

WSWC club meeting – Monday 15th July 2024
A demonstration by Terry Bray on thread chasing

Club News



We are sad to report that Peter Thurston's lathe is now silent as he has recently passed away at the age of 92. Peter was an active member of our Club and Dalinghoo SMCW.

John Woods passed these words to me: *"Peter was into repairing antique wooden items but due to medical issues in recent years he was not able to stand for long, which impacted how much turning he could do. But even with this issue, he always supported the club when he could. For W&WW last year, he offered several turned items that he had prepared. At that time, when I went to collect them, he could only stand for about 10 minutes with the aid of a walking frame."*

Peter's funeral will take place at Ipswich Crematorium, seven Hills on August 8th at 11.15am. There will be a wake afterwards at the 13th Sea Scout HQ, The Drift, Rushmere Rd, Ipswich. If you will be attending the wake please send Trevor Blackman, Secretary of Suffolk Mid Coastal Woodturners a short message as he has been asked for numbers regarding catering. Please include any dietary needs to that effect. trevor@suffolkmidcoastalwoodturners.co.uk

Last meeting

We were pleased to welcome Terry Bray who interactively demonstrated aspects and method of thread chasing. This is a technique that takes some practice but can result in lovely fitting screw top boxes and other items.

Next meeting

Remember there is no August meeting as usual. Therefore, our next meeting will be held on Monday September 16th at the village hall, where we will welcome Colin Spencer who will be giving us a talk on Ornamental Turning. Colin has developed and made his own rose turning lathe. He also uses laser engraving. From the turnlinks.com website:



I am a woodturner now living and working in Lincolnshire having lived in Orba on the Costa Blanca, Spain for 18 years where this site was named TurnSpain.com.

I can turn any item that you require but particularly enjoy making anything unusual, the above are some examples of my work.

I sell my pieces at the various Craft Fairs that take place throughout the year in Lincolnshire or by appointment from my studio near Lincoln. I will also undertake commissions, for these please email through the contact page on this website.

I am also available to do evening demonstrations of Ornamental Turning for woodturning clubs. Please contact me for availability.

I like working in highly figured woods such as Yew, African Blackwood, Mopane, Olive and in burrs such as Amboyna and Mallee. I particularly enjoy making items decorated on my ornamental lathe

Please visit my gallery pages to see other examples of my work.

I am an AWGB woodturning tutor, a member of Lincolnshire Association of Woodturners and the Society of Ornamental Turners.

It looks like another good meeting! Have a relaxing August recess and we look forward to seeing everyone in September.
Neil (Newsletter and website)

Members table

Right: Exceptionally well finished London Plane bowl made by Martin Taylor.

Below: Deep bowl made by one of our newest member and junior turner - Jonathan Zagni.



Above: Jonathan Zagni's finished pair of sheep. These were featured in last months newsletter as a jumble of turned pieces. Jonathan made the project from an article in Woodturning magazine and they are absolutely delightful.

Left: Very well-proportioned matchbox in spalted wood, by Jonathan Zagni.



Right and below: A lovely and carefully crafted multimedia colourful dragon. The head and other parts are in yew wood, the eyes are handmade using cast acrylic and reflective materials. The metal parts, material and leather are all reclaimed and repurposed.

An unmistakable and truly typical unique creation by a master of this genre, our own Tic Challis.



A demonstration by Terry Bray on thread chasing

Terry is an artist and woodturner who originated from Plymouth, and after 72 years moved to Heckington in Lincolnshire where he continues to paint and turn. He is a member of the Lincolnshire Association of Woodturners. Terry provides woodturning demonstrations at clubs and online, he also teaches woodturning in his workshop. He has a website at <https://heckingtonarts.woodturners.uk> and also showcases his woodturning on Youtube under the channel name 'Bray's Woodturning'.

Unfortunately, I was absent from this meeting but must thank John Woods for the photographs. As there were no notes taken on the evening I've added the following (hopefully) appropriate and relevant text in this report from my own experience bodging threads! Neil - Ed.

There is no doubt that quality handmade thread chasing is an art. There is no machine other than the lathe for this particular handmade technique, and it is a skill that is developed purely by practice. Hand held tools called chasers are usually used and positioned and supported by the lathe rest, often with the use of a thread chasing rest or bar. Machined metal lathes usually use conventional block mounted thread chasers.

Two matching thread tools are used and only differ depending if the thread is to be internal or external. The tools are presented at an angle to the work and typical initial chasing begins by engaging the 3rd tooth of the tool. An internal female thread is chased by running the lathe at mid speed typically 200 to 300 rpm and inserting the hooked tool with the teeth that form the thread into the recess of the turned item, it is then engaged and withdrawn at appropriate speed to form a thread. The tool is then reinserted to the work and engaged at the same point, in a circular method gradually repeating and engaging more teeth as the cut progresses.

The process is repeated during which the thread is re-cut to form until it has a deep and well-defined shape. A little relief recess cut at the furthest desired internal thread depth helps when repeat cutting.

When creating a matching male external thread, the tool used is formed from a bar, typically 5mm thick and somewhere in the region of 25mm across. Teeth are machined into its end. It is applied using the same technique but squarely to the slowly rotating work and drawn along to form a thread, again this is repeated and more teeth engaged until a satisfactory thread is created and it comfortably fits its mating internal part.

Once the thread has been created cutting a shoulder into the outside edge of the female thread helps the parts to mate together in use.

Woodworking threads are usually measured in TPI, or teeth per inch, the larger the number the finer the thread. A good starting point when chasing your first threads is by using coarser thread tools of 14 to 16 TPI however they are usually available from 10 up to 20.

It's important to use dense hardwoods to form good threads like maple, ash and walnut. Some of the finest work is often on boxwood or tropical species such as blackwood or ebony. My favourite is boxwood and walnut, but the wood needs to be dry and seasoned to avoid binding through later warping.

One tip I learnt is to put a bolt of the same TPI into the lathe and run it at the intended lathe speed, the rotation of the thread gives you an indication of the required speed at which you need to move the tool to create the thread.

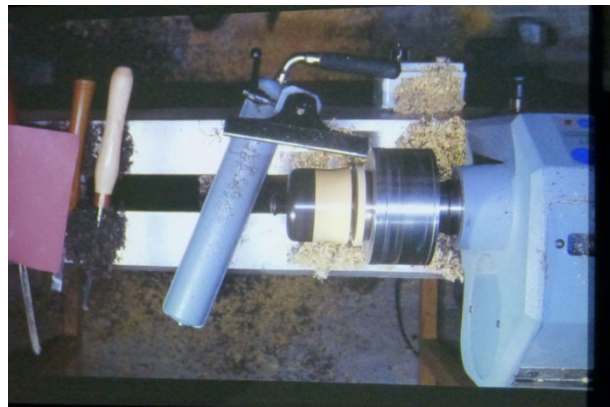
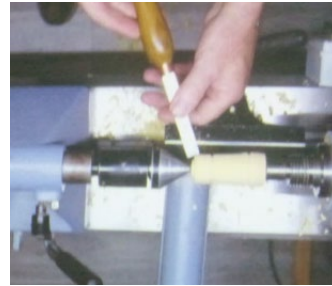
Sharpen the chasers by holding them flat on the lathe bed and honing across the tool moving away from the thread.



Above: Thread chasing tools made by Crown tools originally developed by the master of thread chasing Bill Jones.

Sometimes tools have to be tweaked by grinding to expose a full tooth at their leading edge.

Photo courtesy of Crown Tools UK





Our thanks go to Terry Bray for his demonstration.