



Hoping for Good Things

At the April meeting we welcomed Simon Hope. Having enjoyed a previous demo by Simon, expectations were high and we were not disappointed.

Simon began with a box project which included a brass ring and thread chasing using a jig designed and sold by his company. He mounted a piece of Tasmanian eucalyptus between centres, roughed it down and turned a chucking spigot on each end. Simon checked the wood for flaws before deciding which would be the top and bottom then parted it through. The next stage was the brass band. This was cut from a brass tube and mounted in the chuck. Brass is soft enough to work with turning tools particularly carbide cutting tools though Simon used a high speed steel gouge with a scraping action at low speed. As the edges were sharp, Simon chamfered them on the inside. To polish the ring, a drill chuck was mounted in the lathe chuck and a polishing mop fitted to it. If you have a Jacobs chuck with a draw bar, it can be fitted directly to the lathe as the draw bar will keep it secure.

Simon held the ring at about the seven o'clock position and working through the compounds and mops from coarse to fine. He also increased the speed from slow for the final polishing. Having achieved a good finish the band was replaced in the chuck by the lid section. The lid was then turned to accept the brass ring with a chamfer on the front edge. Simon scored the glueing area to accept the glue better. After checking the fit, Simon wiped the ring and gave it a light coat of lacquer to preserve its shine. Next he prepared the lid for chasing a female thread. He demonstrated his 8mm carbide tool which cuts on centre at 45 degrees. It is ideal for end grain work. The cut must be parallel with the bed bars, check by holding a straight edge against it. The inside edge was chamfered. Simon then ran thin superglue over the area to be chased to harden it before finishing the inside base. The finishing cut also removed any superglue runs. Simon then removed the chuck with the work still held in it.

The threading jig was set up, the chuck attached to it and the cutter mounted in the headstock. Simon then showed how the thread was cut. The chuck with the lid was then put back on the lathe and the outside finished with a small bead around the top of the ring, before parting off. The base section was mounted in the chuck and a spigot turned for the male thread to be cut. The spigot had to be measured and an offset added according to the tpi. Simon used a prototype vernier calliper which he is developing which automatically adds on the extra width. He turned a groove at the back and chamfered the front edge and hardened it with superglue. The chuck was then set up as before and the male thread cut, checking the fit of the lid. Once cut, Simon lubricated the threads with a wax/oil mix.



Simon setting up his threading jig.



The finished box

Having completed the thread, the chuck was remounted on the lathe and the box base shaped with a bead top and bottom and the central section the same size as the brass ring on the lid. Using a swept back spindle gouge, Simon drilled into the box and then shaped the inside. The work was then sanded through the grits and parted off. To finish the base Simon turned a jam chuck which was a very thin disc holding the box by compression. He shear cut the bottom and added a little detail. The box was to be finished with sealer or oil to bring out the colour. Finally the brass ring was fitted with epoxy resin. Chamfering the inside edge of the ring with a deburring tool prevented the glue from spreading out at the edges.

One advantage of the jig is that by using superglue to harden the wood, the jig will chase threads in common English hardwoods, not possible with hand chasers. It is however a big outlay for a hobby.

You may find the following links useful for similar projects. www.metals4u.co.uk brass and other metal tubes, rods and sheets etc. www.thepolishingshop.co.uk buffing wheels and compounds <http://www.woodart-products.co.uk/> handy lights and more, <https://hopewoodturning.co.uk> jigs and tools

After a quick coffee break Simon covered thread chasing by hand. Please refer to your October 2018 Newsletter for techniques. He then moved on to turn a platter with texturing and inlay work. Simon mounted a sycamore bowl blank and turned the chucking spigot and shaped the reverse using a swept back 3/8 bowl gouge with the rest low and the tool pointing up to centre. This cuts well but does not achieve a good finish so the base was finished with a detail tool. Simon then improved the finish by shear scraping with a gouge with a flat grind which had had the corners removed. Simon then demonstrated his texturing tool, showing the different effects achieved by positioning the wheel of the tool at different heights in relation to the centre. The work was then reversed and faced up for turning the inside. Simon marked the proportions of the bowl and rim following the golden rule. He then prepared a gutter for the resin inlay using a parting tool. To gauge the necessary quantities Simon filled the gutter with dry sand which he then tipped into a container, marked the level and then tipped the sand out. The resin was an inexpensive product sold for car bodywork repairs and the hardener is bought separately. The resin can be coloured with various additives which should be mixed before adding the hardener. Try to avoid introducing air bubbles during the mixing process. Simon then poured the resin into the channel around the rim and vibrated it on the lathe bed to lift any trapped air bubbles. He then put it to one side to harden ready for finishing. Whilst waiting, Simon demonstrated Paul Howard's Sphere turning jig, details of which can be found in the March 2018 newsletter. It was then time for the lunch break.

After lunch Simon showed us the Beall buffing system available from the Toolpost. This consists of three buffing wheels and compounds which are used in sequence for finishing.

Then it was time to get back to the platter. It was remounted and trued up very gently then the centre turned out. Simon sanded using a rotary sander and 1000 grade wire wool on the resin before laquering the work.

Simon's final project was a pepper mill in the shape of a fish and a handout was available with a plan for the dimensions. The blank was roughed down between centres and a division marked at rough proportions of 90/65. Simon then turned chucking spigots at each end and at the division, marked the grain alignment and parted off through the division. The two main sections were then prepared for the crush grind mechanism as per the handout. The outsides were shaped for the fish and blended done to the tail joint. Simon drilled and inserted a brass threaded rod into the end to give the joint strength before adding a blackwood ring for contrast.

The flat tail piece was mounted centrally between two chuck jaws but with the fins slightly unequal and the base end was turned very carefully avoiding contact with the fins. Simon then drilled it to accept the other end of the brass rod and glued that it on. Next Simon supported the work with a cone drive and finished the shaping. He then made a drilling jig to fit in the toolrest banjo for drilling the eyes on the head section. Lining up the grain and the tail section, the work was remounted and the eye sockets drilled. The eyes were African blackwood which Simon glued in and then turned the surplus away gently and sanded.

As the edges of the two moving parts of the grinder were quite sharp, Simon joined them with a piece of tissue between and using a skew chisel, cut a little chamfer either side of the join. The tissue kept the cuts central, a useful tip for other projects. Simon used a drum sander to add a little more shape to the tail and pressed the mechanism and parts together to finish the construction. The mill would then be finished with Danish oil.

Once again, a day of interesting projects, thank you Simon.

Thank you also to everyone in the club who helped with all the work throughout the day making it a successful meeting.



Members' Work



Toy car by Mike Pollard



Work by new member Anne Simpson



Segmented work with brass inlay by Gareth Garner



Ornamental turning by Maggie Wright



Square turning with natural edge by Gary Woodhouse



Lidded bowl by Paul Filsell



Bowl by Robert Hollands



Box by Marion Brunt

May Meeting

May 19th. 10.00am

Hands On Garden accessories.

Please bring your tools and any wood you have suitable for small/medium spindle projects

Date for the Diary

May 18th 10.00-3.00

Axminster tutor, Jason Breach, will be turning boxes at the Sittingbourne branch. Jason will be covering all aspects from wood selection, mounting, tool choice and finishing and will cover simple to more complex designs.

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

June Meeting

June 23rd 10.00am-4.00pm

Talk about the AWGB and demonstration by Colin Smith, AWGB South East rep.

Colin will be doing offcentre turning and boxes