

## January 2012 Meeting - Bill Care

Bill started his demonstration in his usual manner by showing the various uses to which one tool can be put. The tool he chose was the skew chisel

Bill uses the skew with the long point facing down and with the bevel rubbing he proceeded to rough down a square sectioned piece by lowering the handle (and so raising the point) so that the cut started. The lathe should be set at as fast a speed as you dare to handle. Once the piece is cylindrical the centre of the skew blade can be used to make planing cuts to get a fine smooth finish.



The skew is the best tool for cleaning endgrain and as Bill showed it is used long point down and then the handle is raised until the cut reaches the centre. The skew is the best tool to get into tight corners, e.g. when there is a need to cut right up to the revolving centre.

Again for V-cuts the tool is used long point down - do not push the tool in on its side to make a V cut but cut the V with the blade upright, a cleaner crisper finish is obtained.

The skew can be used to round off a bead and it can also cut beads but some abrasive would be needed to tidy up the cove as the skew does not leave a clean finish at the bottom of the cove. Picture shows the bead and cove cut by Bill using the skew.

For the next part of his demo Bill decided to make a paperknife solely by turning. He took a piece of square sectioned, straight grained Box and marked each end with a centre point and two offset points. With the piece mounted on the centre points the Box blank was reduced to a cylinder. A spigot was formed at each end, leaving a small amount of the original diameter wood to support the off-centre turning. (see later picture). He then started to taper the cylinder towards the drive centre end to get the shape of the blade.

The blank was then re-positioned off-centre by offsetting both ends the same. With the lathe running at as fast a speed as acceptable a ghost image around the solid shape of the blade can be seen. With gentle cuts turn this ghost image away until you get to the solid shape. This can be sanded carefully while the lathe is still running. The piece was then offset onto the opposite centre and the process of turning the ghost image away repeated. Again gentle cuts are required as all the pressure is on one side. Again sand carefully.

The blade was then remounted back onto the original centre and the spigot on the handle end narrowed to fit a standard drill size. Remove from between centres.

A piece of Burr Yew had an appropriate sized hole drilled to fit the spigot on the blade and then mounted between centres on the lathe. Shape the handle to suit, sand and part off. Return the blade to the lathe, mounted on the original centre marks, and with gentle cuts reduce the pointed end down. Saw off the stub then shape the end with a knife/chisel and sand. Mount the blade in the handle.



The final item Bill made was to demonstrate loose rings. He put a piece of Yew on the lathe, roughed it to a cylinder then made three incisions with a parting tool. With a skew he rounded over the tops of the "rings" and then with a tool he had ground to have a narrow hooked shape he undercut to release the two rings. The spindle was then narrowed down using a parting/beading tool. This project was not completed as can be seen from the picture.

An interesting evening as this was the first time I had seen a paper knife made entirely by turning.