



West Riding Woodturner

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Last meeting: 07 June 2011

Next meeting: 05 July 2011

Deadline for inclusion of items in the next newsletter: 19 July

Simon says...

Simon began by making a hollow form from the most 'manky' bit of olive that I've seen in a long time, and very early in the turning a largish lump of wood came loose leaving a large void near what would be the foot of the piece. Simon remained his imperturbable self.

After shaping the outside of the vase, he parted it into two pieces with a narrow parting tool and began hollowing the section still in the chuck with a bowl gouge, finishing with a scraper to smooth the inside. During this process several



holes appeared in the walls, caused by the hollows in the piece of olive.

After repeating the process on the other section, the two pieces were glued together with superglue. The interesting feature of this was that Simon made no attempt to form a joint between the two, but simply glued the flat end-grain surfaces together. This is an unusual technique but succeeds in reducing any grain mismatch - the bare minimum of wood has been removed between the sections. The joint was disguised with a deliberate groove. After refining the outside a little more, the finished hollow form was then parted off.

Members rally round

After my comment about the value of the newsletter last month, I've received several items for publication, more than I can accommodate in a single newsletter. **Ian Taylor** was the first to write:

After reading Bob's comments I thought I would have a go at

a piece for the newsletter. After getting a call one night from a friend who was having trouble hollowing a bowl out, I said I'd take my home made hollowing tools across so he could try them. While I was there he showed me a tool he was making - a scraper. While knocking the handle off, I dropped it on the floor. It rang like a bell.

"It's a good piece of steel, is that! If you like I'll take it home", jumping in with both feet, as per usual. He had already annealed it. "I'll grind it, harden it and temper it for you, ok?"

"Before you go Ian, I'd like to show you our latest project" It was a house. To say I was gobsmacked is an understatement, it was beautiful. If his turning is as good we're in trouble, but I digress.

Taking the piece home I got another friend, (I do have more than one) to heat it up and harden it, and then I tempered it. I missed the first time, but think I got it right the second time. I've yet to try it.

Ian

(PS, my reward was a piece of land rover spring) ha ha!

Jonathan Towers sent in this list of questions which he thought other club members might help him with:

Here are some of the enormous list I still struggle with:

- *Which timbers would you use sanding sealer on?*
- *By what proportion would you thin the sealer?*
- *Can you really wax over oil, and how?*
- *What can I coat the endgrain of fresh cut timber with that's not messy? (to reduce cracking).*

If you can help Jonathan with these questions, or have questions of your own that others might help with, please ring me or email me (bob@bobchapman.co.uk) and I will publish them in a later issue.

Steve Griffiths wants to find someone to share the cost of some acrylic:

I have found a source of acrylic rod in various colours and sizes, suitable for inlaying into turnings, with the larger diameters being suitable for pen blanks. Unfortunately, the rod is only available in lengths of 1830mm, so if I order a few colours in different sizes I shall have enough to last me until the end of time. I would like to ask whether there are any club members who would be prepared to share an order. The costs seem very reasonable, but I cannot be precise on these until I know what the total order is, as there are carriage

charges to be added, dependent on order value.

I would suggest that the rod be supplied cut into 305mm lengths for mailing, so this length would be the share unit.

A range of colours in transparent, opaque, fluorescent and metallic are available in diameters from 3.2mm up to 25.4mm. If you are interested you can get more details of prices etc from Steve at rcpilot@talktalk.net - or phone on 01274 809010.

Chris Battersby sent me a wonderful piece about his father's business as a woodworker in the Dales. It would fill more than one newsletter all by itself, and I intend to serialise it over the next few issues:

Woodturning as a necessity (part 1)

My very dear old dad was born (1911) and brought up in Littondale where he spent his entire working life as a joiner, builder and undertaker living in the same house occupied by his father, and grandfather before him, since about 1875. The house barn and croft were originally rented but Grandfather bought the lot at auction in the Tennants Arms in Kilnsey for forty pounds. It took him nearly thirty years to pay off the mortgage to Skipton Building Society with his wage of two pounds ten shillings, later rising to three pounds per week, as Foreman of the Roads for Settle Rural District Council.

