



Spindle Special

The March meeting was mainly to practice spindle turning so after the notices, Maggie Wright gave us a demonstration of the processes involved. The design was a candlestick with grain aligned to the lathe bed but with the addition of a base which was turned with the grain at right angles to the bed. This part was therefore not spindle turning but enabled the spindle to be held upright.

Maggie encouraged everyone to plan out a design before starting work on any project. This can save costly mistakes if you are using a special piece of timber as well as improving the overall design of your piece. Maggie also reminded us of safety issues such as personal protection and making sure everything on the lathe was secure before switching it on.

After roughing down the spindle which was a piece of yew log, Maggie turned a chucking spigot to hold the work in order to drill a hole to accept a candle cup. This was done using a Jacob chuck mounted in the tailstock and fitted with a sawtooth bit. In the interest of safety, a metal insert should always be used to support the candles and of course, they should never be left burning unattended. John Turner had provided some brass candle cups but there are other options such as metal lids or glass inserts. In the past when learning to turn, I churned out lots of candlesticks which did not warrant any money spent on them so I used short lengths of 3/4in copper pipe offcuts.

Having drilled the hole, Maggie remounted the wood between centres and began shaping the work using spindle gouge and skew chisel. She also demonstrated a purpose made beading tool. She then made the bottom of the stick concave so that it would sit nicely on the base and below that turned a tenon which would fit into the base. At this stage the work would be sanded and sealed if appropriate. For the base Maggie recommended using the same wood as the top. She began by turning a chucking spigot and mounting it in the chuck. Using the same procedure as for the stick, she drilled a hole for the tenon and then began shaping the foot. Maggie explained that work never looks the same horizontally so it is a good idea to remove it, still in the chuck, to assess the shape. Once happy, the piece can be sanded as sealed as usual. The final stage is to reverse mount it to remove the chucking spigot and finish the underneath. The two pieces can then be assembled.

After Maggie's session, we had a break for coffee and then an auction of timber donated by Barry Pannett's daughter, Karen. This was followed by the raffle which took us round to lunchtime. The rest of the day was devoted to hands on.



Above. Members engrossed in their work.
Right. Maggie Wright demonstrating spindle techniques.



This was a very good exercise for our novices although only one member completed a candlestick. However, the rest took them home to finish. Thank you Maggie for a very useful demonstration. Thanks go also to all those who helped out in all the usual ways.

Maggie brought to our attention the fact that the Worshipful Company of Turners is inviting applications for bursaries. Anyone can apply for any turning related subject. Closing date 15th May John Turner received one in 2013 and studied under Nick Agar and Stuart Mortimer. Maggie Wright received one last year for pursuing ornamental turning. This has proved to be extremely demanding but Maggie brought in examples of her latest work. She has also had her work featured in various publications. Congratulations to Maggie for her success.

Members' Work



Footed bowl in cedar by Mike Cotton.

Left. Completed candlestick by Greg Collett



Ornamental work by Maggie. Threaded boxes in boxwood and alternative ivory



Right. Walnut sphere by Marion Brunt

Reminder for this Month's Meeting

April 9th 10.00am

Bowl Turning

Concentrating on the use of the gouge.

Please bring suitable blanks, maximum diameter 9 inches, tools and PPE.

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

Forthcoming Events.

Saturday 29th April 10.00 - 4.00

Phil Irons will be demonstrating Woodcut tools including the bowlsaver, Trugrind sharpening jig and Proforme hollowing tools at the Axminster Sittingbourne branch.

Saturday 13th May 10.00 - 4.00

At the same venue, Jason preparing, glueing and using coloured pencils for turning blanks.

For Sale

Top of the range Creusen grinder with wide white wheel. £50.00. (£300 new)

2 other bench grinders £20.00 each

Contact Karen Barraclough 07790811553

Mike Dean of Barley Wood Ltd. Westfield, Hastings has a good supply of elm and oak burr. Tel: 01424752000

May Meeting.

May 21st 10.00am.

Les Thorne demonstrating.

Les is a professional turner, teaching, taking commissions and producing artistic work.