

WSWC club meeting – Monday 15th January 2024

Demonstration by Mick Favager

Club News

Happy new year to all of our members and we hope you have all had a jolly Christmas. We can all look forward to another year of club meetings packed with superb demonstrations and events.

Although it seems a long way away in the summer to come, our chairman would like to appeal to members to start turning a few donations for the Weird and Wonderful Wood Show. As major fundraiser for the club it is vital that support is shown from all please. Big or small it matters not, but what does matter is that we have enough objects and of course support to erect and dismantle the stand as well as be present in a rota on the day.

January meeting

The first meeting of the year was on a bitterly cold evening. Mick Favager was our demonstrator who took pleasure in making two very intriguing items. The first was a cascading 'reverse' incense burner and second a musical instrument. It was a very good and entertaining demonstration and Mick also showed a working laser engraver and cutter which produced a dragon artwork on wood. There is a full report in this newsletter.

Next meeting on January 19th 2024

This will be a visit by our club regular demonstrator, registered professional turner, Darren Breeze. The meeting is 7pm for 7:30 start at the village hall. Darren last demonstrated to the club in February 2022 when he turned and decorated an impressive 'sunburst' bowl using many interesting painting techniques. The write up of the presentation is available in our newsletters archive within the Newsletters 2022 section.

Until our next meeting, keep warm and keep turning..

Neil (Newsletter and website)



Members Table



Yew bowl with spiral tool texture
by Malcolm Kerr



Large white poplar bowl with
decorated painted rim by Martin



Large yew bowl by Martin Taylor



Marking out knife in precision machined brass ferrule and turned figured walnut made by Stewart Clarke.

Beech beaker with laser engraved dragon.

Decorated using luile pearlescent shimmer type paints, by Mick Favager



Rechargeable Bluetooth speaker mounted in a laburnum turning made by Mick Favager

The adjacent photo shows the on off and recharging socket on the base

Demonstration by Mick Favager

Mick is a member of the club and regularly demonstrates to clubs. During the pandemic Mick presented his own zoom shows where he demonstrated woodturning free of charge. Mick's last demonstrator for our club was in January 2022 where he made a novel bee toothpick and demonstrated rose turning techniques. That presentation is available in the 2022 newsletters section of our website.

Mick made two items in his demonstration first was a cascading 'reverse' incense burner and second a musical instrument.



Left: One of Mick's reverse smoke incense burner prototypes with the smoke cascading down the turned wooden steps

Disclaimer and safety notice

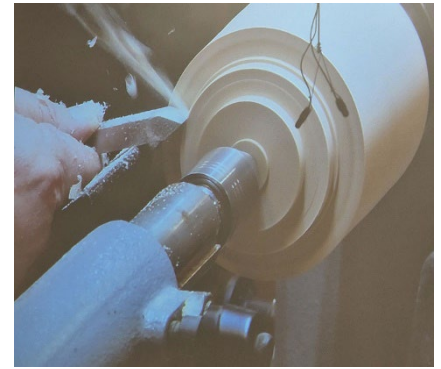
The reverse smoke incense burner uses cone incense with a hole through it, the smoke from burning passes both from the top and through the hole due to air pressure differences.

A brass holder must always be used with these, however there is the chance of a smoldering part of the incense to fall through and onto the turned wood within the chamber which could ignite. They must therefore be used with care and under constant supervision at your own risk.

Mick said that it only took a few tools and some scrap wood to make the incense burner, the only other required parts are a special brass cap and glass candle shield.

Mick started by turning a piece of sycamore around 90mm diameter between centres and turned to round at 75mm diameter, he then faced off the end and created a 48mm diameter spigot as a scroll chuck mount. He then reversed the piece, supported the piece by the tailstock and a revolving centre and repeated to create another chuck mount.

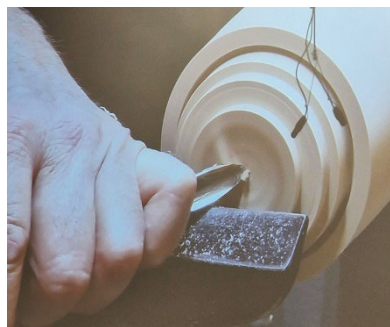
He then created several 'steps' of approximately 8mm width using a parting tool. The first step at 65mm diameter, the second was approximately 75mm, the internal diameter of the glass candle shield tube.



Mick was careful to turn the diameter to the size set with a pair of external callipers. It was then a case of test fitting and tweaking the size until the glass tube was a snug fit over the spigot.

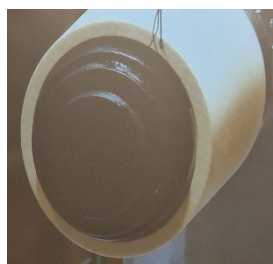
Note: the shadowed objects in these pictures are due to the projector casting them onto the screen as some dangling microphones have been installed between the projector and screen for use with the pantomime production in the hall. We hope these are temporary..

