



Woody's World

4th April 2024



Natural Edge Bowls

Please read sections at end of newsletter re bringing pieces of your work for the Daventry Show & the change of date for May's meeting.

*First, a joke for the grandchildren – punchline at the end of the newsletter.
“What do you call a rooster looking at a lettuce?”*

Our newly elected Chair Nick Milton kicked off the year with a demonstration of how to turn a natural edge bowl. Often mis-described as 'live edge', a natural edge piece is one where the turner retains some of the tree's bark in the final design, the outer layers of which are dead rather than 'live'.



As you will read later on, the bark can come loose & fly off a turning piece. Please ensure you are using adequate PPE to protect your face & eyes when turning a natural edge. Also consider standing to the side of the firing line.

Nick began by preparing his piece of Pear wood for the lathe. The bark makes mounting the piece more of a challenge than normal so a few tips to ensure a safe & secure connection when using the following:

1. Screw chuck.

You need to ensure that the hole for the screw chuck is the right size. Measure the core (not the thread) of the screw with callipers to select the correct drill bit.

Using a flat bit or similar to remove the bark where the screw will meet the wood to help provide a stable connection, see image below.

Ensure the hole is drilled deep enough for the screw otherwise it will bottom out, stripping the thread on the wood & making a poor connection. Use a little wax on the screw to help.



2. Face plate or Glue chuck

As with the screw chuck, remove enough bark so that the face plate can be screwed securely on to solid wood. Follow the same procedure with a glue chuck so that the glue has a solid base to adhere to.

Mount the piece on to the lathe & use the tail stock for safety & balance. Double check your face & eye protection.

Get the piece turning & create a spigot – a small debate ensued regarding preferences for male or female...but each to their own...create a dovetail to fit the chuck.



Make the base slightly concave so that it will sit nicely when finished.

Due to the grain orientation of the piece that will end up as a bowl, begin roughing the with a Bowl gouge – not a “Spindle” Roughing gouge, it’s not a spindle!

Finish the outside to the desired shape.

A great tip at this point is to use a piece of pipe lagging to hold the abrasive to keep your fingers away from the heat caused by friction. There can be a fair bit of ‘sanding’ & sudden heat in the abrasive hurts! Continue through the grits interspersed with coats of sanding sealer, denibbed & next grit.



Final finish should be Danish Oil rather than wax which will become encrusted within the rough bark areas.

Please read safety instructions regarding cloths used for Danish Oil. They must be dried & stored or disposed of correctly to avoid spontaneous combustion & risk of fire spreading - be cautious.

Mount the spigot in to the chuck & begin to hollow. You could use a forstner bit initially to take out the bulk & speed up the process. Check depth & mark accordingly – remembering to hold the chuck when withdrawing the forstner bit to ensure it remains firmly in the tail stock.



Design the piece as required but consider leaving a wider rim to show off the bark – the natural edge – & undercut to reduce the thickness of the bowl.

We had a quick discussion re the stability of bark on different woods. It was advised that the bark of Cherry & Beech can be liable to ping off more as the wood seasons. Acacia & Ash bark generally stays on.

If the bark begins to come off as it is turned, you can use sanding sealer or CA glue to help stabilise it & secure any loose sections.

Thanks for a great demo Nick and sharing some of the key points in turning a natural edge bowl.



Daventry Woodturning Show

Tudor Rose Woodturners in Daventry are holding their show on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th May. The show is free entry so please consider going along.

We will have a stand at the show & need examples of your work to show off the skills of our club members – we'd like a great display!

Please bring 3 to 5 pieces of your work along to our next meeting on Thursday 9th May.

Please pack your pieces in a suitable box and stick a small label with your name to the base of each piece so we know who to give them back to!

Details for the show as follows – free entry & good range of suppliers
Woodturning Show Friday 10th May & Saturday 11th May
Daventry Leisure Centre. Lodge Road. Daventry. NN11 4FP

Forthcoming Club Meetings

Meetings normally are on the first Thursday in the month except when there are elections. Meetings start at **7pm** in Offchurch Village Hall.

Note below, May meeting now Thurs 9th may due to elections.

| Date 2024/25 | Topic | Demonstrator |
|--|---|--------------|
| 9th May <u>Changed from 2nd May due to elections</u> | Hands on: Tool sharpening <u>Bring your own tools</u> | |
| 6 th June | Viv Harvey – visiting demonstrator from Weedon Club | Viv Harvey |
| 4 th July | Woodpecker door knocker | Dave Simms |
| 1 st Aug | Hands on: tbc / maybe Skew | |
| 5 th Sept | Open evening | |
| 3 rd Oct | tbc | |
| 7 th Nov | Off centre turning | Nick Milton |
| 5 th Dec | Festive decorations | Dave Simms |
| 2 nd Jan | Social tbc | |
| 6 th Feb | tbc | |
| 6 th March | AGM | |

Committee 2024/25

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|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Chairman | Nick Milton | nick.milton5@ntlworld.com |
| Vice Chairman | Paul Liggins | paul.liggins@ntlworld.com |
| Secretary | Steve Jennings | 01295 812147 stevejennings070@btinternet.com |
| Membership Sec. | Paul Liggins | paul.liggins@ntlworld.com |
| Treasurer | Andy Smith | 01789 612649 / 07865 938850 Andrewrewsmith1125@outlook.com |
| Editor | Mike Widmer | 07484 270479 m.widmer@btinternet.com |

Joke Punchline
“A chicken sees a salad”