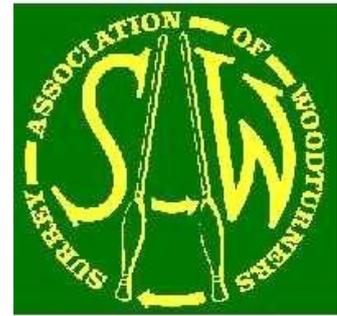


Surrey Association of Woodturners



LOTTERY FUNDED



Newsletter January 2020

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

New Members

Welcome to Mrs Kate Dawkins Member No. 791
Welcome to Mr Ian Lee Member No. 792
Welcome to Mr Steve Sutcliffe Member No. 793

PAID UP MEMBERSHIPS for 2020 are 76

(As of going to press)

Items for the Diary

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 21 st February | Ed Oliver | Professional Turner |
| 23 rd February | Workshop Day | Club Tuition |
| TBC | Princes Mead Shopping Centre | Club Demonstration |
| 13 th March | Les Thorne | Professional Turner |
| 22 nd March | Phil Irons Seminar | Professional Turner |

TOP TIP's and articles

If you have a tip or article to share please email it to Colin Spain at the address shown in contacts at back of this newsletter.

If a tip keep it short, and if we are happy with it, I will include it in one of the newsletters.

Thomas Anthony Purcell

It is with sadness we say goodbye to Tom he passed away on the 25th December. Tom had been a member since July 2002. A soft spoken man he was known for his joviality and his willingness to help and often turned up at shows to help clear away. He was presented with the Vic Burge trophy in 2012 in recognition of all the help he had given over the previous 10 years.



Charles Cunningham

Charlie sadly passed away on Saturday 18th January. He had been a member since January 1996. Last December club night he was quite unwell, and had only got his prognosis in early December. He knew that he had dire problems but seemed very philosophical about it. Jennie had a chance to have a chat with him on the night about his entries for the Open Day competition for which he did very well.

Charlie was a past member of the committee for 3 years. He also helped out with the judging the competitions.



John Sherwood with Charlie Judging.

Mike's Meditations from the lathe Chapter 7

As we start the New Year, I ask myself have I set any New Year revolutions (that's what my granddaughter calls them). No but here goes with my first two.

- 1) Do regular checks around the workshop.
- 2) Wear a dust mask or at least have the extractor on.

So, what have I found? When I wash out my paint brushes after my latest honeydew project (stands for honey do this job) I keep the wash spirits in an old milk bottle. Well I found the wash fluid this week some 3 years after I last lifted a paint brush. This will be disposed of at the dump next week. I also found several cans of paint that are no longer useable. Again, these will go to the dump for safe disposal. I checked the wiring; switches etc on several power tools and all were OK. I rewired the new greenhouse with a proper armoured cable from garage to greenhouse and fitted IP 65 rated sockets. Previously, they were metal boxes connected with a cable from the garage (say no more). My longer term plan is to have the garage/ workshop rewired professionally and future proofed.

As we went through the December, I had several opportunities to sell stuff with the consequence of a long list of items to refill stock. I ran out of wood for my laminated pepper mills so off to Surrey timbers. Up to now I have managed to turn from raffle wood or stuff from club buys or the tree surgeon's leftovers. What a shock even with the SAW discount. I plan to have a copy of the Styles and Bates Catalogue with me the next time I do an outside demo to show wood isn't cheap anymore.

I started my third mentoring programme with a new local turner. It was nice to go into a warm workshop rather than my thoroughly air-conditioned workshop. One of his problems was finishing with melamine lacquer. In the end, the main issue was the age and also the thickness of the neat lacquer. After thinning, most of the problems went away. However it is worth checking how old your finishing products are. Some polymerise with age (Tung oil products, melamine lacquer etc.) so if you are having finishing problems, solids appear from the can, stuff has gone yellow, be prepared to dispose of it (environmentally safely) and get some new stuff from the shop.



Thanks Sue and Mark for the picture

As many of you know, I go to Australia each year to see my son and his family who cannot travel to the UK. I also have a cousin near the Queensland border. His farm was hit with the recent fires and he lost about 20 % of his land to the fire but no loss of cattle or family. This fire burnt over 300000 acres of bush! The Rural Fire Service were great in dealing with the fire. His son brought out many friends to help manage cattle during the fire and later to rebuild fences etc.

