



Cheam Woodturners Association

Associated with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Twinned with Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association



By Roger Marsden

April 2015

Au naturel demonstration

Making natural edge vessels from wet wood was the subject chosen by John Plater in March. Richard Hoodless reports



Left: John with large platter.
Below: 50p coin emphasises size. Above: an unusual piece which raised many eyebrows!

First John described and showed examples of the various types of vessel he makes — cross-grain bowls from half a log or piece of branch wood, end grain bowls and vases from branch wood and crotch wood.

For his demonstration he mounted a half-log piece, with the corners removed, between centres having drilled a hole in the bark end to match the diameter of the Stebcentre so that it has a flat surface to bed down on.

With a bowl gouge he started to turn the bark end of the blank to a circular shape and then continued to remove wood from the bottom of the bowl using a

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We look forward to seeing you all on April 15

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normal bowl turning technique.

A dovetail spigot was cut on the bottom and the piece mounted in O'Donnell jaws with the tailstock brought up for support. The outside shape was refined using shear scraping.

Next John started to hollow out the vessel starting from the centre using a bowl gouge with a swept-back grind. The tool rest was set at 45 degrees to the work piece to give more support to the tool. Cutting was continued from the outer edge into the centre using a smaller gouge to complete the hollowing while ensuring the wall thickness was consistent for the whole of the vessel.

For a deep bowl a scraper is used to clean up the bottom of the inside.

The piece is left to dry slowly in a cool place for about three months after which it can be sanded both outside and inside.

For sanding the outside a right-angle drill with either 2in or 3in diameter sanding discs is used and for the inside a Kirjes inflatable dome sander is used, the lathe being turned by hand in both cases.

Osmo or Treatex hard wax oil is used for finishing and when the oil is dry a bristle brush is used to buff up the surface. For soft woods sanding sealer and a wax is used for finishing.



Above: John in full demo mode!

Below: More large works attracted great interest during the tea break



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