

February 2016 Meeting - Eric Simonds

Eric's wife told him she was going to get him a bird box to put on his workshop and he said he did not want one of those square boxy things. He was told to make one himself - the outcome was the flat car tyre box. When other people saw it they asked if he could make them one and that was when "Out of the Woodwork" was born, about 4 years ago. Since then he has made a number of bespoke bird boxes and been to a number of prestigious shows with his boxes.



His presentation was about the process and he had videoed himself in his "small" workshop. Many of us would like a workshop as small as Eric's! He stated that always his first consideration was Health & Safety when in his workshop and the most used equipment in his workshop are the various dust extractors.



It all starts with for him the most important stage, the drawings—all the angles must be calculated and be correct. When cutting the parts everything is cut accurately, he uses digital angle setters to ensure blades are set to the right angles. Gluing up is also done carefully and a lot of time is spent on making jigs so that gluing up is done accurately.

Most of the actual boxes are made from segmented parts or staves and these are biscuit jointed. The finish he uses is usually Tung Oil on bare wood and on painted wood he uses Tetrasyl lacquer.



This was a very interesting insight into Eric's methodology and very well presented demonstration.

Some pictures of Eric's bird boxes follow.

