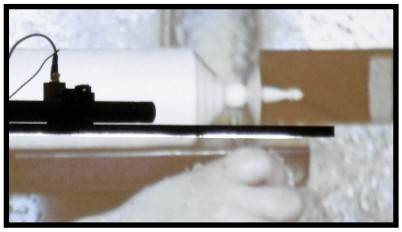
ALL-DAY EVENT WITH EMMA COOK (The Tiny Turner)

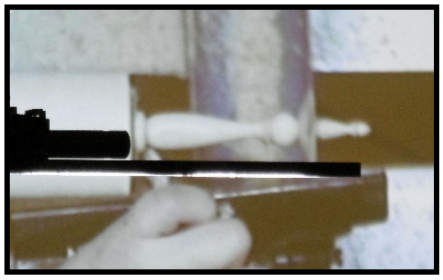
Saturday 26th October 2019

Emma hails from Yorkshire and she claimed that she could talk and turn happily at the same time. She lived up to her claim by keeping up a very informative running commentary on what she was doing throughout the day.

The first project that Emma demonstrated was an illuminated ornament, consisting of two turned finials fitted to a hollow glass globe. She started with a 2" x 2" x 9" piece of Ash which she mounted between centres and quickly roughed down to the round.



She then turned a spigot on one end to fit her chuck. With the blank now held in the chuck,



Emma reduced the thickness of the first 1" of the free end and turned a small teardrop shape. She proceeded to turn an ogee shape and at this stage she sanded through the grits to get a fine finish on the ogee and teardrop. Emma took time here to explain that she would usually use Chestnut "Cut 'n Polish" to get a finish when she wants a natural wood finish, but as she was going to colour this one, she stopped at the sanding stage. The next part of the finial was a disc, followed by a ball, then a small disc followed by an elongated ogee form. These were all sanded at this stage. Emma explained that she worked her way along the blank to maintain as much stability in the cuts as she turned. Next, she turned a bead, followed by a second larger disc then a cove and a spigot to fit onto the glass globe. After these were sanded the finial was given a coating of ebonising lacquer. When the lacquer was dry, Emma parted off the finial, ensuring the angle at which she parted off allowed a good fit to the curve of the globe.

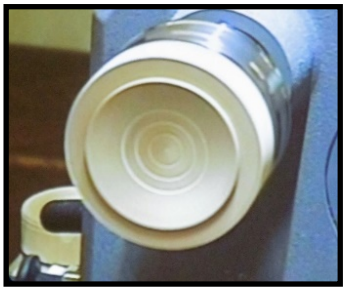
With the finial off the lathe, gold gilt cream was applied plus some copper cream to give an antiqued appearance. The excess gilt cream was wiped off, using a wax polish to aid the cleaning to leave the grain of the Ash highlighted.

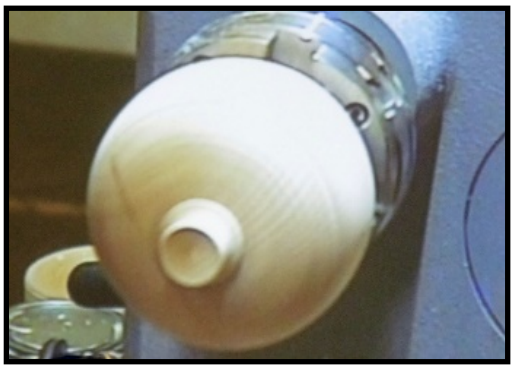
The first 2" of the remainder of the blank in the chuck was reduced in diameter, then a 5mm diameter hole was drilled into the blank using a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock. Emma used beeswax to lubricate the drill bit (a tip she had learnt from her turning mentor). A recess was formed in the end of the blank so that it would fit over the neck of the glass globe. A half bead and a bulbous ogee shape was turned and followed by a dome shape and the whole was sanded. After parting off the top finial was mounted on a jam chuck spigot using the recess cut to fit the globe. The top of the dome was finished and sanded, the finial was sprayed with ebonising lacquer and finished with gilt cream as before.

When all was dry and finished the bauble was assembled. First a large knot was tied in the ribbon and the ribbon inserted through the hole in the top finial from the base. Next the string of LEDs was fed through from the top of the finial and into the globe. A generous amount of glue was applied to the neck of the glass globe and the finial pushed onto the neck so that the half bead of the final was flush with the surface of the globe. Adhesive was applied to the bottom finial and this was stuck onto the base of the globe, ensuring that the two finials were perfectly aligned – Emma also likes to align the grain of the two finials. The adhesive used was Evostik Serious Glue.

