



Bowling along with Peter

It was a beautiful sunny spring day as members arrived for the April meeting. The subject for the hands on session was bowl turning, concentrating on gouge techniques to get a good finish rather than using scrapers. Demonstrating these techniques for us was Peter Castle.

Due to building works, Peter's lathe and turning tools have been in storage for almost two years so it was very generous of him to lead the session having had no practice. He also had to use other members' tools, never quite so easy as using one's own familiar tools. Despite this we were treated to a comprehensive and informative session.

Peter began by using pressure to hold the blank, a ten inch piece of ash, between the closed chuck jaws and the tailstock. He normally finds this secure enough for turning the chucking spigot although on this occasion it was not really adequate. This was possibly due to the fact that the lathe was not running quite true. Other options for holding the blank initially include using a screw chuck or a faceplate. Peter trued up the face of the blank using a pull cut then turned the spigot to suit the chuck jaws. He explained how the dovetail needs clean corners and the area around it needs to be flat where it butts up to the chuck jaws. Having turned the spigot, Peter would normally start shaping the bottom of the bowl at this stage but because of the insecure hold, he mounted it into the chuck straight away and worked on the outside from the back. He demonstrated the pull cut and push cut, moving the whole body to get a good flowing line and emphasised that to get a good finish on the final cut, it is necessary to stop and resharpen the gouge. The next stage was to true up the top and begin hollowing out the inside. Getting into the correct position for this involves leaning across the lathe bed so if your lathe has a swivelling headstock or outboard facility, it is a good idea to make use of this and be more comfortable



Peter Castle beginning to hollow the inside of the bowl.

The next step was to decide on the required wall thickness and set up the callipers to this measurement. If making a thin walled bowl, turning needs to be done and finished in sections as vibrations will occur causing chatter marks. Peter began hollowing by using a pull cut again. If you get a pimple in the middle, remove this by going underneath it with the tool and lifting up. As the inside began to take shape Peter changed to the push cut showing us how to use the gouge on edge to begin the cut then follow an arc in, up, across and back down to the centre. As the inside got deeper we learnt how the shape of the tool affects the cut and that the bevel needs to be much flatter to avoid a dig in as the bottom of the bowl flattens out. An acute bevel is unable to provide the necessary tool support. Hopefully members absorbed all this information and put it into practice in the following hands on session. Many thanks to Peter for the demonstration.

Thanks also to all those who helped out during the day.

Members' Work



Above, pyrography by Sandra Day
Below, ornamental turning by
Maggie Wright.

Segmented work by Malcolm Page with
maple, oak and meranti.



Forthcoming Events.

Well done Brian Blanks (with the red
candle) and Mike Pollard for finishing
their candlesticks from last month

Saturday June 3rd 10.00 - 4.00
Steve Heeley professional turner demonstrating at
Axminster Sittingbourne branch.

Save The Day



Bowl in ash by Ian Boyland

Our September meeting on the 17th with
demonstrator, Phil Irons, will be a special celebration
for the AWGB Birthday Bash. Entry will be by ticket
only, purchased in advance. As well as the
demonstration there will be a display of members'
work (of all levels) and lunch will be provided. The
event will be open to your partners, other clubs and
members of the public.
Prices and more details to follow.

Reminder for this month's meeting

Les Thorne demonstrating

May 21st 10.00am sharp

For Sale

Elektra Beckum Lathe HDM1000

Offers? Please contact Peter Castle.
01435883435 email pcandjc@gmail.com

Next Month's Meeting

June 11th 10.00am

Andy Coates

Andy is a professional woodturner from
Suffolk, a member of the RPWGB, he
specialises in one-off decorative pieces but also
takes commissions, demonstrations and tuition.
He also writes for woodturning magazine

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| 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