



Demonstration with Denis

The April meeting was a demonstration by Denis Hayer. As Denis is not very tall he finds club lathes are generally too high for him so he had brought his own portable lathe. We have discussed the working height of lathes in the past, but for those new to turning, the centres should be in line with the turner's elbow.

The lathe was set up on a workmate in a similar way to our club lathes and the ensuing demonstration showed that one can achieve a lot even on a small lathe.

Although the items which Denis made were small, they encompassed all the techniques needed for different aspects of turning. This was ideal for the novices as it taught them good practices using small pieces of timber and off cuts, so not too expensive if things go wrong. Also when things go well the result is a very acceptable gift for a friend or loved one.

Denis began by turning an earring holder which was made from four different components. These were a base with a tray in it, a stem, the main earring holder and a finial which could be used for keeping rings safe.



The earring holder.



The pincushion.

The stem and finial incorporated spindle work and had spigots turned at the ends to fit holes drilled in the main parts, which were turned as for faceplate work. The holes to accept the earring posts or hooks were predrilled on a pillar drill but could be drilled using an indexing system on the lathe.

Denis did not sand and finish the parts as he did not want to create dust during the demonstration.

In practice, once the parts are finished they would be glued together.

Next Denis made a pincushion. He explained that as a past upholsterer he had a supply of foam and fabrics. He cut the foam into a circular pad and covered it in baize, carefully pleating and fitting as he went. He then glued the fabric over the foam. The wooden base was turned as for a bowl, carefully sizing the inside so that the covered pad fitted in snugly. Denis used a beading tool to add a little detail with raised beads around the base. The cushion was then glued in place.

The wood used for the base was poplar which Denis said was an easy timber to turn.



Denis Hayer working at his small lathe.

Denis moved on to another little spindle work project, turning two light pulls. Each blank was predrilled and mounted on a light pull drive. After turning the profile Denis did sand these as they were quite small. He then sealed them with cellulose sanding sealer diluted 50/50 with thinners and finally finished them with carnauba wax.



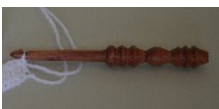
Turning the light pull

Denis followed this by turning a honey dibber and then a spinning top. The spinning top was made from beech and mounted in the chuck for profiling. Before parting off, some colour was added with felt pens. We then had a break for the raffle and lunch.

The afternoon session began with Denis showing a collection of tools that he had made. These were presented in leather tool rolls made from off cuts from his upholstery days. The smallest set was made from a variety of metals including masonry nails, bicycle spokes and darning needles. They were made for turning miniature pieces and Denis then went on to demonstrate by turning a hollow form in amboyna wood. He had brought some other tiny pieces to show us including hollow forms and goblets with captive rings on the stems. They ranged from about 1/4 in. to 1 in. Denis also had small callipers made from sheet aluminium and an orbital sander made from an old electric toothbrush. It just goes to show what a little bit of ingenuity can do.

Denis finished his demo by turning a yew bud vase which he wet sanded as yew dust is particularly harmful to health

Members' Work



Above. Natural edge bowl in horse chestnut by John Turner.

Above left. Segmented pot in ash and walnut by Lynn Chambers.

Centre left. Ash bowl by Peter Rigby

Left. Crochet hook by Anne Smith.

Recipe for wet sanding medium

Blend 1 part melted bees wax with 4 parts warmed liquid paraffin. Store in an airtight container. Apply to work then sand through grits as normal.

I find it works better with traditional abrasives rather than the mesh types. By the time you get to the last grit the wax has all but disappeared and you can proceed with the finish of your choice.

Reminder for summer competition

Novice.	A present for a child.
Intermediate.	A three legged stool.
Advanced.	Thin is beautiful!

Lots of entries please!

We would also like members to invite partners who have interesting hobbies to bring along some of their work for us to enjoy.

Please encourage them not to be shy. Whether it is painting, sewing, metalwork or any other craft we would love to see it.

This month's meeting

May 15th.

Spindle turning with Peter Castle.

Please bring tools etc and any examples of spindle work that you may have to give us some ideas.

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

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Next month's meeting



12th June. Hands on team event.

Each team will put their new found spindle turning skills to the test by making mushrooms to arrange on a piece of natural wood.

Timber will be provided but bring your tools

