



Tealight delights with Lynn



With Christmas just around the corner, our November meeting was a hands on session led by Lynn Chambers demonstrating how to make his lantern style tealight holders.

Lynn was understandably nervous but need not have worried as he gave us a good demonstration. He explained that he normally starts with a square blank between centres which he roughs down and turns a spigot on each end to suit his chuck jaws. This is the same procedure as for turning a box which is really what his lanterns are.

Lynn mounted his ready prepared blank in the chuck and parted off the lid section. He then showed us how he marks out for the rings of holes to be drilled in the side of the base. Using a skew chisel for a good finish, Lynn turned the cylinder to 2.3 ins and drew a pencil line around the circumference for each line of holes. He positioned this line so that the tealight lamp would line up with the rows of holes. Using callipers set to 0.65in he marked a ring of points around the line then marked a second line and staggered the points on this.

Of course, if you have an indexing system on your lathe or chuck, you could use this to mark out the holes and it would enable you to vary the size of the lantern without complicated calculations.

Once satisfied that the holes would be evenly spaced, Lynn drilled them all out using a 10mm drill bit making sure that he held the drill at right angles to the work. Normally Lynn uses beech which drills very cleanly but the demonstration timber produced some tearout. So, select wood with a close even grain.

After completing the holes, Lynn demonstrated drilling on the lathe in order to hollow the base to accept the tealight. He did this in two stages using a small forstner bit and then one slightly larger than the diameter of the lamp. The bit was mounted in a Jacob chuck in the tailstock.

At this stage some members felt that it was unnecessary to use two bits as the larger one had nowhere for the point to locate and might wander.

In order to remove the tearout from the drilled ring of holes, Lynn refined the outside again with his skew.

Once more, members offered suggestions. It might be easier to remove the tearout before drilling the centre out as there would be more support and less vibration.



Lynn Chambers turning the lid section of his tealight holder.

Lynn however, had no problems doing things his way and parted off the base. He then mounted the lid and turned a decorative profile using some home made tools and very light cuts. He turned the spigot to be a snug fit in the base and parted it off. Of course, he then realised his earlier slip. When he finished the base he should have left the chucking spigot in place rather than parting off.

If he had done this he would have remounted it and fitted the lid into it in order to turn the top of the lid. He would then have parted off the base. As it was, Lynn gave us a valuable lesson in turning a jam chuck to hold the lid which he then completed as planned.

The finished tealight lanterns look very effective with the colours twinkling through the holes. They would look lovely hanging on the Christmas tree but turning them all on and off might not be such fun!

Our thanks to Lynn for an enjoyable demonstration. It is not easy to stand up in front of everyone and work with all eyes on you, but he has inspired members to go home and have a go. Well done!



A few of Lynns' lanterns

Members' Work on Show



Above. Bottle tealight holder by Bob Hollands.



Selection in walnut by new member, Terry Johnson



Above. Sellotape dispenser by Ken Page.

Left. Miniature candlesticks by Richard Haselden.

20 pence coin for size reference.



Right. Tealight holder in oak and glass by Malcolm Page.



'Autumn' Small platter decorated with pyrography and spirit stains by Sandra Day

Wanted

Bench top planer thicknesser.

Contact Malcolm Page. Email maljan44@gmail.com

Reminder for This Months' Meeting

December 11th

Winter competition and Social

See November newsletter for details

Thank you to all the members who helped set up and clear away and to Brian Rowson and team for managing the audio visual equipment throughout the year.

To all our readers

*A Joyful Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



Next Months' Meeting

January 15th 10.00am

AGM and Critique

Please note this is a month earlier than usual.
Please bring some work for comments and advice

Chairman	Maggie Wright
Vice Chairman and Competition Secretary	Peter Castle
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	John Turner
Events organiser	Greg Collett
Librarian	David Spice
Newsletter editor	Sandra Day
A-V co-ordinator	Brian Rowson

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