It struck me that this is another side of our buddy system but it only works if we call on others to assist, we know who to ask or we know someone

who needs assistance. There will be more to follow up this theme in the next issue
Our AGM is now past and we have a new committee full of the same members. We will be looking for volunteers either to be co-opted or can volunteer some time to support the committee. The reports were well received.

Sadly, Tom Purcell and Charley Cunningham both past away during the last month and will be missed. Both played an active role in supporting the club, I for one will miss both of these generous gentlemen.

By Mike Spaven

Turner of the Year 2019



Very well done **Denis Findlay**. A cranking automaton.

This award is the culmination of the Club's Competition year and takes place during the second half of the December Practical Night. Only pieces receiving a sufficiently high mark in one of the three Club Competition events are eligible for entry. Judging is undertaken by the Members present in the form of a blind ballot, with the piece receiving the most votes being the overall winner. A simple rule of thumb is to choose the piece you would most like to take home.

Practical Night Competitions 2020

For our competitions this year we are looking for:

17th April - Faceplate. – Anything turned using faceplate or chuck, little if any spindle work.

14th August - Movement. – Anything with movement i.e. an automaton both Faceplate and or Spindle.

11th December - Spindle.- Anything turned using mainly Spindle, between centres.

IT'S A WIN, WIN OPPORTUNITY.

SAW 100 Club 2020 Reminder

Since its establishment in 2014 the SAW 100 Club has paid out nearly £2150 in prize money and raised a similar amount to help the Club's funds, becoming both a rewarding and beneficial way of supporting the clubs activities.

The Xmas Draw saw a total prize fund of £123.40 with first out of the hat getting a cheque for £74.04. A very nice early Xmas present.

The final draw for 2019 was made at the AGM in January.

Now, however, is the time to start getting ready for the 2020 draws, and if you haven't already then application forms and Rules are available from the SAW website.

(<http://www.sawoodturners.org/handbook/100%20Club%20Rules%20V1.pdf>).

I look forward to welcoming existing and new supporters to the SAW 100 Club.

David Stratton
Treasurer

Saw Minutes for the AGM 10th Jan 2020

Apologies for absence: Claire Goodship, Basil Gridley, Charlie Cunningham, Paul Nesbitt.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes had been sent via email and with the newsletter. The Chairman asked for comments. There were none.

A signed list of attendees was collected. It is kept by the secretary.

The adoption of the minutes as a true record of the last AGM was proposed by Robert Grant and seconded by Don Mitchell and agreed by the members by a show of hands with none against.

Matters Arising: The Chairman asked whether there were any matters arising from the members but there were none.

To Receive & Adopt Chairman's Report for 2019:

The chairman addressed the members:

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, club members, 2019 has been a challenging year for us with illness and health issues limiting time to be given to club matters but we have soldiered on to deliver a quality year for the club members. In line with the legal expectations, Julia Hammond and the committee have put together our safeguarding policy that covers both junior club members as well as vulnerable adults. Our Health and safety policy has also been updated and the new version will be put onto the website by the next meeting.

During the year, the problems with booking professional turners have continued and we may have to add an allowance to demonstrator's fees to cover additional time taken to get to our club meetings. Not all turners have the will or safe driving to do a round trip to Yorkshire in a day as Emma Cook did for us. We have learned from all of the turners and have had much enjoyment from their banter and humour.

The Open day was a great success with fellow woodturning clubs, vendors and club members all enjoying the day. Our programme of events at Rural Life Centre, Dapdune Wharf, Brooklands, Guildford Model Engineering Society, D&M tool Show with Record Power Tools, Princess Mead Centre, the Surrey Heath Show and Axminster Power Tools were successful and we continued to gain new members through our presence. Many of our members demonstrate at craft fairs, school and village events and are a valuable front for our club. So, to all the members who supported these events, a big thank you. Woodturning is generally a lonely activity. Demonstrating and stewarding is a great way of interfacing with other members and the public. We have a lot of good natured banter and also we turn to each other when we have a problem. It is also a good starter to demonstrating to an audience under less challenging circumstances than a more formal club demonstration. Something new for 2020- We will be supporting Camberley Museum for 2 months (November and December) with regular demonstrations and will need help to achieve their, and our, aims.

