Wealden Woodturners

CUTTING EDGE

November 2026

Informative but Fun Five Stations

For the first time since becoming Newsletter editor in 2015, I was unable to attend a meeting. I am indebted to Rick Thompson for standing in at such short notice, taking notes and photographs on my behalf for the October meeting covered in this newsletter.

The six multi stations were reduced to five as my contribution of air brushing on turned work could not take place. However, the feed back from members shows that the topics covered were extremely helpful. Everyone enjoyed the day and learnt a lot.
The five demonstrators covered the following subjects.

John Turner – Hollowing



John demonstrated how he tackles large hollowing tasks. He started by showing his method of holding large items in the chuck. This then moved onto a discussion of the various hollowing tools available including the merits of shielded vs unshielded cutters, carbide and traditional blades, and the different types of systems such as the Woodcut and the club's Rolly Munro hollowing systems. We learned tips such as that heavier bars are best to reduce vibration when the cutter is a long way over the tool rest and keeping the cutter at a 45 degree angle to make the cut less aggressive.

Mo Draper – Threading

Mo demonstrated cutting both external and internal threads using various thread chasing tools. He discussed chasing techniques and gave tips on sharpening the chasing tools. We learned that the best woods to use are hard, straight grained wood like Box or Blackwood although the man-made material, Corian, gave better results as there is no thread 'tear out'. We also learned to use very slow speeds (no more than 500 rpm) and that coarser threads are harder to cut than finer threads. 18 to 22 threads per inch are best



Gareth Garner – Sharpening

Using the club's Sorby Pro-Edge sharpening machine, Gareth initially gave an overview of the sharpening machine and demonstrated the various settings for the Pro-Edge. He explained about the different belt types and grits and showed us how to change the belt and set the tracking. Gareth then went through different attachments and how they are used. After his demonstration, members went on to sharpen various turning tools



Mike Pollard – Texturing

Mike demonstrated various texturing tools and techniques. He began by explaining which woods work best (closed grain woods), how to present the tools to the workpiece by keeping the tool rest low and to keep a low speed when texturing. We learned to keep the tool presented at a 90 degree angle and centre height, apply a steady pressure and commit!

John Packer – Simple Items with 3 Tools



For this station, John demonstrated how simple projects could be completed with just 3 tools: a spindle roughing gouge, a bowl gouge, and a parting tool. After reviewing the proper techniques for each tool, he had members make a turned bird, a one-piece yo-yo and a magic wand.

Many thanks to the five demonstrators for sharing their time and expertise, all contributing to a very successful meeting.

Thank you also to everyone else who helped with all the essential tasks on the day.

Members Work



Christmas decorations.



Mike Pollard.



Adam Baker.





Rick Thompson

Keith Youngs.



Halloween pieces right, by Lynn Chambers and left, by Keith Peirce.







Hollow form by Jacob McCarthy.



Lelly James turned this two stage piece.

Sunset platter by Gareth Garner.

Last Reminder for the Winter Competitions

Members will be provided with blanks to make an entry as follows;

Novices: A single blank

Make a composition of your choice, using as much of the wood as possible. This could be a single item or a piece made up of a number of components. Past examples of this type of category were a set of 'tin' soldiers, and a bird nest complete with birds and eggs.

Intermediates: Two blanks

Make a 'set of two', using as much of the wood as possible. As a 'set of two' the two items should not be identical but belong together. Examples could be a cruet set, two people or animals, interlocking pieces, perhaps a 'ying and yang' creation?

Advanced: Three blanks

Make a 'set of three', using as much of the wood as possible. As a 'set of three' the three items should not be identical but belong together. Examples could be a set of boxes, goblets, interlocking forms etc.

Note:

- For all classes the addition of colour and decoration is fine.
- The addition of other wood or material may be used to enhance the piece, but to constitute no more than 10% of the whole.

Frank Elworthy Cup Spindle Turning with a Difference (Open Class)
Charles Newson Cup Partners' Choice

Last entries for the monthly competition should be presented at the December meeting for the culmination of the Richard Hasleden Cup.

The Peter and Daphne Smith Trophy awarded to member of the year, will also be presented at the December meeting so please start thinking about nominations.

November Meeting

November 15th 10.00-16.00

Hands on with Peter Castle turning Ethnic Pots

Please bring your tools and blanks.
Blanks to be 3" x 3" x 4" ideally of Oak or Sweet Chestnut (timber containing tannin), the greener the better.

Chairman	Maggie Wright
Vice Chairman	Mike Pollard
Competition Secretary	John Packer
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	John Turner
Events organiser	Mike Pollard
Librarian	Gareth Garner
Newsletter editor	Sandra Day
A-V co-ordinator	Brian Rowson
Hands On	Pete Hawes
Webmaster	Rick Thompson
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December Meeting

December 6th 10.00-16.00

Christmas Social and Competitions

The winter social will follow the usual format.

Competition entries to be handed in by 10.15

Judging will take place during the morning with entertainments during the day. These will be followed by an appraisal of the entries before the announcement of the winners.

Please could members bring a plate of food towards the buffet lunch. Drinks will be provided by the club.

Friends and family are welcome.