as he did so. To get as clean a finish as possible he remind us all to cut across and downhill to avoid lifting wood fibres and creating breakout. He used finer cuts when nearing the final shape and showed how he moved his hands closer to the rest to improve tool control. A three-point tool was used the complete the spigot with a slight dovetail edge.



When Tom was producing work commercially he would generally finish with 320 grit but did say it's best to use 400 to 600 grit.

Most of his work was finished in oil, the number of coats depending on the wood's absorbency. Each coat required rubbing down and he generally used orange Nyweb for this.



Tom demounted the piece, took off the back plate and mounted it in the chuck jaws to work on the face, firstly taking out the bowl and removing any signs of the screw holes from the faceplate. He formed the “S” shape (ogee) rim and created an inner profile edge, taking lighter and more careful cuts as he did so in order to get the best pre-sanding finish.



He temporarily broke to mention how he used a cork block for sanding to ensure sharp edges, these can be easily lost when doing so by hand. He also showed members a second shaped cork block with two different profiled edges for sanding curved areas.



When Tom took the small dish off the lathe he held it up to talk about its profile, mentioning how he is keen on shape and form. He gets some of his inspiration from the Sainsbury Centre in Norwich and encouraged members to go see for themselves.

## SECOND SESSION

For this session Tom produced a “Y-Shaped” branch that he had split down the middle and talked about natural wood and the bugs that feed on the bark.

The piece that had the bark removed had a faceplate and was mounted on the lathe at which point Tom pointed out the tracks where beetles had burrowed under the bark. There were also minor splits in the end grain.





He started the lathe slowly and began cutting the three edges very carefully as most of the time he was “cutting air” and also to avoid breakout on the corners. This helped establish where the upper edge would be.

He then switched to shaping the underside, working carefully outwards and being wary that he was again “cutting air” a lot of the time.



The splits became a little more noticeable so Tom described his method of filling them by putting a wall of Playdoh around the edge to form a retaining “wall” and putting tape on the underside. The split would then be filled with coloured epoxy resin. Copper and bronze powders were mentioned.



He does not use super glue (CA glue) as it crusts over when an accelerator is applied, which would then be cut off during turning and the still liquid glue underneath would spray out - a serious risk to eyes etc.

Tom then stunned the room by talking about texturing the edges of the piece and **USING COLOUR** to enhance it. **Tom doesn't use colour!** He should have warned us as we nearly all had heart attacks.

At that point – and thankfully no heart attacks later – he had run out of time on the evening and would have to finish the piece at home. He hoped that members had understood his thoughts on planning the shape and style of a piece of wood and how to overcome any resulting issues.

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## THIS & LAST MONTH'S TABLE ENTRIES

Needless to say there were quite a few pieces spread out on this month's table. So I will include all of them here as a single collection.





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## CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE

February's choice goes to the superb miniature lathe made by original club member Roy Edmunds (above left). The March choice was made by Tom Kittle's wife Sue in the absence of our chairman and is the lovely Burr Elm Bowl submitted by Ken Rogers (above right).

## Please Note: Changes to our Programme

New Demonstrator Dates: 12<sup>th</sup> April – Darren Breeze, 17<sup>th</sup> May – Simon Hope, 9<sup>th</sup> August – Mick Hanbury

## Roy Edmunds Miniature Turning Trophy

At our AGM Roy Edmunds presented the club with a new trophy to be awarded to the member submitting the best miniature piece of wood turning. To that end you are invited to bring along your miniature pieces to our scheduled meeting **on May 17th** where we will invite our demonstrator for the evening, Simon Hope, to judge and award the trophy. We also suggest, at least for this year, that the definition of "miniature" should be something that is a 12<sup>th</sup> of its normal size (dolls house size) or possibly less.



# Monday Training Nights

Next training night is Monday, 26th March at Mutford Village Hall - **7pm PROMPT** onwards. We will be looking at finishing (not sanding), so bring along something sanded to 400 grit that you wish to finish with oil, wax, stain or whatever to discuss. If you have the products please bring them also.

**CHECK OUT:** Chestnut Products E-News on our website at: June 2017

Plus teas, coffee and biscuits

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## Coming Soon

### **Gary Rance - All Day Demonstration**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April - Norwich Woodturners Club - 10pm-4pm**

**The Senior Citizens Club, Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston, Norwich. NR7 8EW**

Tickets from: Roger Rout at March meeting. Buffet included.



### **Les Thorne - All Day Demonstration**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May - Mutford Village Hall - 10pm-4pm**

This will be a great, fun and informative day. **NOT ONE TO MISS.**

Tickets £15 from: David Ritchie. Buffet Included.

## **Midland Woodworking and Power Tool Show**

**23-24<sup>th</sup> March - Newark Showground, Nottingham NG24 2NY - 10am-4pm Both Days**

A very popular show visited by many club members last year who got many a bargain.

**Those interested need to contact each other to arrange transport on or before our March Club Night**

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## **ALL ABOUT MINIATURE TURNING - STARTER VIDEOS**

**Make a Special Note of the Tools and Techniques Used**

### **YOUTUBE VIDEOS:**

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

How to Make Small Round Lathe Tools Pt1 of 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBa2eYa5vVc>

How to Make Small Round Lathe Tools Pt2 of 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMogaU6aiI8>

How to Make Small Round Lathe Tools Pt3 of 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVBPfkNjGjQ>

Miniature Bird House Pt 1 of 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUQR2qYDAkU>

Miniature Bird House Pt 2 of 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96tQFGZ6AAk>

Micro Turning Goblet 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCLeif8KVdY>

Micro Turning Goblet 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2-KOZz1YuY>

Miniature Box with Mushroom Shape Lid: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpeDsNZf1q0>

Miniature Cake Stand: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6aeOrMFOoo>

Miniature Woodturning Collection: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP35ILAnOdg>

Turning a Miniature Demo Pt 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eM4lSoXhUU>

Turning a Miniature Demo Pt 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIraCKzHOJ4>



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