Continuing the theme of volunteering, we do need more help through the year be it for tea making at half time, cleaning up after the club nights or taking up jobs that relate to our skill sets for example photography. It does not need to be every time the club meets - any help will be welcome.

Jennie Starbuck has done a great job of ensuring we deliver on committee activities, has kept the booking wheels turning to ensure we do have professional turners and uses her extensive network of contacts to achieve this in spite of being incapacitated for much of the year. Colin Spain edits the newsletter and gets the document to Chris Starbuck ready for publication. Colin Rowe continues his excellent work on running our audio visual equipment and maintains the PAT status on the club's and member's equipment used in public. You may have noticed some changes to the quality of the video camera system- Chris Starbuck has been working on this through the year. Richard Davies and Colin Spain have diligently carried their duties as judges supported by Bernie Walker. Colin has run 3 workshop days during the year and administered the mentoring programme for 5 members. During the year, we co-opted Phil

Hamilton and Tony Wellbelove on to the committee. Again thanks to you for all your help. Anna Marie and her family have run the raffles effectively through the year, culminating in a successful Christmas charity raffle. Phil Wolsoncroft has run the shop and ensured we have a ready supply of super glue and finishes. Duncan Clarke and Tony Wellbelove have ably run the admin desk, and book/CD hire. Phil Hamilton and his extra volunteers have kept the flow of tea/ coffee going at the breaks thanks to an effective rota.

As the year progressed, it looked like we were faced with a financial deficit for the year, David Stratton has done an excellent job of keeping a tight hold on the club purse strings and with the help of sales of donated tools, books and wood, plus a surplus from the open day. We will finish the year in the black but more of this later. Our 2019 supported charities have been Phyllis Tuckwell and Mencap. Wood, tools and books have all helped to raise over £400 which will be backed up with a club donation. We also gave money to the National Trust, Rural Life Centre and Brooklands for hosting us.

I have enjoyed my first year as Chairman of Surrey Association of Woodturners and our success would not have been possible without the help of my fellow committee members, volunteers and the members.

If there is more we can do for the club, or you feel we have not met your expectations please let us know. Maybe it's time to use some of Phil's superglue and for someone to tell me to sit down.

Before handing over to David Stratton our club Treasurer, I would like to acknowledge with heartfelt thanks, the work that David has done on behalf of the club and its members on top of being our treasurer - from being the 'Man with the Hat' on Open day, for liaising with the Mytchett Centre, for turning up at many club events and many other tasks he has carried out.

At this point, the members showed their appreciation of David's efforts with a round of applause.

Discussion points- The Chairman invited comments or questions about his report but there were none.

The adoption of the Chairman's report was proposed by Arthur Martin seconded by Richard Hook and agreed by the members by a show of hands with none against.

To Receive & Adopt Hon Treasurers Report:

Members were sent a copy of the audited accounts before the meeting by email. Paper copies were available on the register table for members who choose not to be on the group email list. Good evening one and all, and once again knowing how much you all love this part of the proceedings I will keep it as short as possible but be ready to answer any questions at the end.

Customary thanks to Doug Boud for casting a thorough eye over my workings and, after the customary tweaks, being prepared to sign them off. Also my thanks to all those who organise and run the various events and activities which add so much value to the club both financially and reputationally.

The 2019 budget presented to the committee in January predicted a deficit in the region of £600 and as late as September a shortfall still seemed likely. The year-end result was therefore a bit away from predictions being a surplus of £360.62

Principle areas.

Membership. Overall up 2 to 142. This is from 20 leavers against 22 new members; with income £126 above budgeted. 6 of those new members came in the closing months knocking nearly £200 off the interim projected deficit

New equipment. A number of Budgeted costs came in late and below estimates, down £500 on budget and nearly £800 on 2018.

Raffle – Raffle Income slightly up. This might be a reflection on the increased membership or just everybody joining in with the spirit of the operation. Either way thanks to all who purchased tickets and to Anna-Marie, Mike and Max for running it.

