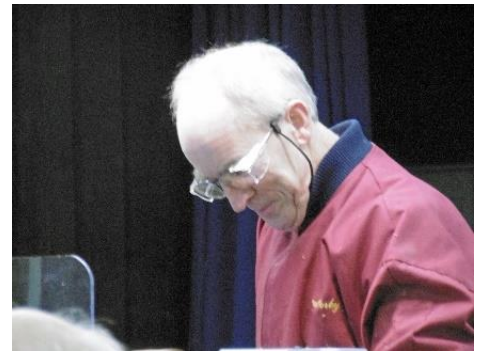


## October 2016 Meeting—Mike Charnley

Mike introduced the evening by saying that he was going to show how he makes a small lidded bowl/box.

He mounted a Brazilian mahogany blank on a screw chuck and turned it true. He said that for these boxes you should have very dry timber or you should rough turn wet wood and then leave it to dry and stabilise.

He trued up the base and then formed a spigot to fit the chuck jaws. He then began to shape the outside of the box aiming to have the widest part at about 2/3rds from the foot. Mike likes to proportion his pieces using the 1/3 : 2/3 rule. He emphasised that you should aim for a smooth, continuous curve with no straights or sharp changes of direction. When he was satisfied with the shape he removed any tool marks using a scraper.



At this point he digressed to show that it is possible to use a cabinet scraper to do the same job. He showed how to “fettle” the scraper to get a burr (to do the cutting) and showed the fine shavings that could be achieved.

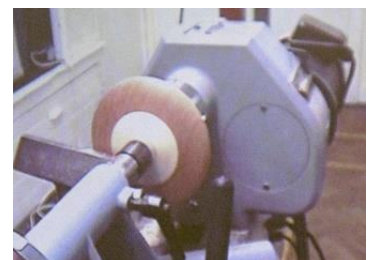
After scraping Mike sanded the piece, starting with 120 grit and ending at 1200 grit. He then tidied up the spigot and applied some decorative incisions as this was to be both the spigot and the foot of the box.



The box was reversed onto the spigot in the chuck and Mike started to shape the top 1/3rd of the box. He marked out the size of the opening and commenced hollowing it out using one of Simon Hope's carbide tipped hollowing tools. He undercut the sides slightly but he likes to leave a reasonable thickness to the walls to prevent any movement in the wood. The final cleaning cuts were made using a homemade scraper manufactured by Mike from an old planer blade (appropriately shaped) mounted on a stainless steel shaft.



The shape of the top third of the box was refined. Mike explained that he was trying to maintain the curve such that it was continuous through to the centre of the box. He was having to picture the line of the curve as it would appear with the lid fitted. A small recess in the opening was cut with a parting tool for the lid to rest on.



The lid was turned from a piece of Maple which was glued to a waste block in the chuck. The surface was trued up and a slight hollow turned such that the centre of the hollow was about 5mm below the level of the edge. The lid was reduced in diameter until it fitted the opening in the box. At this point the underside of the lid was scraped to remove tool marks and sanded to a finish. This was then parted off from the waste block.



The base was remounted in the chuck, the lid fitted and the tailstock brought up to hold the lid in place. Using gentle cuts the lid was shaped to follow and blend in with the gentle curve of the top of the base. Mike used the scraper to remove the tool marks and sanded to finish. A shallow hole was drilled in the centre of the lid and a previously turned finial fitted.

The result, an elegant box with a very pleasing shape.

Mike explains that he would apply an oil finish and buff it when dry.

More examples of Mike's boxes using spalted wood. Mike has found a method of getting wood to spalt and so generates his own.

