

## Club News



We are sorry to have to announce that another well-loved and valued member of the club has recently passed away. John Abercrombie has been a member for quite some time and enjoyed himself when attending our meetings. John passed away on the 20th April. His funeral took place on the 22nd May at St Johns Church in Elmswell. We would like to express our sincere condolences to his family on behalf of the club and all who knew him.



Shown left are two platters that John made, showing his attentive and well finished turning and decorating skills.

John will be very missed.



## Weird and Wonderful Wood 2023

Our club attended this popular Haughley Park event over the entire weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of May. A big thank you goes to our loyal band of volunteers for setting up, helping tombola sales and speaking to the many visitors. We were very pleased to be able to put our club on display and we managed to enthuse a number of visitors, and several attended our meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We must thank all those who made tombola prize items and especially Ian Cameron who deserves a medal of Merit for producing some 120 turned pendants! It was a resounding success and everyone who helped thoroughly enjoyed the day and the show.

## Next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Our next meeting is a demonstration of Pyrography technique by our own lady Chairman, Tic Challis. Tic studied Art formally and is now well known for her fantasy art, turning and pyrography as well as creating wonderful stylised figures and animals using mixed media. Tic has demonstrated widely and is well known in the world of Pyrography. You can see her work on our website in her member gallery and more of her wonderful creations and artistic skill can be seen at

<https://www.deviantart.com/tic-challis>

*Right: 'She walks in beauty'  
- Pyrography by Tic Challis*



That's all for now, take care and keep making things!

Neil (Newsletter and website)

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## Members Table

Only one item this meeting made by Malcolm Keer who brought in a beautiful lidded pot in Spalted Beech with Sapele knob. The proportions and lid fit are very well observed and a good size approx. 11.5mm (4.5 inch) diameter.



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## Demonstration by Carlyn Lindsay

Carlyn began her talk with somewhat of a recap of her designer maker background. She describes herself as a 'maker' who has had an interest in making things since early childhood. Having tried all materials she finally settled on wood as her favourite because it is tactile and has natural warmth.

Carlyn studied three-dimensional art and design, wood, metal and plastics at Wolverhampton School of Art where she developed a love of parallel lines and laminated wood. In 1989 she was awarded a grant from the of The Princes Youth Business Trust and a bursary award from Wickes DIY to start her art business and later in 2004 she received a bursary award from The Worshipful Company of Turners. This allowed her to set up a new workshop lathe and to later be entered on the Register of Professional Turners.

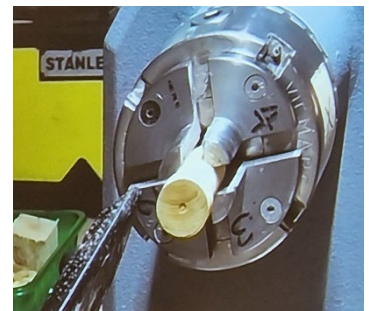
Previous visits to our club have been in 2012, 2015 and 2018. Meeting reports explaining some of her laminating and turning techniques are available from the newsletters section at <http://www.westsuffolkwoodturningclub.org>, click on the desired newsletter year then select the demonstrator.



## Making a handled spinning top

Carlyn began by mounting a small length of Boxwood approximately 25mm diameter into a scroll chuck. She had sized it already to accept a hand chased thread to make a collar.

Before she started the thread cutting, she applied a light wax to help the lubricate, she recommended a brand called 'Renaissance'.





The lathe was slowed to approx 480 RPM, if this is not possible to dial up Carlyn recommends removing the chuck and slowing the lathe to the point where the chuck screw thread can be seen clearly rotating by eye and not a blur, i.e. observing each individual thread rotating and imagining it could screw relatively slowly into the machine by eye.

A small chamfer was cut on the end face of the piece. The tool rest was then set so the tool was roughly on the centre line of the wood and about 20mm away from it. She began cutting or 'chasing' the thread by holding the tool horizontally and moving it in to lightly cut and then along the piece, retracting and returning to the start and repeating. There is a distinct noise when a thread cuts properly that can be gained only by practice.



A 12.5mm diameter hole was drilled into the end grain and the external threaded collar was parted off.

The next task was to make a matching internal threaded collar part, again a piece of boxwood was held in the chuck jaws.