Shop Income is down. For a number of reasons Phil was not able to attend all meetings so the shop was not always available. However, he still deserves our thanks and appreciation for

his tireless efforts on our behalf. Now I know there are some keen eyed people out there who will look at the difference between Shop Purchases and Shop Sales. Whilst on the face of it appears to show a loss, this is totally covered by an increase in the value of stock held. The net financial benefit to the Club is small but this is one area where it is run very much for the benefit of the members.

Demonstrators Costs. Good entertainment does not come cheap and every year Jennie's task of filling our Professional Demonstrator slots becomes harder and harder. I feel we should all agree that 2019 was a very good year for Demonstrations and a very big thank you goes to Jennie for all her efforts. 2020 is almost filled with some old favorites and a couple of new faces, demonstration wise.

Donations to Charity. Again, part funded by one off donations from the sale of tools and timber and part covered by the Xmas Party fund-raising. This year's chosen charities were The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and Mencap, both in memory of recently departed members, and each charity has been awarded £500, with the finished goods donated at Xmas going to Phyllis Tuckwell.

Open Day. A very good year with most elements going off without any significant problems. We had a burger van, which I am sure added to the general level of satisfaction. Star turn Colwin Way, where the small hall was constantly packed with many forced to stand. In the Main Hall there appeared to be good attendance at all the demonstration points. Feedback from those attending was very positive. Financially it was also a good year with a net income of over £400 against a budgeted surplus of only £200. Plans for 2020 are underway with Les Thorne having agreed to be our principle Turner. If anyone has suggestions or comments on past and future Open Days they will be very welcome.

100 Club – In 2019 the 100 club contributed £472, and whilst Membership was up, there is still much room for improvement. Of the 122 members who renewed this year only 59 signed up for the 100 Club. If the remaining 63 had taken just one number each then the 100 Club could have contributed a further £378 to Club income and potentially avoided the Subscriptions increase I will later seek.

And the impact on prizes. Well the monthly prizes could have been £35.25 and £21.15 with the Xmas Superdraw being MASSIVE; £135.36, £67.68 and £22.56.

I again strongly urge you all to participate and earn yourselves a chance of winning.

The treasurer invited questions from the members but there were none

The adoption of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Robert Grant seconded by Philip Hamilton and agreed by the members by a show of hands with none against.

To Determine Subscriptions for the coming Year

Whilst the Club's finances remain in a very healthy state, many of the recent surpluses were only achieved by unexpected gains and savings. Projections for 2020, again point to a potential shortfall and whilst I have no doubt that we will all do our best to maximize income and contain costs, the past one-off benefits cannot always be relied upon.

When I became Treasurer, I inherited a plan to raise the subscription by £1 per annum. After a series of exceptional results, I was able to pause that plan and was able to hold the subs at £32 for the last four years.

Looking forward I foresee increasing cost pressure, with Hall Hire Cost expected to rise annually and Demonstrators being drawn from further and further afield at additional, though justified, cost. As such I feel that the time has come to seek an increase in subs from £32 to £35.

Beyond 2020, much will depend on the membership. If we can increase the income streams and contain expenses, then, I would again hope, but do not promise, to maintain the revised level for a number of years.

My proposition for this year is, therefore, for 2020 Renewal Subscription fees to be set at £35.

The treasurer invited comment and questions from the members

The agenda noted that members attending club nights would be paying just £2.92 per evening.

The secretary explained the problems visiting turners have on Friday evenings and how much time it takes for them to prepare, pack their car and leave often adding 2 hours to the time the journey would take because of the phenomenon of motorway traffic on Friday evenings. This was understood by the members. She also added that the halt in the £1 increase for 4 years had already saved members £10 and, had it not been halted we would be paying £36 this year. There were no other comments or questions.

The subscription rate of £35 was proposed by David Stratton and seconded by Jennie Starbuck and agreed by a show of hands with none against.

To Elect the committee for the coming year:

Committee members not standing for re-election – Robert Grant

The Chairman thanked Robert for the 11 years he has been on the committee. He said that it was impossible in a short time to do justice to everything Robert has done for the club since he joined the committee in January 2008. He summed it up by saying that SAW owes a lot to Robert and that we are grateful for everything he, and his wife Claire, have done for the club. However, his business needs him and he has decided he needs 'time off'.

