



## North London Woodturners

**Spring 2018  
Edition 6**



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### Editors Comments

**Well now we are in our new premises and on the 21st March it will be our 3rd meeting there I think we can all agree that its going pretty well with no hickups or hangups. The great advantage is that we have a reasonably sized store room which can accommodate our new lathe with room for more lathes plus the screen and hopefully in time a projector system . The hall is vast - all we need are new members, which is slowly happening now. We have lost three members through resignations but have also also gained 3 or 4 new members since the move**

**So we welcome .....  
Bob Elsdale ; Willaim Upsdale; and Cliff Wragg  
as new members to the club. Also Emmanuel Tomking, Rachel Brown and Laura Harrold as guests**

### Dates for your diary 2018 Programme

**At the club :-**  
**April 18th : Garry Rance**  
**May 16th : Members evening -**  
**Brian Tidmarsh .- Xmas Decorations ?**

**Outside the club**  
**7th April - Mark Sanger : All day event at Herefordshire Woodturners [ see Revolutions p9 ]**  
**11th & 12 April Woodturners@Daventry ; Daventry Leisure Centre**  
**30th June - 1st July UK & Ireland Woodturning Symposium Hilton Hotel Coventry**  
**5-7th October AWGB International Woodturning Seminar Stone Staffordshire**

### Website

**[www.northlondonwoodturners.co.uk](http://www.northlondonwoodturners.co.uk)**  
Lots of interesting stuff on it - take a look

**Please** send me your images, ideas, experiences - good & bad, designs, tools bought & sold, wood locations anything that might interest members.

# Profile - Tom Heinersdorff



Tom is an interesting man with a varied and colourful background, but the main reason I chose to profile Tom Heinersdorff is to show what can be achieved in a workshop you can hardly swing a cat in. As can be seen from the image, it's  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a small garage with an up & over door which in itself takes up a lot of room. The problem is, that in Hampstead Garden Suburb you can't even put a shed up in your garden without consent from the planners which is never given. However despite the restrictions in size and space. Tom has produced some lovely and interesting work.

How did you get into turning ? is usually my first question .. In Tom's case the answer was amazing and unusual. At the time, Tom lived in a house with a large garden which he and his partner, Joan, opened to the public. A very large lady sat on their bench which folded on wooden dowel pins ... Crash, down she went as one of the pins snapped. It was no ordinary pin and had to be re-made. Tom already being a cabinet maker enthusiast, had his contacts and bought a Record lathe (made 20 years earlier) in a sale, taught himself to turn a spindle just to remake the broken pin. And then he looked at what else he could make on his £200 investment. He still uses the same lathe today. You might say his interest in turning is down to an overweight large lady and a rotten garden bench!

His training was a 2 day course 2 years ago plus 1 day with Terry.

So far he has used mainly green wood (though he has a huge stash of seasoned wood). He has no trouble finding new shapes because he prefers to form his blanks on the

lathe and then says he goes where the wood takes him. He says he enjoys learning from clubmates, and credits George and Ghenadi with having taught him how to use brass as an inlay decoration or filler of holes. He is experimenting with glass-clear polyester resin to produce waterproof vases, but is mainly limited in what he can make by a 1/3 HP lathe with a 9" diameter maximum bowl size. And by his use of too much sandpaper and tools that aren't sharp enough.



*Distorted shape of wood by Ernst Gamperl*

A year ago Tom & I [David Gerrard] went to the V&A to hear a lecture given by Ernst Gamperl, a German “wood artist” who turns wet oak very quickly and very thin. His work is massive and mainly hollow form.[ see image] The idea is it should distort and find its natural shape. If Tom were to admire the work of a master turner it would be Gamperl. In fact one of his



favourite turnings inspired by that lecture (and suggested by Ghenadi) is a thin wet turning of a small piece of eucalyptus, which lost 50% of its starting weight before ending up like this.

Tom’s life-long ambition has been to work with wood, but, other than home DIY, he had previously found little time and no space. Not surprising given that he moved between his 26 previous homes in

a career of managing businesses internationally and in the UK. Now fully retired, his tiny dedicated workshop still needs him to dismantle his lathe to build furniture or make shelves, but Tom can devote all the time he chooses.

His parents were of Jewish background and like so many Immigrant refugees they came to England around the last war to start a new life in London, where he was born.

He now has left the stress of work behind, his 3 children all live independently and Tom lives with his partner in East Finchley, coincidentally very close to where he grew up in Barnet. His main other recreation is grandparenting ... which like his turning (he tells me) is work in progress.





# **Demonstration : Feb 21st**

## **Kevin Hutson**



### **Kevin Hutson on the New Lathe**

#### **Project a pair of candlesticks**

**Our new lathe got its first serious outing at the demonstration by Kevin Hutson He turned the candlestick stem out of American Ash, and effectively made a tenon out of the spigot. He then turned a square section very thin with the four corners to stand on . The tenon spigot plugged into the base as a perfect fit.**

**He used a grinder with buffing wheels to sharpen or hone the edges of his gouges razor sharp.**

**Kevin signature style is square bowls turned very thin as well as “flat vases” two of which can be seen in the background. The vase made in two halves are turned very thin with the spigot on the inside of each half when the pair are glued together**

**A third piece which he didn't have time for was the base - similar to the base of the candle sticks**

# **Visits to Middlesex Turners**

## **5th February & 13th March**

**Jeff Hyams & I paid a visit to Middlesex turners, by invitation to see their club and maybe pick up some useful ideas for ourselves. Their club had also just moved to new premises due to building work at the old location**

**Like us, they lost a few members due to the move and went down from over 90 to 76 members ! They are still a large thriving club, now located in North Harrow with several professionals as members.**

**It was a “workshop” evening and as such they had six lathes in use by anyone who wanted to try their hand and get advice from experienced turners in the club.**