The required external diameter was opened up with a gouge and a hole smaller than the male threaded part was drilled through the entire piece, Carlyn reversed the piece to drill the opposite side, this allows the internal thread chasing tool clearance as it progresses into the piece.

The front face was cleaned up. Carlyn then measured the size of the male collar and transferred it to this piece ensuring it was approximately 1.5mm smaller to allow the final threads to engage. A 'leading' chamfer was cut to allow the thread tool to engage.

A small recess was made internally with a home-made right-angled tool to allow the thread to 'run out'.

Wax was applied to the surface of the intended internal thread.

Again, setting the banjo so that the tool is central to the piece and holding the internal thread chasing tool horizontally she engaged the front of the tool and moved it in to its end, moved it away from cutting, retracted the tool and repeated several times to form the thread.



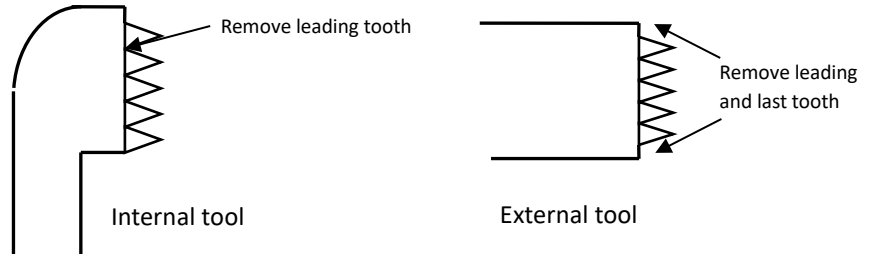
Carlyn said that thread cutting was best done when relaxed and stress free as it is all about the feel of the cut and it is important to keep the tool parallel at all times. 'Buttery' woods such as Box and Apple are good for threads.



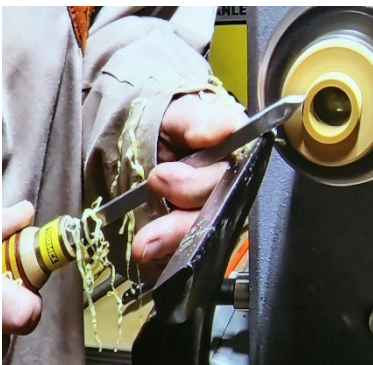
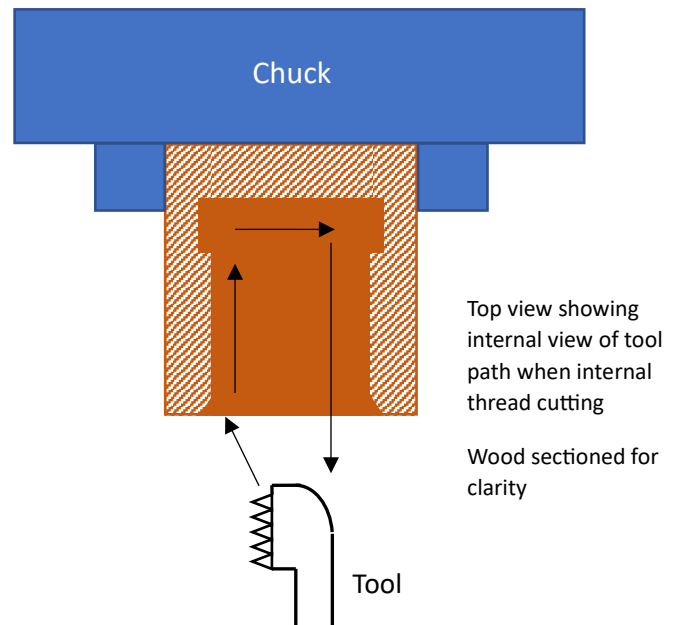
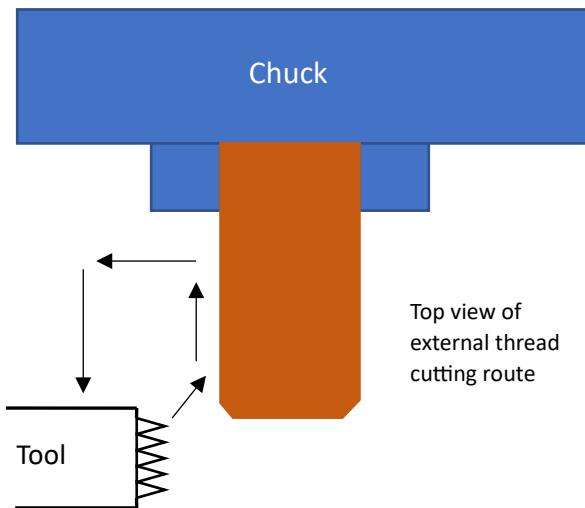
Profiles of typical thread chasing tools, this example set is from <https://henrytaylor.tools.co.uk/hamlet-specialist-tools/>