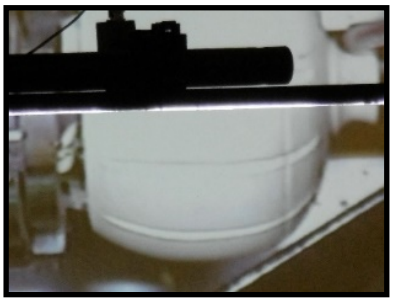
Emma has made a YouTube video of how to put together a bauble and it can be found here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmQlhhrjySg

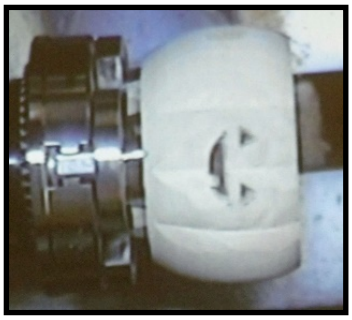
The next piece Emma made was a Pumpkin Box from a piece of Lime. Lime was chosen because it is more suitable for carving. With the blank between centres, Emma roughed it to the round, formed a spigot on each end then parted off the box part bearing in mind the 1/3rd to 2/3rd ratio of lid to box. With the lid in the chuck she cleaned up the face and cut a spigot (that would fit inside the box) ensuring that the sides of the spigot were as parallel as possible. The centre of the spigot was hollowed slightly and some decoration by way of grooves formed with the point of the skew chisel was added. This spigot was sanded, the lathe stopped and Cut 'n Polish applied then the lathe restarted to buff to a finish.





The lid was removed from the lathe and the box part fitted in the chuck, the face was cleaned up and the outer part made as flat as possible to ensure a close fit with the lid. A recess was cut to accommodate the spigot on the lid and to act as a jam chuck for the lid. With the lid held in place, Emma started to shape the stalk and top of the pumpkin and to carry the shaping onto the box part. The lid was removed at this stage and the box hollowed out, making sure not to ruin the fit of the lid. Once hollowing was complete the inside of the box was sanded.

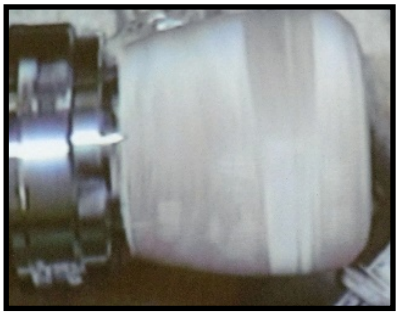




The lid refitted and Emma used a fluter carving chisel to carve flutes into the box and lid. She used the same fluter chisel to carve the stalk. She then switched to a ¾" shallow curved chisel to open up the grooves and make the edges more rounded like a pumpkin. Once complete, she drew eyes and mouth (with one tooth) on the side of the box part and drilled out the eye holes and carefully opened them up with a carving chisel. The mouth was then drilled out and shaped with the chisel with care being taken not to break the tooth. The lid was removed, and the inside of the box carefully sanded to remove any burrs caused by the drilling and carving of the eyes and mouth. The box was reversed over the dovetail jaws and the spigot turned away and the base rounded off and slightly undercut to give a pumpkin shape. Emma stopped at this point and explained that hand sanding was necessary to finish the outside.

The photos show the pumpkin box turned on the day and one that Emma had completed previously

For her final project, Emma said she was going to make a Carver's Mallet in the English style and would be using Beech for the head and Ash for the handle. Hornbeam is an alternative wood that can be used for the head.



For the head a piece of Beech 4" x 4" x 4" was mounted between centres in the same orientation as one would use when making a bowl, the long grain is where the piece is mounted. A bowl gouge was used to reduce the blank to the round and spigots were cut on each end. The piece was then mounted in the chuck and a 25mm Forstner bit was used in a Jacobs chuck to drill part way through the piece. The piece was then reversed in the chuck and the Forstner bit used again the complete the drilling of the hole right through the blank.

Emma then started to turn away the top spigot and shape the rest of the head, she domed the end slightly. The mallet head was tapered slightly towards the handle end and the corners rounded over. The head was parted off and the handle end cleaned up.

For the handle a length of 1½" square Ash was turned to the round. The length of the head was measured, and the measurement transferred to the Ash blank allowing an extra 10mm or so. This length was now reduced in diameter to fit through the hole drilled in the head. The rest of the handle was shaped so that it would be comfortable in use. After parting off the long spigot had a slot cut along part of its length and was then fitted into the head. A wedge was then forced into the slot to hold the head firmly in place. The excess length of the spigot was cut off flush with the end of the mallet and sanded. Emma does not apply any finish to the head as this would cause lack of grip when gently striking the chisels

A thoroughly enjoyable day's demonstration, full of useful hints and tips.

Some pictures of Emma's work that she had on display.