

Nearly But Not Quite!

The October meeting began with the general notices including the news that the club has been awarded a £300 grant by the AWGB to celebrate their thirtieth anniversary. The grant is to be used for something special.

We also learnt that Maggie Wright had once again enjoyed success in the Wizardry in Wood competitions, winning third prize in the Masters' Challenge for a pair of lidded bowls and first prize and a gold medal in the H.E. Twentyman competition for ornamental turning. Her entry for the latter was a slightly unorthodox piece as the ornamental work was added to a natural edge vase. Congratulations to Maggie!



Above, Maggie Wright's natural edge vase in yew with ornamental turning around the outside.

Left, her lidded bowls in masur birch with cocobolo finials.

Far left, showing gold leaf interior of bowl



We then heard a cautionary tale from Greg Collett concerning our attitude to workshop practices. Having suffered an injury himself, fortunately not serious, Greg urged us not to take any short cuts when using and maintaining our power tools.

The subject for the hands on session was a spinning top challenge. The record to beat for a continuous spin was 94 seconds set by Maggie Wright two years ago. Peter Castle demonstrated the turning procedures which are spindle techniques. He turned three different styles of top for members to try. There was also a selection of turned tops for members to look at.

The club recently purchased some O'Donnel jaws to allow gripping of smaller diameter work in the existing chucks so these were fitted to the lathes and members got on with their spinning tops. There was some fierce competition, trying different shapes and different weights of wood. Heavier tops tend to spin longer but more friction on the point will slow the top more quickly so it is a question of getting the balance right, along with the best weight distribution to improve the aerodynamics.

As the stopclock ticked away, tension mounted with times increasing towards that record. The final winning time was 91 seconds set by Peter Rigby's top closely followed by Brian Blanks top at 90 seconds. So Maggie's record of 94 seconds was nearly beaten but still stands.



Left, Members watching in anticipation whilst timing their tops.

Right, Peter Rigby with his winning top.



Members' work on show



Acrylic pens by Lynn Chambers.



Spindle practice by Fred Mitchell



Baby's rattle by Jim Mojer



Flowers in a pot by Peter Rigby



Spalted bowl by Brian Blanks



Box in yew by Mike Samme



Pull along ducks by Mike Pollard

Well done all those members who brought work in, especially the novices. It was good to see a varied selection on the table again.

Next Months' Meeting Winter Social and Competition

December 11th 10.00am

Classes as follows

Novice, Intermediate, Advanced.

All members will be provided with a blank with which to turn an entry for their class. The blank may be left as it is, cut, glued or reshaped in any way to produce a design of their choice. If you have not already received your blank please contact Peter Castle.

Charlie Newson Cup for partners' choice.

Frank Elworthy Cup. Spindle turning. Open class for all members.

Richard Hasleden Cup for monthly entries

Please could all of last years' winners return their cups this month in readiness for December.

We will be having a buffet as usual so please bring a contribution for the food table.

To mark the clubs' 25th anniversary there will also be a celebration cake. As this is a special milestone in the clubs' history, let us make it a memorable one with record entries for the competition and lots of members, their partners and friends attending and everyone enjoying the afternoon entertainments.

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

www.wealdenwoodturners.org.uk

Reminder for this month's meeting

November 20th 10.00

Hands on candlesticks and tealight holders

Bring your tools, ppe and wood if you have it.