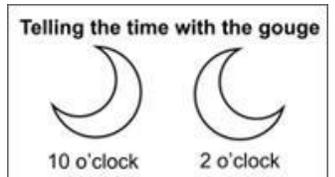




## SHORT REVIEW...

The Exuberant Les Thorne gave an excellent demonstration making his textured 'curly top' box. Les is accomplished at keeping us informed of what he is doing, the tools and how he uses them, plus general information on woodturning. The techniques discussed here can be found on Les' DVD "No Turning Back".

Les started with an ash blank with the corners cut off to speed roughing a cylinder, divided the piece into two for the lid and the base (the lid being larger than the base for this box). He parted off the base then hollowed out and rough shaped the lid, demonstrating the advantages and disadvantages of pull or push cuts for hollowing - showing us the angles by talking about the clock face - where the pull cut is made with the gouge at 10 o'clock and the push at 2 o'clock. He uses a spindle gouge with ground back wings so it doesn't catch. He reminded us to make smaller cuts to get a better finish. Les finished off by roughly shaping the outside and then hollowed out the base. He then fitted the lid back on with a tight fit secured with masking tape before shaping the lid, first by turning to get the right curve then removing the surplus wood with a power tool and sanding burr.



The outside of the box was then turned to a general finish, using v-cuts to define the parameters for texturing and cutting a small step on the join.

The texturing was done with a Decorating Elf ball burr, covering the whole surface without leaving any flats. A rotary sanding bristle brush (3M) was used to clean the textured surface and the flat part was sanded before spraying the whole piece with ebonising spray. This was sanded back to reveal the natural wood and coloured with Chestnut spirit stains of various colours merged and brightened with a final coat of yellow.



The lid was given a final fit to the base by sanding with 320 and 400 grit (turn the sanding strip over to give a final burnish). The spigot on the base was removed using a jam chuck and the piece should be finished off with 3 coats of lacquer.

This rounded up a very entertaining evening where even if we didn't want to create an identical piece there was plenty of information on techniques to keep us happy.

Les finished off by reminding us about his DVD and also told us about the classes at his workshop where, if a group of 5 wanted to book together, he could offer a special rate of £50 each.

A longer, more detailed version of this review can be found on [our website](#).



## THIS MONTH...

**On 21st March** we're looking forward to the return of Mark Baker RPT (editor of Woodturning Magazine). He is planning to demonstrate a supported vessel, i.e. a project that does not have an integral base - something like a bowl and base or hollow form / box and base and a couple of other things related to this subject.

## RAFFLE...

**We have 2 star prizes** this month - Mark Baker, this month's demonstrator, is donating a year's subscription to Woodturning Magazine (if the winner already has this they can choose books from GMC publications to the equivalent value). We also have a copy of Les Thorne's DVD together with his curly top box, plus other prizes - excellent value for the price of a raffle ticket at just £1.00 each.

**We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 21st March**

## ON THE TABLE...



## PENMAKING DEMONSTRATION...

**W L West**, timber merchants in Petworth, who stock parts for penmaking, are holding a penmaking demonstration on Saturday 17th March by Derek Blake, 'the **Pompey Penmaker**'. It will be held at their premises - Selham, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0PJ from 9.00am - 1.00pm. For more information [see their website](#).

## CLUB FUNDS..

**One of the issues** raised by members at the open forum after the AGM was how to use funds held by the club to benefit members. Your committee has discussed this and propose that the fairest way to resolve this will be to examine the bank balance at the end of this year and adjust the annual subscription accordingly for next year. This way all the members can benefit.

## CLUB SHOP...

**We are pleased to announce** that due to demand, from this month we are increasing shop stock with new products including 500ml tins of Chestnut Sander sealer and Thinners and an antibacterial chopping board oil from Rustins. These will be available at a considerable discount from the usual online and shop prices elsewhere.

## NEW PRODUCT TEST...

**Cheam Woodturners** have been asked to test a finish that is new to the UK market. It is called Beeplenish Finishers Formula, a natural beeswax finish which has a high content of New Zealand honey.

We will be asking for 5 volunteers to test this product and bring in their work for the April meeting. We also ask that you complete a short questionnaire on your use of the product. If you are interested in taking part, please see David on Club night.

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 21st March

## CLUB EVENTS...

As mentioned at last month's meeting the club are taking part in several events during the summer. Sheets will be available again at this month's meeting for those wishing to sign up to take part.

The **Belmont Festival** is Sunday 15 July starting at 12.00 and ending at 17.00 and Belmont village will be closed to traffic on that day. This event is being organised by **Brian Ash**.

**Trevor Etherington** will be organising the **Ashted Village Day** being held on Saturday 9th June (we need more takers for this) and **Tony Bryan** is organising the **Grange Craft Fair** on Saturday 14th July.