The three officers – Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

The secretary reminded members that they all had plenty of time to nominate other people for any of the posts and that it is hoped no-one feels that the process is unfair. The committee would be very happy for new members to come forward and encouraged members who felt they could help to approach a committee member and find out more about being on the committee.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| Mike Spaven | Chairman | Proposed by John Sherwood Seconded by David Stratton |
| Jennie Starbuck | Secretary | Proposed by David Stratton Seconded by Anna-Marie Bennett |
| David Stratton | Treasurer | Proposed by Richard Davies Seconded by Mike Spaven |

As there were no other nominations these three members were automatically elected, however the members were asked to show their acceptance of this and they responded with a show of hands with none against.

Committee members (maximum of 12)

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anna-Marie Bennett | Nominated by John Sherwood | seconded by Mike Spaven |
| John Creasey | Nominated by John Sherwood | seconded by Mike Spaven |
| Richard Davies | Nominated by John Sherwood | seconded by Mike Spaven |
| Julia Hammond | Nominated by John Sherwood | seconded by Mike Spaven |
| Colin Rowe | Nominated by John Sherwood | seconded by Mike Spaven |
| Colin Spain | Nominated by John Sherwood | seconded by Mike Spaven |
| Bernie Walker | Nominated by John Sherwood | seconded by Mike Spaven |
| Tony Wellbelove | Nominated by John Sherwood | seconded by Mike Spaven |

Again, as there were no other nominations these eight members were elected, however the members were asked to show their acceptance of this and they responded with a show of hands with none against.

The secretary reminded members that the committee can have 4 more members and that the committee is allowed by the Constitution to co-opt up to 4 new members during the year as needs arise or as volunteers appear.

To consider Any Other Business put before the meeting

One item of AOB had been notified.

The Secretary asked members to consider the value of the group emails she currently sends to members. She raised this point as it had not been discussed by the members since the 2012 AGM, when the members attending gave very limited permission to the secretary to

send some group emails - an informational email once a month and an occasional emergency email.

She hoped that in the future the committee could also send other emails like time critical information about events, offers of free timber or free equipment.

In 2012, members were worried about the safety of their email systems or the possibility of getting more spam emails with people using SAW as a cover for some kind of fraud.

At the time, the committee wanted a way to send emergency emails as they had needed to tell members about a meeting being cancelled at very short notice because of snow and it meant telephoning all members. Having had no problems notified for the past 7 years, the secretary hoped members might agree to the restrictions imposed in 2012 being lifted.

Some interesting points were made and generally members were far happier about receiving group emails. They wanted the emails subject to continue starting with 'SAW' followed by a brief note explaining what the text attached was (for example SAW notices for February) so that members knew what they were opening. It was also agreed that, where necessary, all information would be attached in PDF format which is safer and unlikely to contain viruses which is called SAW followed by the same brief description used in the main file. It was thought that this would also make the files easier to find later.

The secretary will ensure that any group emails sent will follow the pattern requested. Emails will only be sent when there is a need and the emails will be to the benefit of club members. No members personal information will be included unless permission has been given.

No other points of AOB had been submitted but as there was time to spare members were asked if they wished to raise anything else.

Mike Tozer wondered whether we could save money and aid smaller clubs by passing on copies of the recordings made at demonstrations for a small fee. He was told that Professional turners would have to give permission and that this was unlikely as they would not sell their own DVDs. They might agree if they got the fee – however it was pointed out that our DVDs are not edited in any way. The excellent question did allow Colin Rowe to tell members a bit about the new kind of demonstration that is being trialed at Cheam and will be tried out by Berkshire this spring.

The technique is to link with a turner working in their own workshop somewhere in the world. The last one arranged at Cheam was with Cindy Drosda from the USA. The cost is a little more than a British turner might ask, but has no mileage element so can be a lot cheaper. It is done in real time. The turner can see and interact with the audience and the audience can ask questions. We currently have kept the November club night free and may try this if we can get enough band width for it to run smoothly.

There being no other points raised our Chairman, Mike Spaven, declared the meeting over at 21.25. There followed a distribution of awards from Open Day, the Club Competition and the Vic Burge Shield.

