

## **Observations Swan WEWS October 2012**

**Jim McDonnell** demonstrated the making of lace bobbins.

Jim talked about the history of lace and the bobbins used to make it, including how lace and lace bobbins have been recovered from the 1629 wreck of the Batavia.

He showed samples of the designs from that era, and an enlargement of a Midlands bobbin and how it is used. He showed layouts of bobbins and lace on blue card with various patterns of lace, and also examples from different countries. He told how difficult it is for a turner to complete with Bali imports. Jim then proceeded to demonstrate how he makes a bobbin. Using straight grain timber mounted between a chuck and live centre, he roughed down with a small skew to approximately 6-8 mm round. After marking out, Jim roughly shaped the bobbin, and after drilling a hole at the handle end, continued shaping and decorating, then carefully sanded and parted off.