

January 2017 - Paul Sweet

BOS WTC member Paul, a full time builder, started woodturning only two years ago after he lost three fingers in an accident with a saw. Last year he won a couple of prizes for his turnings including one presented by Mark Sanger in November for an ornamental egg cup which Mark said 'he could not have done it any better himself'.

This was Paul's first club demonstration which, never having done one myself, must be a daunting task in front of an audience of some long term turners, but Paul's undoubted skills enabled him to produce an attractive Christmas decoration at the same time as coping with the friendly banter!



The starting point for the demonstration was the main body which was an **exact** cube of mahogany type wood. Firstly, two opposite sides were drilled to receive the finials making sure that the holes did not penetrate into the middle of the turned body.

The main holes were made using a 25mm Forstner bit drilling half way through at a time and sanding inside at each stage using a sanding stick to avoid losing any more fingers! The drilling was taken only to half way to avoid damaging the Forstner bit on the chuck and also to ensure a clean entry hole on each face. This task was made all the more tricky when it was discovered that the shaft of the Forstner bit that Paul had borrowed from George was slightly bent!

Top Tip 1 - having drilled completely through on one side great care is needed when drilling the other side to avoid tearout and the potential complete destruction of the piece!

The next stage was to turn the cube to round and to hold the work a friction chuck was made out of a close grained wood turning the tenon down to fit the finial hole ...



... bringing the tailstock up (not too tight) to support the work whilst the main body was turned to round before locating on the other spigot hole to complete the operation ...



Putting the main body aside it was time to make the two finials out of a piece of American white oak which was turned to round and then carefully shaped using a skew, a brave move under the eagle eye of Brian Milham!, but one that was completed to perfection.

A final sanding, sealing, polishing, attachment of an eye to one of the finials and then gluing into the main body completed this attractive decoration to Paul's delight and satisfaction ...



Congratulations Paul on what I'm sure will be the first of many demonstrations in the future.

David Langan