Awards presentations

Please note we had intended to include a section showing pictures of the top winning members in each of the categories and their pieces, unfortunately due to illness this has not been possible. Please accept our apologies and we shall try and get them in the next edition.

A Little Treasure Box

September club night saw the very welcome return of Emma Cook, The Tiny Turner.

Subject for tonight's demo would be a box with a twist, and I mean that quite literally, as the box in question would have three sides, with a spiral twist.

After a brief introduction to her career, and the obligator safety talk, Emma proceeded to explain exactly what she aimed to do. The demonstration would be a three-sided box with a carved and decorated surface. The decoration would be gold, of differing types, over an ebonized surface.



Photo 1

What follows is a breakdown of the relative steps.

Starting with a spindle circa 2.5 to 3 inches square and about 6 inches long (the size you chose will be dictated by the size of the box you want to achieve) this is turned between centres to a round. The two ends are faced off and a suitably size spigot is made at each end. See photo 1.

NB. This operation is best on smallish work, say up to 4 inches diameter.

NB. Make the spigot is as large as possible. This is to allow maximum grip with the Steb centres when the piece is turned off-centre. Emma added that if you want to turn a smaller box then it may be best not to make a spigot but rather face off the ends as far as possible and finish with a belt sander (or equivalent) the spigots for hollowing can be added later, after the sides have been turned.

Emma removed the work from the lathe and, with a compass, drew a circle, on one end, of about 20mm diameter (10mm radius). Without resetting the compass, she placed the point on the compass line and drew a small arch that bisected the circle line. She then moved compass point to the intersection of the drawn line and repeated the process. Continue until the circle has been divided into six segments. See photo 2 for process shown on whiteboard.

Select any point and draw a line to the second point along. Repeat twice and you will have drawn a triangle within the circle. This is for later reference purposes. More later (see photo 3 & 4)

Now draw a line from the centre point through one of the triangle points to the edge. With a set square carry the line down the length of the block, then extend the line from the edge to the centre of the other end. (See Photo 5)

With your compasses draw a circle, same radius as the first, and starting where your incoming line crosses the circle draw the six arches as

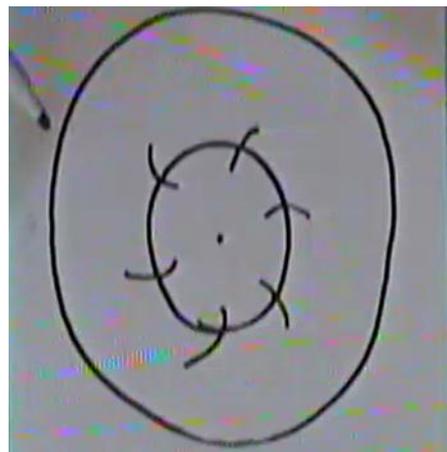


Photo 2

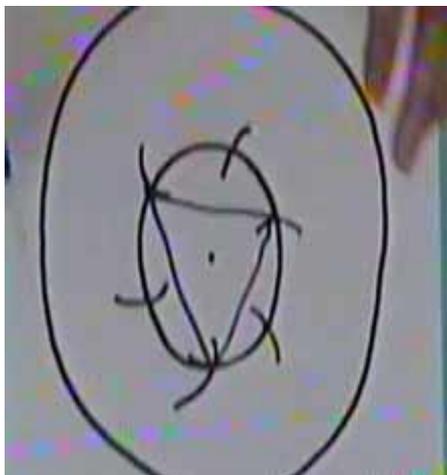


Photo 3



Photo 4

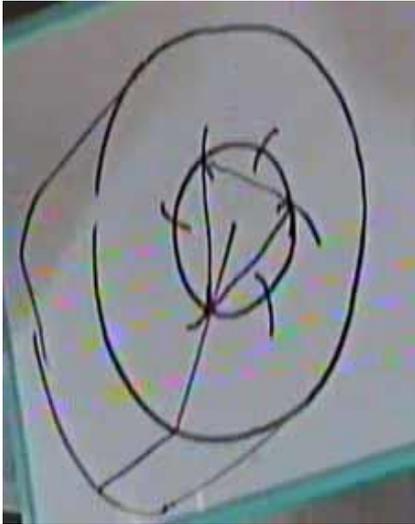


Photo 5

before.

