

Waveney & District Woodturners



March 2019 E-News

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



Tom Inspires...

...after a Word of Caution

Our old friend Tom Kittle was back again for the March club evening with his usual words of wisdom and inspiration.

His opening remarks suggested that BREXIT might affect woodturners as follows:

- Could affect the standards of materials and tools that we buy.
- That the CE mark of quality may not continue
- That the trade in wood species especially the more exotic, may become more limited.

He also suggested we should read the small print of insurance policies covering our turning activities – as it may say that we are covered as long as heat is not used in our work.

The approach to the evening's demonstration was about the giving of ideas and principles rather than achieving a finished article.

He then showed a number of boxes of different shapes and sizes – in fact he brought out a number of other boxes during his demonstration to illustrate the point. The actual demonstration was to work through the process of creating a 'disc-shaped box' with a contrasting ring around its centre.



The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain



LOTTERY FUNDED



THE DEMONSTRATION

Prior planning was urged about what we were going to make and thinking through the process so as to achieve the results we wanted.

Two pieces of walnut were produced, cut to an approximate circle and predrilled with a pillar drill so the depth of the hole for the screw chuck could be measured and equal. The first was mounted onto a screw chuck and turned to a perfect round using a ½ inch bowl gouge with a swept back grind. At this point he reminded us all about the need for eye, dust and ear protection.



Starting in the middle he worked outwards to avoid tear out at the edges [although if using more brittle material that may need to be reversed]. This was illustrated by the use of a bunch of straws to show how the lie of the grain and the direction of cut can affect the quality of the finish. Having cut the circle he then used the same tool to shape the bottom of the 'discus'.

As an aside he told us how he used a pre-made Lapwing seal (he was known as Lapwing Turning) and sealing wax to sign his work which was placed in the centre of the base meaning that any imperfections could be covered up.

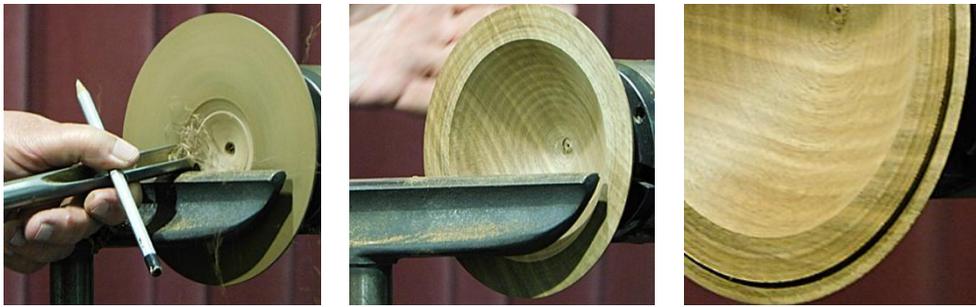
A scrapper was then used to get a good finish and minimise sanding, suggesting the heavier and thicker the scrapper the less vibration there would be. He would then repeated the process for the top of the 'discus'.



As another aside he spoke about the use of filler – resin mixed with a bronze powder gave the best colour for most timbers.

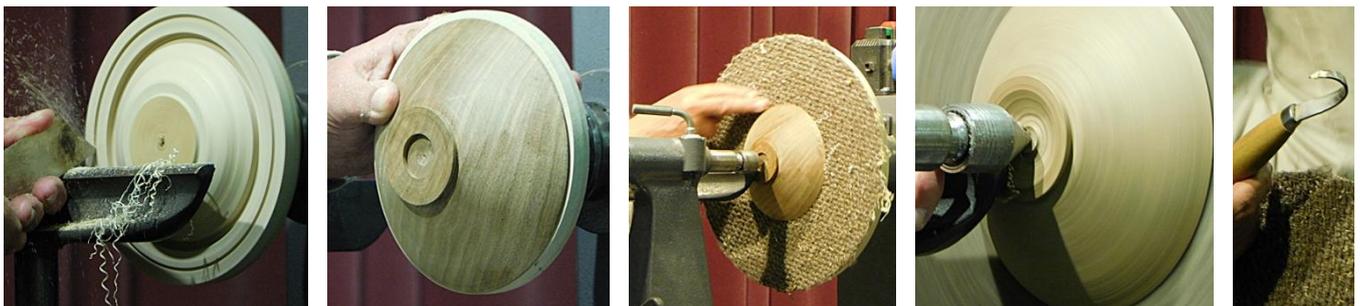
He then remounted the bottom piece and turned out the bowl shape to the required wall thickness. Tom used a pencil across the gouge he was using to illustrate the angle of cut during hollowing out.





After remounting in the chuck jaws, the flat edge of the bowl was trued up and a rebated lip created to accommodate the central ring of a different wood that was to go between the top and bottom pieces. To avoid excess glue spilling out during the glue up a 'V' was cut on the inner edge of the rebate to take any excess glue. Again the top of the 'discus' would be done in exactly the same way to match the base.

The next step was to cut the ring that fits between the two 'discs'. To do this Tom mounted a suitable sized sacrificial piece in a different wood and offered up the base to ensure that a ring of the correct size could be cut from it. Tom transferred the diameter of the recess on to the base to ensure a perfect fit when cut.



The intermediate 'ring' could then be created. This best way to do this without breaking the delicate piece was to cut the inside diameter first then cut it to thickness with a thin parting tool without going fully through. Listening to the tone of the cutting process will tell you when you are almost there. The final millimetre or so can then be cut by hand using a fine tooth saw.

Remember to finish both bowls before gluing them together. The rough side can be tidied up when mounted on the base first and turned flat.

The top was then mounted against a 'carpet board' on the lathe and held in place by the tail stock so that most of the centre can be removed. Tom used a hook knife to remove the remaining central nub.

Here is an example of the finished piece with the central ring in-situ.



Don't forget, the aim of the evening was to inspire you to design and create similar pieces using the methods Tom talked about.



THIS MONTH'S TABLE ENTRIES

The Table display this month was a little lacking in quantity, but not in quality. More next time please lads.



CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE

This month's Chairmans' choice is Roger Groom's unusual vessel with an angled insert of a different wood.

Special Thanks must also go to our Chairman Andrew Platt, for having to take notes on the evening at a moment's notice. Cheers!