Once a snug fit was achieved Mick then cut an end recess approximately 2mm wide to hold the glass tube securely. Mick said some silicone can be used to hold the tube when finally assembled



The first spigot was then cut to form a shallow dish or depression using a gouge. The piece was shear scraped for a better finish and the piece lightly sanded to 240 grit.

A spray coat of cellulose sanding sealer was applied and allowed to dry



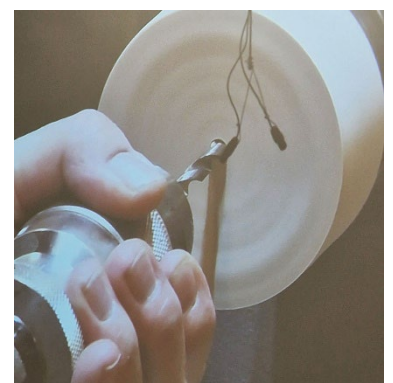
The steps were then coloured using a small paint brush and some Daler Rowney black acrylic ink. This allows the interior to contrast with the grey smoke from the burning incense.

Once the ink was dry it was reverse chucked and the bottom dished slightly to allow it to sit securely without rocking. This completed the bottom part.

The lid and reverse incense holder

Another sycamore blank was mounted between centres, brought to round and sized to compliment the base with an overhang suitable for the glass tube. A chuck mount of 48mm diameter was created as before.

The lid was then mounted into the chuck and a 6.5mm diameter hole was drilled completely through the centre to accommodate a brass hollow reverse brass incense holder that will be fitted later in the hole.

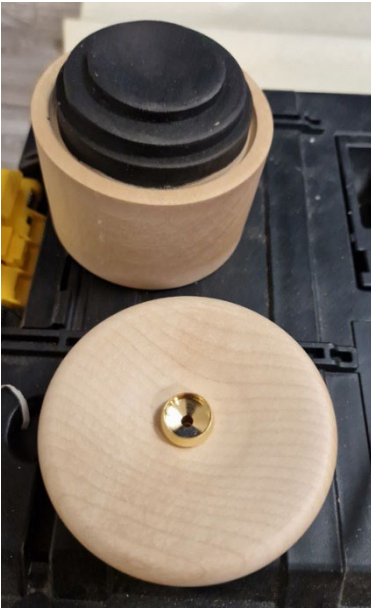
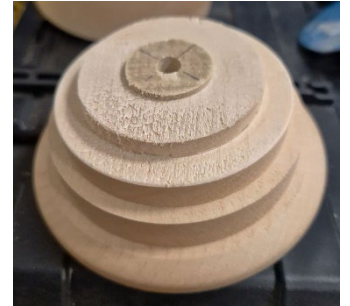




Two steps were then cut on the chuck side. The first was approximately 75mm diameter to fit inside the glass tube, this was slightly tapered for a good fit.

The second step was turned to the width of the glass tube for it to rest on as a spacer. The edges of the top of the lid were rounded over and the whole sanded to 240 grit, followed by a coat of sanding sealant.

For the purposes of the demonstration the chuck mount was not removed but it would ordinarily be removed by reverse chucking to finish the item.



Left: the finished top and bottom

The brass reverse incense holder is shown on the right.

The spigot is ribbed to allow the fitting to be securely glued in the lid.



These fittings can be purchased online, search for 'reverse backflow brass incense holders' There are several types available so you may need to check the spigot and cone holder diameter. The Glass tubes are sold as 'glass candle shields', they are available in a variety of sizes.



The incense cones used in the demonstration are backflow 'dragons fire' cones, made by Stamford and available in a pack of 24.



The finished burner in operation. After a few moments of burning the smoke can be seen descending into the tube forming a line of smoke and 'pooling' on the dished steps below.

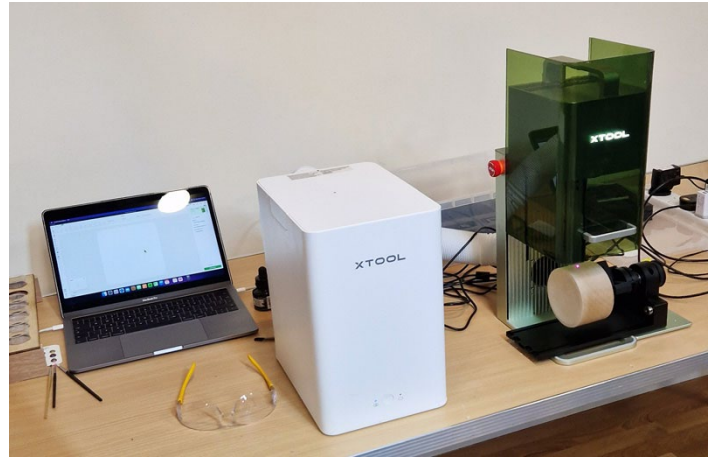
As the smoke builds it then cascades over the black steps forming an effective display.

