

September 2012 **TURN EAST 2012**

This is a biennial event organised by Norfolk Woodturners Society and this year it was held on 18th August at Fakenham High School. The facilities are very good, a large hall with exhibition and trade stands and separate demonstration rooms. The format is similar to that of the AWGB Seminar where there are a number of demonstrations running simultaneously and you select which ones you wish to watch and go and find a seat or if you are late arriving at the room you may have to stand.

This year NWS had lined up four turners - Bob Chapman, Mark Sanger, Jason Breach and Richard Findley. Of the four I attended demonstrations by the first three, the subjects on offer by Richard Findley did not hold much interest for me. I have seen Bob Chapman before and like his style, but I was most impressed by Mark Sanger both by his turning and his presentation style. Jason Breach is a good turner but his presentation style is a bit off-putting. With the Malcolm Fox Competition in mind I went to box making demonstrations.

I started with Mark Sanger making an Offset Lidded Form, the photos show the finished piece that Mark brought along. The piece is turned as a bowl and the top burr piece let into the top so that it sits like a lid just below the rim. This is then glued into place, the opening to the form (designed to be purely decorative and certainly not functional) is made small and off-centre. The lid is a small piece of African Blackwood, a bead, and another piece that has been cut out on a bandsaw, textured, burnt and stained. The texturing on the bowl was achieved by branding the piece with a shape in the form of a 6, it was then stained.



Some more images of Marks work



The next demo I attended was with Jason Breach and he made a very simple box with flowing curves. This was just as it says a very simple box with concave sides and a flat top. Jason was using this to show how he achieves the fit of the top and the procedure he uses to make boxes.



After lunch I went along to Bob Chapman's demonstration where he made an Acorn Box. He started by making the top first from a dark piece of wood, hollowing out and cutting a recess for the bottom part to fit into. The bottom of the acorn was made from a piece of Holly which was hollowed out and fitted tightly into the top. The top held by the bottom part was finished off and a small hole drilled to take the stalk. The bottom was then fitted onto a jam chuck and the end rounded and finished. The stalk was then glued in the top.



The final demo that I went to was Jason Breach turning a Bubble Lid Box, the title interested me but it did not live up to my expectation. The explanations and turning were very good but the box was rather boring, my wife has a large cooking pot with a lid that looks very similar in shape.



The following photos show the pieces exhibited at the seminar and a general shot of the trade stands and if you look in the centre of the photo you may recognise our Secretary busy selling his wares.