**At every meeting - which is on the 2nd Tuesday of each month - they have a competition for work turned by experienced members & also by newcomers. There is a prize in each category, usually a billet of kiln dried timber + a small item.**

**They also have what they claim to be the largest specialized wood turning library in the UK with probably 100 books by well known turners. There is also a separate tray for books for sale.**

**At the February visit we still didn't have a working lathe, as the lathe which was delivered from Axminster for the our February demo arrived with a bent spindle and had to be returned. However Axminster had another lathe at Basingstoke, but wouldn't deliver it, so Jeff and Brian collected it ( after having ir checked out ) on the Monday prior to the club night event.**

**Middlesex club kindly lent us a lathe for the Feb demo which will be returned before their own next meeting. So we are down to two lathe at the club.**

**As a follow up we also went to the 13th March meeting which was a demo on Ornamental turning given by one of their own members. It really is a specialized subject with very complex lathes and jigs. Not for everyone, but interesting nevertheless.**

# Adding a brass ring to a bowl

by George Hampson

Last year I decided to try adding a brass inlay ring to an otherwise very plain bowl. I was surprised how easy it was. I went on to use the same technique to fill cracks and knotholes in other bowls, and was very pleased with the results.

## Materials needed

The materials needed for brass inlay are relatively cheap, and are readily available

The first item needed is a small jar of *brass powder*. This can be obtained from most of the usual online suppliers of turning materials, including *Toolpost.co.uk* [150 g for £5.05 plus VAT], *Turners-retreat.co.uk* [200g for £8.45 incl VAT], or *Stilesandbates.co.uk* [129g for £9.20].

I



I prefer to get my powder from *Turners Retreat*, as it comes in a container with a nozzle which is very helpful in ensuring that the powder goes where it should. Other suppliers supply the powder in a simple plastic jar, in which case I use a spill made from a piece of folded card to pick up small quantities of powder and apply it [see above]

The other item needed is a supply of *cyanoacrylate glue* [“superglue”]. This is widely available from number of

suppliers, including those mentioned above. But it must be the *thin* variety, sometimes described as *penetrating*. I prefer to get mine from Toolpost as the thin *Starbond CA* glue from there comes with a fine nozzle to aid application [50g for £6.50 plus VAT]. If you buy glue without a fine nozzle, then it is worth buying something like *Flexitips* which consist of thin nozzles to fit most superglue bottles [see fig 1]

The powder goes a surprisingly long way. Although I bought extra in case I ran out, I am still using the first jar of powder, although I have been very profligate with the superglue and am already well down the second bottle.

## Procedure

The approach I took was to cut two shallow grooves near the edge of the bowl with a standard 3mm parting tool. I did this after completing the outside of the bowl, but before hollowing the inside. I did this so that the bowl would be as stable as possible when adding the brass ring,

The grooves were quite shallow, only about 2mm, so as not to weaken the side of the bowl. The grooves need to be close to horizontal to stop the powder running out. So, with the lathe switched off, I started at the top of the bowl putting powder carefully into the top 3 or 4 cm of the groove, and then adding a few drops of superglue to solidify it. I then moved the bowl round slightly to bring the next 3 or 4 cm of the groove to the top, and then repeated the process of adding powder followed by a few drops of superglue, and kept repeating this process until the entire groove had been filled with brass powder.

*NB this process must be carried out in a very well ventilated workshop, as the fumes given off by the glue are very powerful.* I did it by the open door of my workshop and I wore my ventilated turning visor. I am not sure how good the filter in the visor was, but I felt better for wearing it

On checking the groove I found that the powder had settled when the glue was added, and so I went round again adding powder and gluing it in so that the brass stood a little proud of the surface of the bowl.

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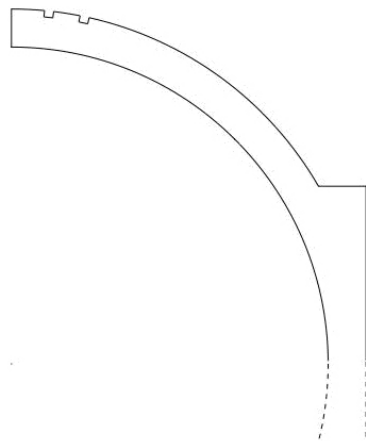
After a few minutes the glue had hardened. I then levelled the brass back down to the surface of the bowl using a freshly sharpened scraper. I had discovered on the internet that HSS tools as used for woodturning could also be used to turn solid brass, so this was no problem.

I did not use abrasive to smooth down the brass as I had already discovered that the wood abrades much faster than the brass, and it was therefore impossible to get a flat surface that way.

## Fig 2: Preparing the bowl

When I checked the bowl after scraping I saw that there were still a few places around the ring where the brass did not entirely fill the groove. I went round again adding powder and glue as needed [slightly overfilling the gaps], and again used the scraper to level the brass with the surface of the bowl.

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It was then possible to finish the outside of the bowl by sanding up to 1200 grit to get a good finish on both wood and metal, and then adding several coats of Chestnut Hard Wax Oil.

The bowl was then completed in the normal way. I discovered that the wood did move slightly as I hollowed it out; not a lot but enough to have prevented me using a scraper on the outside if I had left the process of adding the brass rim until this stage.







North London Woodturners



## SWOP SHOP

**Got any tools, hand or powered that you no longer need, someone may be grateful for them, Bring them for sale to boost the club funds or you may want to swop for one of yours.**

**This month we have a router and some hollow form tools on offer.**

## BOOK STALL AND LIBRARY

**Got any books, DVD's, magazines on woodturning or related subject - We can sell them or start a library. Bring them too**



**Lets raise some money for the club and at the same time maybe get a tool which you fancy**