Great Grandma had come to Littondale from Leeds to teach in the village school, she left but later returned with her new husband Henry a tailor who eked out a living making clothes for families over a surprisingly wide area.

In the sixties I often stayed with my pal John Francis Thomas Horner at Redmire Farm, Buckden. His granny, who was positively pre-historic, remembered my great grandfather lodging with her family at Beckermonds for weeks at a time whilst he made up the farm men's breeches and working jackets. She memorably said "I hear tell thi father is as good a joiner as ever there was" and I glowed in the reflected glory for some time after.

Father left the single roomed Litton school (which he later purchased) at age fifteen with the choice of becoming either butcher or joiner. Happily he chose the latter which lead to a long and happy life in a beautiful dale. He was first apprenticed to a joiner in Grassington called Verity and, as it was considered too far to travel on his BSA "Round Tank" motor bike, he lodged there. His room mate's personal hygiene left a lot to be desired, particularly the powerful aroma from his socks, so Dad stuck it out for a couple of weeks and then moved on to much more congenial digs.

It was a joinery and undertaking business and one of father's first tasks was to pick up the corpse of a suicide who had blown his brains out with a twelve bore shotgun. Accompanied by the Boss he took a handcart and clambered up to the "baulks" (first floor) of the barn where this unhappy event had occurred. On seeing the deceased the Boss immediately threw up and then fled the premises. Undeterred, Father put a rope around the deceased threw it over a beam and gently lowered the corpse on to the hand cart waiting below. Throwing an old tarpaulin over, he then dragged the cart back to the workshop and set to making an appropriately sized box.

(...to be continued, but not on p8...)

Eldwick Gala

The field where the Gala is usually held is being re-seeded, and is out of use for a while. The gala is still going ahead on

Saturday 25th June, but will be held in the hall and the car park. In view of this please note that the club will *not* be taking part in the gala this year.

Woodfest 2011

Dave Wortley sent this report and an email he received:

Woodfest saw ten members of the club in Wales for the bank holiday. The windy Thursday afternoon and evening saw one of the marquees get launched doing over £2,000's worth of damage and things didn't look much better on the weather front on the Friday when we gathered to set up the three lathes and the display.

The festival has to be seen to be believed - there were three rings devoted to chainsaw carving alone. Many woodturning clubs were present but I think that I can safely say that The West Riding area saw the greatest activity. Three lathes and six tables of work on display is quite an impressive sight and many people commented on the skill of the work which was on show. The three lathes which were brought by Eric Webster, Mike Briggs and Brian Scott were kept running for the three days and many of the public's questions were answered and interest shown.

The weather could have been better but it only rained in very short showers and the massive crowds that attended on the new site were entertained to the full. On the Saturday afternoon I asked Ian Taylor if he felt like getting some lunch and on our way to the burger van Ian took a detour through the food marquee. He had a try at this and a quick bite at that and some pickle and crackers from another stall and the full list of Ian's Saturday lunch menu can be found on page 8 (and possibly some of page 9).

Barbara Webster helped to sell items on the charity stall and Olga Scott was there to help us as well. Chris Thorburn was busy on the Saturday and Monday and I think I heard tell that he was at a wedding on the Sunday. Chris Clarke and Robin McDermott travelled down to Wales for the Monday and replaced Ian and Dave.

If you get the chance to go and help the club at these events I am sure that you will come back having enjoyed yourself. The company is great and the chance to share your enthusiasm with others of like mind makes the journey well worthwhile.

Dave

Hello Dave, we met you at the Wood Fest in St Asaph North Wales a few weeks ago, my son George was fascinated with what you do, not sure if you remember him, he is a triplet, and you made a box, and gave it him, you made a young man very happy, your stand was fantastic, and your work is amazing! George came home and Googled local classes, and there is one in Sychdyn near Mold, the last Thursday of the month, so he wants to attend that. He has saved £80 towards his Lathe already, he is so keen. Thank you once again, for being so patient with George, you and your friends were a pleasure to meet.

Kind regards,

Ali x