



Christmas Comes Early



Following a change to the programme, the hands on project for last month was turning Christmas decorations. Members were treated to a double demo with Mike Pollard turning trees and Maggie Wright turning icicles.

Decorations make good items to turn as they are quite small but provide good practice and make good gifts which can become family heirlooms. Mike began with a sapele blank which he mounted between centres before roughing it down and turning a chucking spigot. He faced the spigot off with a parting tool in order for it to make good contact with the chuck jaws. Mike then mounted the blank in the chuck and brought the tailstock up initially for support. He then completed the roughing down to a point, ready to refine it with a spindle gouge or skew. He marked the divisions for the branches with a pencil before defining them with the skew chisel. Mike added more shape to the branches using a gouge. He then marked the base and curved it over. He made lines around the base with a skew chisel to add decoration. The lines were burnt with a piece of formica pressed into them with the lathe running. Removing the tailstock, Mike finished the tip of the tree before sanding and finishing with friction polish. The base was finished by sanding on a homemade sanding disc held in the chuck. The final task was to make a small hole in the top using a bradawl and to insert a small screw eye to which Mike attached a hanging loop.



After a short break for coffee, it was Maggie's turn.

She began by showing us some examples that she had turned using green sycamore and beech. The pith in the middle of sycamore is very soft so if using green branchwood it is best to avoid it. Maggie discussed balanced shapes with either the weight at the top or bottom. The decorations can be hung by supergluing thread into a hole drilled in the top or by using screw eyes as Mike did.

Maggie used yew for her demonstration as it has lovely colours. These can be preserved by storing the decorations in a box to exclude light.

Using steb or crown centres, Maggie mounted the wood, roughed it down and faced off the end using a parting tool. She also used it at an angle to cut the dovetail spigot ready for the chuck. After further roughing to round, a fault appeared in the wood so Maggie reinforced it with superglue and continued carefully.

Maggie shaped the slender end of the icicle first at the tailstock end, leaving the bulk of the weight at the headstock end for support.

Maggie did not work to a plan but shaped the work by eye making sure there was clear definition between each section. The divisions were clearly finished with the skew chisel. Sanding was carried out carefully to preserve the crispness of the details. After sanding, the work would be sealed and polished before parting off with the skew.

As yew is hard, Maggie drilled the hole in the top for the screw eye.

To finish her demonstration, Maggie showed members how to mark an icicle form for adding a barley twist. She had some of her examples on show.

If members are interested in adding barley twists to their work the club library has a copy of Stuart Mortimer's book Techniques of Spiral Work which is the definitive work on all styles of twists.



Members having a go at turning a decoration were invited to display their finished pieces. Maggie and Mike then selected the one they liked best from each style.

Pictured left are the winners, John Gillingham and Rick Thompson in front of a display of decorations turned by Maggie and Mike.

Thank you to both Maggie and Mike for their informative demonstrations.

Hopefully there will be some unique decorations hanging on members Christmas trees this year.

Members' Work



Lidded boxes turned by Bob Hollands.



Jacob McCarthy turned and stained a sycamore pot.



Keith Peirce made a ring holder.



Large apple turned by Adam Baker.



Hollow form by Howard Baldock.



Yoyo by Keith Youngs and right, another by Marion Brunt





Jim Moger's fairy scene and Anne Smith's Puck both for a Midsummer Night's Dream.



Lynn Chambers kitchen witch.



Segmented bowl by Gareth Garner.

Thank you to all those who helped prepare for the meeting and to all those who stayed to help clean up at the end of the day.

October Meeting

October 18th 10.00-16.00

Multi Stations covering the following:

Tool technique with John Turner and the use of the club Rolly Munro hollowing tool.
Mo Draper on thread chasing and using the club thread chasers.
Sandra Day on air brushing techniques
Gareth Garner sharpening tools with the club Sorby sharpener.
Mike Pollard and Pete Hawes texturing and the use of club texturing tool.
John Packer making SIMPLE items with kind tools.

Carving

Have you thought about adding carving to your turned work?

The Chatterly Carvers meet at Frant Village Hall on Wednesday evenings at 7.0 pm.

For Sale

Large H/D Bench Drill (to include a 'bench' stand).
Excellent condition, very little use since new. 3' high, takes 16mm drill with 4 to 5" travel.
Downsizing hence sale.
£100.
Contact Peter Castle.



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
www.wealdenwoodturners.org.uk	

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.