



WEST SUSSEX WOODTURNERS

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Prior to opening the meeting the presentation of items for the St Barnabas Hospice shop was made.



Chairman Ian then opened the meeting, which was slightly delayed due to problems with the cameras.

We still need more volunteers for the December meeting, which is for last minute prezzies. I assume Ian meant volunteers to turn them rather than give or receive them. (The announcement was not clear).

Secondly **DO NOT** forget the competition, which is for an item made of at least 2 different woods.

As he needed no introduction Ian didn't give him one but handed straight over to our professional demonstrator Les Thorne. Les is an old friend of the clubs and has visited us many times in the last few years.



Les started off with a quick bit of health and Safety. Normally he would turn with a face-shield on and wearing safety boots.

The first project was to be a textured bowl with an inserted ring using another type of wood. Using a slightly wet Sycamore bowl blank. There may be some small green knots in the timber which could be silicone and will blunt tools very quickly. Do **NOT** use a spindle roughing gouge to round it down. Do **NOT** present the tool horizontally. Present the gouge with the flute at about 10 o'clock and drop your right hand (if right handed). He used a pull cut to round off the corner ensuring the tool rest was in the direction of cut. Stand out of the firing line and was using a push cut. The flute should be at about 2 o'clock and again drop the right hand. If you want to do a finishing cut increase the speed of the lathe. He switched back to a pull cut to round off the blank. A pull cut needs the tool rest to be close to the work, which is not quite so important with a push cut. True up the base of the blank using either a push or pull cut whichever you prefer. The next step is to cut the tenon. The tenon was flat as Les was using Gripper jaws rather than Dovetail jaws. He switched to a smaller standard grind bowl gouge for the finishing cut. He cut a small flat by the tenon as it improves the hold with the chuck.

Les then made the mistake of asking the audience if they wanted him to texture the bowl (will he never learn you don't do that at WSWT). He was going to texture the bowl with an Arbortech mini grinder. He could use the tool rest as a guide but Les prefers to use it free hand. He uses the tool one handed but that is because he is used to using it. He put on his face-shield as the chippings come off very fast and not always in a predictable way. It can leave some fluffy bits but you can sand these off or use a blow torch. In this instance Les was going to use a Bronze brush fitted in his drill. The problem with bronze brushes is that they wear out quite quickly. You **MUST** use eye protection as the "bristles" can come out. He turned the bowl around and used a pull cut to true up the face. A pull cut will tend to give a better finish. Using his Arbortech he switched the lathe on to texture the face. He then went to his bowl gouge to hollow out the bowl. Always try to use the centre of the tool rest. He put a small cut on the rim to prevent the gouge skating across. To prevent a flat bottom to the bowl you must keep the bevel rubbing. So you need to drop your hand and pull the handle towards you. As the bowl became deeper Les put the handle of the gouge over the bed bars and pulled it towards him. He cut a small step round the rim to take a ring.

Using a screw chuck he mounted a piece of Bubinga to make the ring. Having cut the ring to size Les put some masking tape on the ring to prevent it from flying off when he parted it off. As he had made the ring slightly smaller than he needed he ensured it was a good fit by using a piece of paper towel to hold it in. An alternative would be to glue it in a then turn it. He then returned to hollowing out the bowl. He was using a standard grind bowl gouge with the heel taken off. When power sanding Les starts off at about 3 o'clock. You should ensure that you go across the centre of the bowl. Les does not usually sand beyond 400 grit as over that all you are doing is burnishing the wood.



The second project was a box using Ash. Les says that Ash is one of the most versatile woods there is. The blank was approximately 3 inches by 3 inches and 4 inches long. He started off rounding the blank using a Spindle Roughing gouge. Again do **NOT** present the tool horizontally. Rounding of a spindle is not quite a bevel rubbing cut. The next step is to cut a tenon on each end of the blank. Les checked the size of the tenon using Vernier callipers. He has rounded off the points of the callipers to avoid any chance of a catch. (Question my spell check said it should be a double L but most tool sites spell with only 1, who's right?).

Do not put too much of a dovetail on the tenon as it may not grip very well. Before deciding which end is to be the lid or the base take a good look at the timber. If using London Plane try to keep it as flat as possible to ensure the best grain. The next question is to decide the proportions of the lid to the base. The traditional view would be 1/3rd to 2/3rd but it does depend on the timber and the shape of your box. Les then cut a spigot in the middle; this spigot **MUST** be absolutely parallel. He began shaping the box, which he intended to make with a waist. Using a 1/16th parting tool he cut the base off leaving a small witness mark on the lid. To hollow end grain go from the small diameter to the large diameter. Make a small hole in the centre with the gouge. The flute should be at about 10.30. To avoid any dig ins close the flute as you go. Using a negative rake scraper Les cleaned up the inside of the box lid. Les put the lid top one side and put the base in the chuck. Again drill a hole with the flute at about 10.30 gradually opening the flute to about 9 o'clock. To get rid of a pimple in the bottom use the gouge as a drill. Les switched to a tipped tool from Robert Sorby (868H). He also used a negative rake French curve scraper.



He had some tear out in the base so he sprayed in some lacquer into the box and using the negative rake scraper he cleaned it up. Make sure the lacquer is dry before trying to fit the lid. He sanded the inside and outside of the base.

Having fitted the lid he turned off the tenon.

Les textured the box using his Arbortech and again he cleaned it up with the bronze brush. He turned off the edges of the lid and the base to ensure no sharp edges. He put a small statement mark at the join.

On the top of the box he made a small button and created a bead around it. He then airbrushed on the colour using Chestnut Spirit stains. He started with red, the blue and then yellow. He started up the lathe and sprayed on some black. The Spirit Stains are light fast so should not fade. The next step is to seal it. Do **NOT** paint on as this could cause the colours to run. His next step would be to rub it down with synthetic wire-wool; he used a Chestnut yellow Nyweb pad, before spraying with a satin lacquer. Les then sanded the spigot on the base but only the top and the bottom of it as he wanted a good but not tight fit. Having obtained the fit he wanted he turned the bottom of the box round to turn off the tenon. To do this he required a jam chuck. A jam chuck should be made of a softer material than the item you are turning. When using a jam chuck always take light cuts as it is only friction holding the piece. He then put a button on the base with a small bead to match the lid.



The final project was a goblet. The gouge needed sharpening so Les used a CBN wheel, he recommends a medium grit.

Start with the bowl. It's best to use a push cut as a pull cut will tend to pull the timber out of the chuck. He then turned the stem to approximately 4mm using a spindle gouge and a skew. He then parted it off using a skew, which was partially ground. He would have sanded the stem. He would have cut it back and used a spray lacquer off the lathe.

ADVANCE WARNING:

The first 3 weekends of December are Kids Activity days at Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre. As usual Keith Greenfield is on the look out for volunteers. We need turners, meters and greeters, drillers and decorators.

If you have a child, grandchild who would like to have a go bring them along and they could end up with a beautiful Christmas tree decoration.

NEXT MONTH:

The December competition is an item containing at least two woods.

FOR SALE:

Record RP 2000 Compact Chuck with Screw chuck and Pin Jaws £45 (3/4 16 thread).

Details etc from Martin Shepheard

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