As an alternative, and before you remove the work from the lathe, you could draw a line along the outside surface, using the tool rest as your straight edge. After removing the work from the lathe, this line can be extended to the centre of each end and after the first circle has been drawn, as above, the point at which the line and circle intersect should be used as the starting point to create the six divisions.

Now for the first decision. If you want a straight sided box, draw the second triangle starting at the intersection. If you want to add a twist draw your triangle starting one arch away. This will effectively invert your triangle when compared with the other end. (See Photo 6)

Now mark one triangle point on end one, I suggest the one with the line drawn through, at the



Photo 6

other end mark one of the triangle points adjacent to the incoming guideline. Whichever one you chose will dictate the twist, i.e. left or right-handed.

Now mount the work between Steb centers using the two highlighted points. Time now to turn the block. What you are aiming for is to true up about a third of the surface.

Emma stated that whilst she would normally use a bowl gouge when turning a piece of unbalanced wood, as this offers a minimal point of contact and reduces the risk of a big catch. With this piece she will use a Spindle Roughing Gouge, as it affords greater stability and control.



Photo 7

Once a third has been turned, remove the work from the lathe and draw a reference circle, using the narrowest point as your guide. This will afford you a reference point when turning the other sides. (Photo 7)

Return the work to the lathe on original points. Taking one end at a time, rotate the work until the contact points is at the farthest point from you. Now move the contact point one triangle point towards you. Repeat the process at the other end. Then turn down as before using the wavy edge created by the first cut and the reference circle as your guide.

Repeat rotating sequence and turn last side.

All three sides satisfactorily turned the sides can be hand sanded. This will reduce the risk of the edges being

rounded over. If the edges do not exactly match you can return the side that is short.

Now we come to parting of the lid and base. If you have turned away any part of your original spigots, when creating the twists, the work can be remounted between centres new smaller spigots turned. Part off the lid allowing about one third lid and two thirds base.

It is important to ensure that during the parting operation the parting tool is presented perfectly squarely to the work for both the main cut and the relief cut. This is to eliminate the risk of breaking out any of the edges.

NB. As the work is not round, Emma recommends that you do not try and hold it and part right through. Rather, stop a few millimeters from the centre and either twist or cut off.

With the lid set to one side the base face can be trued up, taking great care to ensure that the face is perfectly flat. If slightly concave the lid will sit on the points and if convex the lid will sit on the middle of the edge. We want full contact throughout.

Once trued up it is time to cut the spigot. This should be fairly generous, as it will later be used as a jam chuck. This complete then the box can be hollowed out and sanded ready for the finish of choice

Remove base from chuck, fit the lid and true up the face. Now it is time to create the recess to form the jam chuck. Here it is important to go a little at a time. The first bit of hollowing will be the biggest set of cuts, just make sure you will have several millimeters at the outside edge spare to work on.

Now slowly enlarge the recess by small increments constantly stopping and checking against the spigot on the base. Emma stated that she looks for about two thirds of the spigot to sit in the recess when offered up. At that stage most work can be made to fit with a little gentle persuasion (small mallet not a sledgehammer). Keep adjusting recess until there is just a bit of spigot not inside, align the grain and curved edges, and then tap the base on.

With the work still in the chuck, Emma proposes to texture the outside surface.

Using a shallow gouge, one hand on the shank, to act as a brake and stop the tool pushing too far, and the other hand on the handle providing the forward momentum and a slight twist so that you slice through the timber not just push through. Slowly work your way across the

surface of the work creating shallow impressions in the surface. (See Photo 8)

Once all faces have been sculptured to the desired finish give it a light sand to tidy up any pulled timber strands but take care not to destroy the edges of the sculpturing.

The proposed finish will be gold Gilding on ebony, but rather than spend time waiting for the ebonising spray to dry Emma performed a Blue Peter moment and produced a pre-sprayed box.

Emma spent some time talking about the various gilding process and options and for those really interested she recommended the book "Practical Gilding" by Peter & Ann Mctaggart. (still available on Amazon).



Photo 8

Three side to the box so, for this demo, three sets of highlighters. First up Gilt Cream. Waxed

base but can be used on large and small surfaces. Can tend to dry out in the jar, which makes it difficult to use on large surfaces, but it is easily revived with a few drops of white spirit and left overnight. However, if it is slightly dried out it is better for highlighting, as for tonight.

