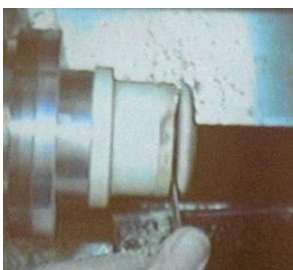
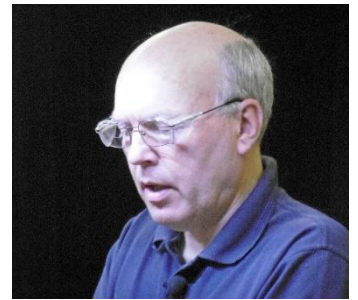


Peter came along with his wife and besides demonstrating he had a nice selection of blanks which his wife was tasked to sell.

The first project was a handle for a bottle opener and Peter turned it from a Banksia nut. The ends were cut off the Banksia so that a piece 120mm long was obtained. This was mounted between centres and roughed to about 40mm diameter.

With a keyless drill chuck in the headstock he drilled an 8.5 mm diameter hole and used the tailstock to push the Banksia onto the drill. (Prior to the demo he had pre-drilled 3 small holes in one end of the blank—one in the centre and two 6mm either side of it). The Banksia was remounted between centres using a stebcentre in the headstock. The 8.5mm drilled end was facing the tailstock. A skew chisel was used to slightly undercut the Banksia at the tailstock end. Peter then measured off 100mm from the tail stock end and marked this with a pencil. He then proceeded to taper the piece from this mark towards the tailstock until the piece was about 22mm diameter at the tailstock. He next used the skew to cut a 6mm deep V on the 100mm mark and then turned two beads at the tailstock end.

He then offset the headstock end of the piece to one of outer holes, keeping the tailstock end on centre. Using a light touch and a spindle gouge he turned the Banksia away until he had reached the bottom of the V cut and faded the cut to about half way to the tailstock. He changed to the other outside hole and repeated the turning with the resulting in an oval shape tapering towards the tailstock. The V cut was deepened and the piece gently sanded so as not to ruin the subtle shape. Peter said that he would normally apply an oil finish to his handles. He parted off the end and screwed the bottle opener into the 8.5 mm hole.



The next project was a simple pendant using an Axminster off-centre chuck with a piece of scrap wood mounted on it. The face of the scrap wood was squared up using a spindle gouge and a small square of burr horse chestnut was bonded onto the squared off surface using superglue. Peter used a bowl gouge to trim off the corners of the block and to get it to the round. The face was then turned to a shallow dome and a parting tool used to mark the thickness of the pendant. The front of the pendant was sanded at this stage.



The jig as now set off-centre and a hole drilled using a 13mm Forstner bit. With the jig still off-centre, a spindle gouge was used to gently sculpt the edge of the hole using pull cuts. The jig was reset to the centre line and a parting tool used to part the piece off using a curving cut to match the domed shape on the face.

Peter cut a shallow cove shape in the remaining scrap wood so that it matched the domed shape on the finished side of the pendant. Masking tape was used to hold the pendant in place so that the rear face could be carefully turned and finished.



The final project was to use a left-over piece of the Banksia nut to make a wine bottle stopper. A square section length of wood was held in the chuck jaws and a 10.5 mm spigot turned on the end. This was adjusted to give a tight fit into a 10mm hole drilled into the end of the Banksia. The Banksia was then fitted onto the spigot using superglue to hold it permanently in place. The tailstock was brought up and the Banksia turned down to about 35mm diameter.



The end near the tailstock was rounded over using a spindle gouge and then a cove was cut to shape the handle part of the stopper. The initial square section piece was then turned down to leave a long spigot 13 mm in diameter to fit into the cork. At this point the whole piece was sanded and treated with sanding sealer before being given a shine with carnauba wax.