This is a very clever item however we reiterate our original warning that it must be used with care and under constant supervision at your own risk to avoid fire.

Laser decoration on the holder base

Mick had brought along his Xtool laser cutter and engraver. This can cut plastics and wood as well as create decoration burned into wood like pyrography. The system comprises of a computer running the software to control the Xtool, the laser unit that incorporates a blue and red diode laser. The red is for metal engraving and cutting plastics and wood, whilst the blue is for engraving wood.

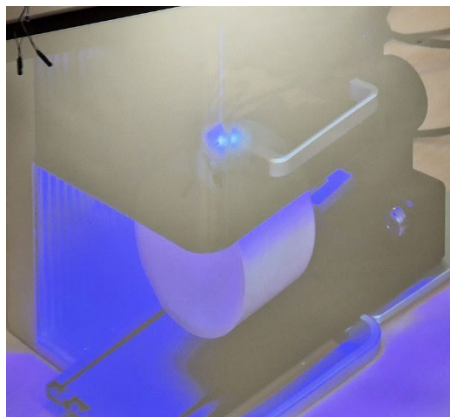
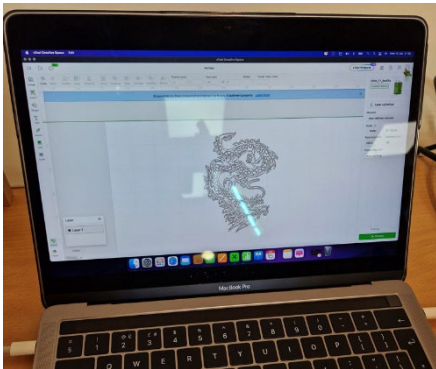
An indexing bed with a chuck operated by a stepper motor controls the work positioning and the white box is an air filter.



The Xtool laser unit with a blank fitted to the bed. The indexer is also shown without the blank.

Mick then adjusted the correct height of the work to the laser by adjustment of the bed so that two dots aligned and combined on the work surface.

Left :



The engraver during use.

The blue laser light was very apparent and could be seen through the protective light filter cover as it turned on and off to create the engraving.

As the laser scanned across the work the engraver was ready to index to the next position and the next line of the 'engraving'

The intensity of the Xtool laser can also be adjusted to allow for grey scale of photographs etc. It is very powerful and can also pierce through material to create complex and precise patterns.



Left: the finished dragon engraving. This can then be left as it is or coloured.

Mick uses a special set of colour acrylics made by luile to paint and accentuate his intricate engravings.





Iuile paints are shown left. The card is approximately 100mm square. There is a wide range of colours and effect permutations available.

The company is from California and specialises in handcrafted pearlescent, colour shift, glitter, and shimmer watercolour paints.

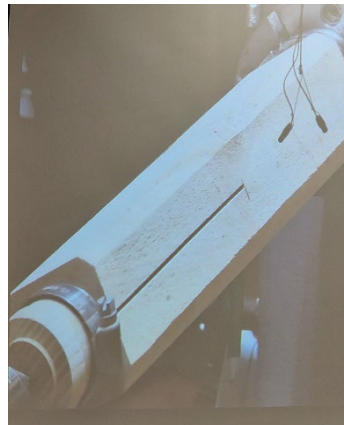
The paints allow for a richly coloured, vivid and intense image, the formulation uses cosmetics amongst other ingredients.

Musical instrument

Micks' final demonstration was a mystery musical instrument.

He began by fitting a pre-prepared blank onto the chuck. This had a hole in one end 25mm diameter and 150mm deep. A bandsaw cut had been made on the centre line of the hole end approximately 150mm long.

Mick had turned a temporary bung so that the tailstock could support the end with the bandsaw cut, this required a jubilee clip to temporarily hold it together and stop the end from splaying out.



The section nearest the chuck was turned to form a waisted handle and the tube with the bandsaw cut reduced in diameter. The wall thickness between the inner hole and exterior determines the tone of the instrument.



Once sanded and sealed the waste near the jubilee clip is carefully turned away, the clip is then removed for the final finish. Take care as the bandsaw cut and centrifugal force can create an easy catch.



The final instrument was revealed as a percussion instrument to be used with a small percussion mallet as they are known. Different notes are obtained by hitting with the mallet directly or with the mallet stick in a sweeping motion. The note changes depending on where the tube is struck and distance from the slot.

Variations can include turned ridges to allow percussion by sweeping across them.

This was another very interesting and entertaining demonstration with something for everybody.

Our thanks go to Mick.