You will need a fairly large "Chunkie" brush with a medium bristle and a sheet of dimpled kitchen roll. Load the brush with the cream. You are not looking to paint it on merely catch the crisp edges of the design. Rubbing any surplus on the brush onto the dimpled kitchen roll will allow you to see when the amount is right, as it will highlight the high points and not fill the hollows, or negative space as Emma referred to her sculpting.

Gently pass the loaded brush across the work and you will note that it highlights the edges and emphasizes the negative space. (Photo 9)



Photo 9

NB. To finish a surface highlighted in this way Emma recommends using an Acrylic Satin Lacquer. This is contrary to the guide issued by Chestnut products, who recommend a wax finish over Gilt. However Emma found that using a wax finish tended to reactivate the gilt cream destroying the effect, so in this instance a spray finish is best, and the satin is preferred as it emphasizes the golds natural luster.

Next finish will be with Chestnut Metallic Paint; Gold (other suppliers are available). You do not need a lot of paint, just a tiny blob onto a clean flat surface, a piece of board is ideal. Load the brush by working the blob across the board and removing the excess on a piece of kitchen roll, as before. As the paint dries faster than the gilt cream you will have a limited amount of time with which to apply it. Work just as with the Gilt by lightly passing the brush across the raised area. Take care not to press too hard as this will encourage the bristles to drop into the negative areas painting the entire surface. The only answer to which is to re-carve the surface. The last face was highlighted using Jo Sonja Gold paint, which is applied in the same way as the Chestnut Metallic.

As a final touch Emma proposed to use a bit of Gold Leaf on the lid, which on this Blue Peter piece, had had a small domed insert added. As the insert was cross grain and not end grain it afforded her a smoother surface. In normal circumstances she would Gold Leaf the insert before adding it to the work. A coating of size had been added earlier, which had now gone tacky.

NB. To test for tackiness Emma suggested using the back of a finger which is very sensitive and not as greasy as the pads of your fingertips. Fingertips will tend to leave a mark on the tack which will show through the leaf.

Emma was using a metallic leaf (not pure Gold) as it is cheaper and easier to handle. Handling can be achieved with the use of a soft paint brush (squirrel hair), or a proper Gilding Tip. Before lifting the foil the tip is brushed against your face or hair. This picks up a small amount of body grease (not as aggressive as from your hands) and allows the brush to stick to the foil.

As this was a small surface Emma ended up lifting the foil by hand and gently placing it on top of the work. Then using the Gilding Tip gently smoothed the foil across the surface, finishing the spread using a Gilders Mop.

The final act is rubbing off. Here Emma emphasized the importance of using a quality brush as acrylic hair or cheap "kids" brushes will scratch the surface and dull the end product. This act is best left to the day after as it will allow the size to go off and ensure that the adhesion of the leaf is not compromised.

Finishing of the top is by choice with various optional available, including beeswax and shellac, always remembering that any finish will dull the gold.

Question from the floor. Should you score around the edge to aid removal of surplus leaf?

Answer. In most cases this should not be necessary but as long as you are careful it would not do any harm, and could make the removal of the Metal foil a little bit easier. Be careful to use a new blade, without any nicks, as the work is so fragile that you could pull part of the desired finish off.

Removal of spigots on the boxes, best done after sculpting but before colouring, unless you want the base to be left un-coloured, in which case you will only do the top at this stage and do the bottom, as here described, later. If done later you will need to make an additional Mount the work by the lid spigot and turn off the base spigot. Make light strokes and pay attention to any high pitched noises, which might indicate that the jam chuck grip is about to fail. You should look to come in square to the edge at least until you have come in beyond the narrowest part. This is to create a flat surface on which the box will rest. Slightly concave the central area of the bottom.

Remove the base and ease the recess in the lid. You are now looking for a good fit but not a forced fit.

Remove lid, rotate and fix to chuck by recess, (change jaws if necessary). Again, very careful cuts as you have a parallel recess and dovetail jaws, offering minimal contact. Top shape and decoration to choice. If you intend to add an insert now is the time to make the necessary recess. (Photo 10)

David Stratton



Photo 10

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