



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB

NEWSLETTER August 2022

www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk

Notes from the Editor

So many demos, I've had to send out another August issue. This time, you can see the thread chasing demo by Phil Steele. Press-ganged into his second demo, Phil made thread chasing look easy. Two members who had a go found otherwise.

There has been a small change to the events. The sharpening session on September 20th has been changed to a visit by the Scouts. We will have all four lathes running to allow the Scouts hands-on experience making woggles. The Sharpening session will be combined with the Jigs and Tools session in October.

On Saturday 20th August, the club attended the Barwell carnival (more of a fete than a carnival). We took £150 for Air Ambulance and £15 for Bulkington Volunteer Friends. Well done to all who helped with the stall and to those who provided items to be sold.

Regards
Rob Sheehan

Barwell Carnival Charity Stall

Just a couple of photos of our charity stall at the Barwell Carnival. We raised £150 for the air ambulance and £15 for Bulkington Volunteer Friends. Thank you to the member that paid our £20 stall fee.



Phil Steel Thread Chasing Demo 16/8/2022



Phil started by discussing which woods are good for thread chasing and which, in his experience, are not so suitable. Box wood is the best choice as is hard Maple used by Phil in his demo. Blackwood and Lignum Vitae are both good too. Phil has had mixed success with Blackthorne and Yew and some success with Cherry. Phil said that Beech crumbles so should be avoided. He said that Holly should be good but hasn't tried it yet. Phil uses 14 tpi thread chasers. He had found 20 tpi (often recommended for thread chasing) can be cross-threaded quite easily.

Most thread chasers come in a set of two. The left one cuts the internal thread. The right one cuts the external thread. Some books recommend using a "Bill Jones" arm rest when cutting threads but Phil prefers not to. Phil cuts the internal thread with the chaser just above centre and he cuts the external thread with the chaser just below centre.

Using a home-made beading and parting tool, Phil put a spigot on either end of a piece of hard Maple. Phil has added a locknut to his calipers to stop them opening when measuring spigots. Mounting one spigot in a chuck, Phil measured $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of the blank and parted off using a thin parting tool. With the box lid in the chuck, Phil hollowed it out, leaving enough thickness to create the internal thread first. The hollowing *must* have parallel sides. Phil put a chamfer on the starting point of the thread to make it easier for the thread chaser to start. He also cut a recess at the end of the thread so the thread chaser doesn't bump into the side wall and ruin the thread. With the lathe running at about 300 rpm, Phil started chasing the thread at the angle of the chamfer and slowly straightened the thread as it got longer. The final thread is parallel to the side and just less than the depth of the chaser's teeth. If the internal thread needs



to be made wider (or the external thread narrower), the the tops of the thread should be skimmed off using a gouge or skew and the thread re-cut. Chasing to the full depth of the chaser teeth (or beyond) will ruin the tops of the threads. Phil said it is not necessary to push the chaser forward as the chaser will pull itself once the first few threads have been cut. Phil then cleaned the thread with a toothbrush, strenthened it with superglue and waxed it to make it twist nicely. A chamfer on the ends of both threads make it easier to align the two halves of the box. The recess, chamfer and clean threads can be seen in the picture.



Using calipers, Phil measured the diameter of the internal thread and added 1.8mm. This is the diameter

of the matching external thread (for 14 tpi chasers). Mounting the bottom of

the box in the chuck, Phil marked the required thread diameter and cut it slightly oversize. He cut another recess at the end of the threaded portion and cut a chamfer as before. Using the external thread chaser, Phil cut the



corresponding male thread on the box base. Most people would need a few attempts to get the threads to match. Phil got it perfect the first time. The threads screwed together and the grain matched! Being a perfectionist, Phil wasn't happy with the thread, so he cut off the threaded portion and cut

another thread. This time it screwed together but the grain didn't match. This gave Phil the opportunity to show us how to match the grain. Using a 3-point tool, Phil cut a fine shaving off the face of the box (or the lid - both work) and tried the fit again. Keep trying until the fit is close and then sand until the fit is correct. Phil doesn't hollow out the box until the fit is right just in case he make a mistake and the hollowing is wasted. Phil decorated the box with beads on the sides and top.



Phil then challenged other members to have a go. Two members were brave enough to have a go. Phil had made it look easy. Bill Bennett picked it up quite quickly, Bob Smith struggled at first but eventually both achieved acceptable threads. Neither went as far as making matching male and female threads.



Members' Work





NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB EVENTS 2022

August	16th	Thread Chasing	Phil Steele
	20th	Barwell Carnival Charity Stall	
September	6th	Long Hole Boring	Bob Heathman
	20th	Scouts visit	
October	4th	Pepper Mills	Rob Sheehan
	18th	Tools, Jigs and Sharpening	Peter Deeming
November	1st	AGM + hands On	
	13/11	Harrogate Woodworking Show	
	15th	Pyrography + Laser	Steve Obrien + Rob Sheehan
December	6th	Christmas Party	
	20th	No Meeting	

WOODTURNING CLUB EVENTS 2023

January 3rd Hands On

Axminster Nuneaton

Saturday September 17th Arbortech with Chris Brooks 12pm - 4pm

Events at Other Clubs

Please contact the club to check times/dates/locations before attending

Coombe Abbey (Walsgrave Baptist Church)

Saturday September 10th Gary Rance 10am - 4pm