The recess cutter is at the top.

Carlyn explain that when thread tools are supplied they need modification to remove a tooth on the leading edge of the internal tool and the leading and end tooth of the external to allow them to work properly



Carlyn also advised that, especially for beginners, it is best to avoid the coarser thread options such as 12 TPI (teeth per inch) as they grab and are difficult to use. It is better to aim for something nearer to 18TPI, the cutter teeth can be cleaned with a bamboo stick.



Once the thread cutting was complete the external dimension was sized and the collar piece was parted off.

Carlyn then mounted a laminated blank between centres and cut a spigot on one end to fit the external threaded collar.

She then started to form the shape of the handle. A larger disc was left after the position where the collar would be later glued on.







A spindle gouge was used to shape the handle and to form a bead immediately behind the collar disk

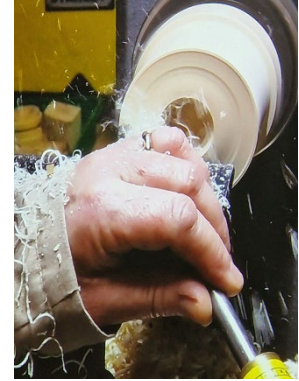
The external threaded collar was glued on using super glue and then she used a skew chisel, with the banjo set high, to plane the final handle shape.

After a quick sanding the handle was parted off.



## Making the box

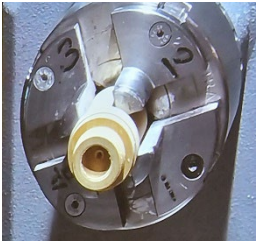
A blank approximately 100mm was mounted into the chuck and turned to round. A hole was drilled to allow hollowing. Carlyn then opened out the hole using a gouge to a size just smaller than the external diameter of the internal threaded collar. She then used a small swan necked tool and cutter tipped tool to create an undercut shallow hollowed box.



The hole was opened out to accept the internal threaded collar and it was glued in flush to the end. The box was then shaped using a spindle gouge taking care to not cut too short and into the hollowed box. It was then parted off.







A previously made external threaded part was mounted in the chuck and the hollowed box section was screwed on to it.

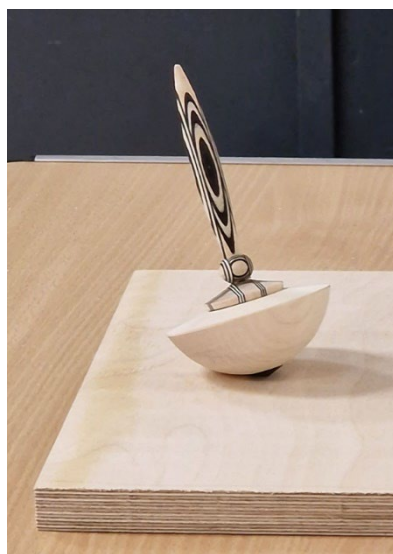
Carlyn then shaped the base of the box further and made it ready for a pointed ebony tip that would allow the spinning top to spin efficiently.

Carlyn then drilled a hole to allow the spigot of a previously made ebony tip to be glued into place. Further curved shaping was made with a gouge and the tip shaped to form a pointed tip. It was then lightly sanded and removed from the chuck.



The handle was then screwed into the box collar. The piece was then complete all bar applying a finish.

Like any top it is spun by the handle.



Another great demonstration by Carlyn that showed many different techniques and of course precision turning and her very distinctive style.

Thank you Carlyn.

As mentioned there are number of previous meeting write ups available including this one which outlines the method Carlyn uses to make her laminated blanks. <http://www.westsuffolkwoodturningclub.org/mar2012.html>