



Multi Centre Creations by Colin Smith

In June the club welcomed Colin Smith, the south east area representative of the AWGB. Colin began by talking about the AWGB and the pros and cons of being either an affiliated or associated club. We came to the conclusion that our club would be best served by remaining as an affiliated club.

Colin then began his practical demonstration, the first part of which concentrated on multi centre turning. His display of lovely work included a collection of earring stands in the form of ladies and it was one of these which was the first project. Colin mounted an olive blank between centres using Chronos crown centres. These are similar to steb centres but Colin feels they are better quality and very reasonably priced.



The blank was roughed to round using a continental style shallow spindle gouge and the chucking area marked off with a thin parting tool. The majority of the turning for the skirt and bodice was done between centres. The base of the skirt was roughly 50mm. Colin turned away some of the excess wood at the top but left enough to move the work off centre. He marked the proportions and formed the skirt into the waist. The waist was about 12mm. He used a parting tool to get the angle from the bodice into the waist and checked the shape. Colin made a finishing cut from the bodice into the waist and down to the base. Sanding would be done to 600 then a melamine lacquer applied. This was a good base for Colin's wax finish, a mix of 75% carnauba and 25% beeswax. He melts this together and pours into paper cake cases ready for use. It makes a good finger resistant finish. Colin applied it gently with the lathe running then increased the speed to buff it. For the next stage Colin moved the tail centre over by about 5mm and mounted the base in the chuck. The position of the tail centre would determine the front and back of the piece so he selected the best grain area for the front of the skirt. Looking for the ghosting whilst turning, Colin worked into the neck area from either side. He reduced the head area a little leaving enough to blend into the neck later. He then cut a concave curve either side of the bust and a convex curve over the bust. He cut carefully into the neck area about 10mm in diameter, shear scraping under the chin. This area was then finished as before but the sharp edge of the bodice was taken off by hand using abrasive. Colin then loosened the chuck slightly and moved the tail centre back by half towards the original centre and tightened everything up before turning the head. He checked the shape which could be adjusted by moving the tail centre. Colin then blended the head into the neck and finished this area as before. Mounting a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock, Colin drilled a 5mm hole 5mm deep in the head ready for the hat then readjusted the work in the chuck to the true centre ready to part off with a slight concave cut.



Before cutting right through, Colin took the angle off the skirt base using a point tool. The base was then cleaned up. To make the hat, Colin used a piece of purple heart and turned a chucking spigot and mounted it in the chuck. He turned a simple coolie shape then put in a v cut about 3mm from the edge for the line of holes which he drilled using a handheld 12V drill with a 1.5mm bit supporting his hands on the tool rest. Colin then cut a 5mm spigot using a parting tool and parted the work off. To finish and buff, Colin had a purpose made nylon jig with a slot in it which could be tightened in the chuck to hold the hat. Finally the hat was inserted into the head.



Drilling the holes

Continuing with the off centre theme, Colin's next project was a candlestick. He mounted a yew log between centres, removed as much bark as possible then roughed it out turning a chucking point at one end. The work was mounted in the chuck and Colin turned the top then, using a saw tooth bit in a chuck as before, drilled a hole for a candle cup. Using another jig turned from nylon fitted in the cup Colin turned the outer cup area, sanded and finished it. The tail centre was positioned in the true centre of the jig but next Colin moved it to a new position about 8mm away. With the speed turned down he looked for the ghosting and then turned the next section to the collar blending it in. This area was then sanded and finished. The work was then moved across to the third



Candle cup jig, side and end

tailstock position. Working very carefully to start, Colin removed excess timber then shaped the base alternating between convex and concave shapes to achieve a good balance. He removed any sharp edges by hand and again sanded and finished. The work was repositioned back to the original true centre and the base finished. Colin added some decoration by burning three rings around the base then parted the candlestick off. Finally he used melamine lacquer and buffed it to finish.

For the last project Colin showed us how to turn a box with a finial lid and a textured surface. He used a sycamore blank which was roughed to round and marked into 1/3rds and chucking spigots turned on each end. The base third was parted off and mounted in the chuck then drilled out following the same techniques as before. Colin then hollowed it out using a Simon Hope hollowing tool and a scraper to achieve a parallel side. The bottom was radiused then Colin sanded all the inside using abrasive wound round a slotted stick. He then finished the outside and using copper wire, burnt two decorative rings, one about 8mm from the bottom and the other 6mm from the top.. Colin then mounted the lid section in the chuck and roughly shaped the top. He then turned the lid spigot to fit the base and put the base on. Having done this he could turn the outside of the lid to match the base. Colin then made a v cut on the join and burnt a ring on the join and another 6mm away on the lid to match the base. He removed the base to continue shaping the top then replaced the base bringing up the tailstock for finishing the finial. Colin showed us how he adapted a worn out spindle gouge for turning beads He had ground it at an angle of 45° and rocked it on the tool rest to cut the bead. He marked the area with a pencil and as soon as the pencil mark disappeared the bead was formed. A v cut was made below the bead and this was burnt. Colin then sanded to a high grit before locking the lathe and texturing with a Saburrtooth bit. He worked away from the burnt lines to keep the definition of the design. After texturing, the ragged bits can be removed with a fine brass brush with the lathe running. The box would then be finished as usual and melamine lacquer applied followed by Colin's wax preparation.

It was a very informative day and we picked up many useful tips and thank Colin for an enjoyable meeting.



Members' Work



Goblet by Brian Blanks



Natural edge form by Paul Filsell



Hollow form by Gareth Garner



Bowl by Jim Moger



Richard's entry for the BWOTY

Thank you to Brian Rowson and team for managing the audio visual system, Brian Pope for selling abrasives, Alan Capon for the drinks, David Spice for the library and everyone who helped with the setting up and clearing away

Useful Information

Chronos centres available from

www.chronos.ltd.uk

Saburrtooth bits available from John at

www.woodart-products.co.uk

July Meeting

21st July 10.00-4.00

Summer Competition and Barbecue.

Please bring your entries, a plate of food to accompany the meal and of course, your partners/friends.

A fun day with good food and company assured. Fingers crossed for good weather.

News

Richard Hasleden and Sandra Day both had pieces of work selected for the final of the British Woodturner of the Year Competition organised by The Guild of Master Craftsmen as part of the Celebrating British Craft Exhibition which took place at the Oxo tower in London. Their work was displayed at the event. Although they did not win, Richard achieved highly commended. Congratulations to both of them.

Chairman	Maggie Wright
Vice Chairman and Competition Secretary	Peter Castle
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	John Turner
Events organiser	Greg Collett
Librarian	David Spice
Newsletter editor	Sandra Day
A-V co-ordinator	Brian Rowson

www.wealdenwoodturners.org.uk

August Meeting

19th August 10.00-4.00

Hands on

Turning clocks with Robert Hollands

Please bring your tools and suitable wood if you have it.