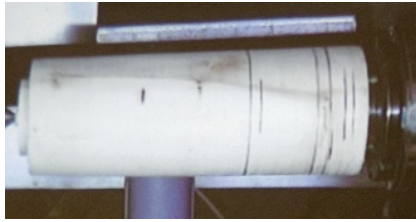


January 2018 Meeting—Mike Charnley

Mike had a piece of Field Maple mounted on the lathe and introduced his demo by saying that he was going to make a box inspired by Benoit Avery but with a difference.



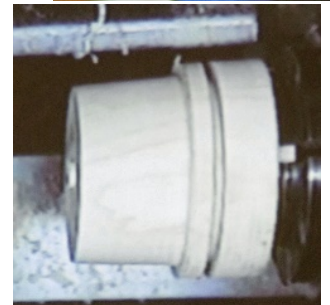
He turned a spigot on each end of the piece and then marked out the position of the base and the top. He parted off the two parts and mounted the base part in the chuck and with a parting tool made two cuts to isolate a square bead. He then proceeded to make a slight taper from the bead to the open end.



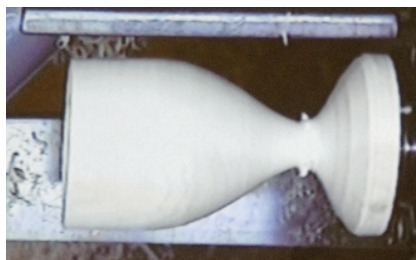
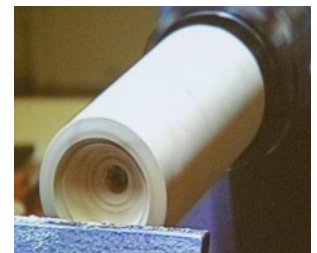
He then hollowed out the base and used a home-made scraper (made from an old planer blade) to clean up the inside. Mike then removed the base from the chuck having first made a pencil mark on the base to align with a "nick" that he has filed on one jaw of his chuck. This enables the piece to be returned to the chuck aligned exactly as before.



The part that was to be the lid was then mounted in the chuck and with an engineering drill in the tailstock, Mike drilled out the centre, using a slow speed and withdrawing the drill regularly to keep the bit clear of shavings.



He then started to hollow out the lid, all the time bearing in mind the final outside shape. Some shaping was turned on the outside of the lid to aid with the visualisation of the internal shape. The hollowing was then completed and a slight taper on the inside to match the taper on the base part. The base was offered up and the inside refined until a reasonable but not complete fit was obtained. Finally, the inside was cleaned up using a scraper and home-made ball sander.



The base was placed back in the chuck and Mike used a skew chisel as a scraper to remove small amounts from the taper. He offered up the top to check the fit and continued to remove small amounts until he achieved the desired fit. This necessitated some fine sanding of the taper.



The top was placed on to the based and held firm by use of the tailstock. Some of the bulk from the region that would be the finial was removed and the curved shape of the box refined. The two parts were blended together to give a continuous line to the outside of the box. Mike then worked on the shape of the finial, in this case it would be in the form of a domed button. The outside was sanded to give a fine surface and the waste at the finial end reduced ready for parting off. Before that Mike made two V cuts with a skew to delineate the area to which he would apply carving. The finial end was parted off, followed by the base being parted off.



The top was mounted on a jam chuck so that the finial button could be finalised and the whole of the outside given a final sanding.



A second scrap piece was put in the chuck, cleaned up and a groove cut in it so that the hollowed base would fit tightly in it. When a good fit had been obtained, Mike used a spindle gouge to clean up the bottom and slightly dish it. He then used the gouge to cut two decorative lines on the base. A quick sand and the box ready for carving.

For the carving Mike used the Axminster Power Tools Flexible drive unit fitted with Flexcut V-shape carving blade. Mike showed the type of decoration that he would cut between the two V-cuts he had made previously.

The photos show a similar box that Mike made from Yew, obviously there was no need for further decoration such as carving,



A very well-presented demo and showed the variations possible when you start to explore a shape.
Well done Mike