## COLLECT 2012...

The **Crafts Council COLLECT** - Contemporary Objects Art Fair - is in its 4th year at the Saatchi Gallery on 11-14th May. It consists of 31 of the world's finest international galleries including Sarah Myerscough who will be showcasing the work of the international wood artist Ernst Gamperl:

*"Ernst Gamperl is a turner whose virtuosity hits you straight in the eye. His wooden bowls are so thin and so transparent that you can hardly believe they are actually made of wood at all. Ernst has the capacity to make this most familiar of materials unrecognisable, astonishing." (Michele de Lucchi, Architetct and Designer)*

You can **book and save money** on the tickets which are £10 each purchased in advance (before 10 May) or £15 on the door (£10 concessions).

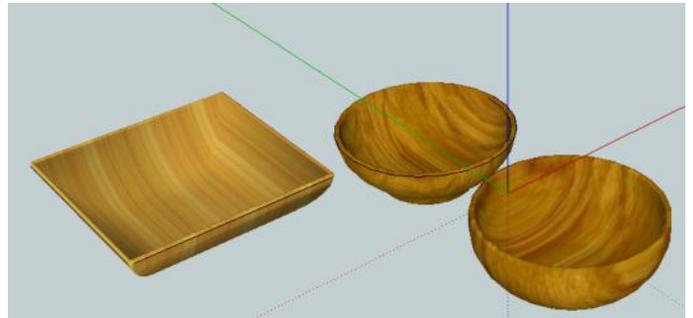


### Record Lathe:

**Our Record DML 305 lathe and stand together with tools and chuck** is currently available from this month onwards. To borrow the lathe please let Brian Ash have your details (phone: 0208 642 8108, email: [brianash@virginmedia.com](mailto:brianash@virginmedia.com)) by the week prior to the next meeting. Remember that it will be needed for various demonstrations during the summer months so take advantage of it while it is available. To comply with the Club insurance, the kit has to be signed in and out again each month.

## FREE CAD PROGRAM FOR USE BY WOODTURNERS ...

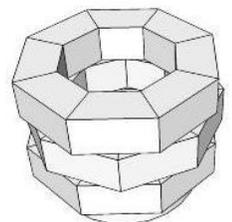
**Google SketchUp** is a powerful, versatile 3D drawing program, which can be used by woodworkers to create accurate plans of their work and it works for woodturners too, particularly if you enjoy working on the computer.



It allows you to refine the shape of a spindle or vessel on the computer without wasting time or wood and is useful for making accurate plans for segmented turnings. What's more it's absolutely free from Google and is accompanied by a multitude of videos and downloadable tutorials to help you on your way. It is recommended that you work your way through at least some of the tutorials to get the feel of the program and how the tools work.

It may take a while to get used to the 3D way of viewing your work on the colour coded axes.

You should convert the shapes you draw in to 'components' which are individual objects that need to be saved in order to manipulate them without distorting the entire drawing, for example a turned lidded box needs to be made of 2 individual components for the lid and the box or you can't separate them.



There is a website ([turnedoutright.com](http://turnedoutright.com)) dedicated to Woodturning with SketchUp which offers help and advice plus a downloadable 52 page illustrated book (\$10.99).

Sketchup can be used for planning segmented turning but it isn't necessarily the best, although as it is free it's a good starting point.

Find out more about this product, view the tutorials and download it from [sketchup.google.com](http://sketchup.google.com).

**Submissions** for next month's e-shot should be sent to **Hilary** by 6th April

March 2012

## TRIP TO SOUTH EAST WOODWORKING SHOW

The group who went by coach or under their own steam to Detling on Saturday 10th March appeared to enjoy the trip. However it soon became obvious that the attempt to organise a group photo - meeting around Greg Moreton at 11.00 - was clearly over-ambitious and below is a collage of the photos David Buskell managed to take of club members he was able to spot (apologies to those missing faces - you should have been there at 11.00!). There was enough to keep us occupied, with several interesting demonstrations, including Mark Baker, who we look forward to welcoming next week, Mick Hanbury, Jennie Starbuck and Greg Moreton. Turners Retreat, Robert Sorby and others provided sufficient temptation to spend. Additionally the trip to Axminster, just up the road, provided more opportunities to lighten our wallets.



### NEXT MONTH...

In April we have a practical evening, details to be announced. If there are any areas you would like the club to be covering on these practical evenings please let **Bob Higgins** know.

### ON THE TABLE (PS)...

We are going to try re-introducing the practice of putting slips of paper on the table so members can identify their work - this will help if we want to put any pictures on the website. Name, type of wood and dimensions would be useful.

### ST MARYS CHURCH OAK...

**Gordon Cookson** reports that he has been in touch with St Marys Church and they are pleased to have sold almost everything that we produced and are very happy with the result. They are hoping to let us know soon the amount they have raised. They commented that the things that were most popular were where they showed indications of the source e.g. where it was obvious the piece was part of the tenon.

If you have any comments, corrections, or items to add, please contact e-shot editor Hilary - [hsinclair@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hsinclair@blueyonder.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 21st March