



## Thameside Woodturners

Club Night Thursday 10 October 2024

Dennis, Terry and Tony demonstrating

Unfortunately Steven Kearvil was afflicted with Covid and could not demonstrate for us. Three of our club members stepped in at very short notice and gave us a good evenings entertainment.

Dennis kicked off by showing a section of Hornbeam that had lovely 'spalting' running through it.



Spalting occurs when timber gets infected by two types of fungus that travel through the 'tubes' that run with the grain. These fungi fight and left behind the damage. The colour varies according to the wood and can be from black as in this case , to brown or golden. Although occurs naturally with trees that are damaged, spalting is also induced when cut trees (usually after winter coppicing) are left where they lay for twelve months thus giving the fungus time to penetrate. Too long will lead to rotting and soft patches.

Dennis also spoke about air drying of timber. As a rule of thumb, timber will dry at the rate of 1 inch of thickness per year. It is essential to seal the end grain to slow the rate of drying otherwise the tension in the wood will cause splits. Sealing is usually done with a hot wax dip but other methods such as emulsion paint or even diesel oil can be used. I had a large diameter log which I could not dip so I put the candle on

the face and used my airgun to melt it. It worked a treat. Remember that when stacking wood for air drying, the pieces must be separated by small blocks of wood, 1" is fine and this will allow an air flow.

Dennis then showed how he turns the body for an Elf Christmas decoration. After sanding, a good tip was to apply the sanding sealer along the grain as this eliminates any circular rings that can happen as it dries if it is applied with the lathe turning.

Next Dennis showed us a laminated block with a dark and light wood in uneven proportions. From this he is able to cut smaller pieces for turning into animals that have a light coloured chest. Careful measuring either side of the joining line gives the desired effect as can be seen in the photo.



The second half of the evening Terry and Tony did a double act to show a bowl made from a flat board about 1" thick. Tony is putting together a short article on how this is done and that will be added here shortly.



Ted Higgs

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