



AWGB Birthday Bash

The Club's September meeting saw a celebration of the AWGB's 30th birthday and a special event to mark the occasion. Members were accompanied by family and friends and other guests were also welcomed, adding to the party atmosphere.

Demonstrating for the day was Phil Irons, well known for his hollow forms and colouring techniques. Mouth watering Burwash Beauties and accompaniments were enjoyed by all at lunchtime and there was a wonderful display of members' work to be admired. See below.



After the notices, Phil Irons introduced himself and began his demonstration with a session on sharpening. He emphasised the importance of correctly sharpened tools for successful turning. Phil uses a Creusen half speed grinder with a CBN (cubic boron nitride) wheel. These wheels consist of ceramic grains almost as hard as diamonds and although expensive, do not wear and do not need dressing. They are only suitable for HSS not carbon steel and treated properly will last indefinitely. Phil has the Woodcut Tru-Grind jig set up for his grinder. This single jig can grind all your tools to the desired profile. To repeat the same bevel Phil marks his tool edge with a felt pen, offers it up to the wheel and turning the wheel by hand the ink is rubbed off on contact so adjustment can be made to remove the ink down the entire bevel. This is a useful trick for any grinding system.

Phil also discussed the flute shape of gouges. He explained that a parabolic flute is better than the more U shaped flute as a smoother curve is obtained on sharpening and the whole curve can be used for cutting. In the picture, right, the less desirable straight sides of the U shaped flute can be clearly seen.



After sharpening Phil talked about acquiring wood and processing it for future use. He then produced a piece of horse chestnut with lovely ripple figuring which would take stain well to enhance the grain. He mounted the piece between centres and turned a chucking spigot. When Phil uses green wood, he rough turns with a larger spigot size which will be out of true after drying, so he can then reduce the spigot for smaller jaws to refine the shape. After roughing out, Phil sharpened his gouge before proceeding, explaining that wet wood is more abrasive than seasoned wood. The piece was then mounted in the chuck and Phil shaped the outside. The shape is important and should not be dictated by the wood but the golden mean should be considered and a flowing profile aimed for. Phil suggested that to get a true idea of the finished shape, the piece should be removed from the lathe whilst still in the chuck to look at it critically in the upright position.

He also recommended looking at it upside down as a good shape should work well both ways.

The next stage was to hollow the piece. Phil drilled out the centre to the correct depth then demonstrated the use of the hollowing tools. He used a shielded cutter tool with arcing cuts and kept it moving all the time to prevent it from clogging up. A gouge was used to refine the foot. When the form was finished we had the raffle and lunch.

There was plenty of good food to satisfy everyone and time to chat to Phil and to admire all the work on display as well, then it was on with the demo.



The afternoon session comprised the colouring techniques used. Stains must be liquid to be lightfast but Phil finds shellac stains too slow drying for sanding between coats and now uses metalised stains. The stain was applied with a brush, vapours burnt off with a cigarette lighter, then power sanded, Then a second colour was applied and the process repeated. To finish, Phil uses water bourne lacquers, applying several coats but denibbing between each. Then the piece would be burnished. The day ended with Phil showing some of his work.

Thank you everyone who helped to make the day such a success, Maggie Wright and team for setting up the display, Brian Rowson and team for managing the audio visual equipment, Margaret and Robert Hollands for running the raffle and off course everyone who helped with setting up and clearing away. We must also thank Jo Castle and the ladies in the kitchen for the Burwash Beauties and all of those members who brought contributions for lunch. Last but not least thank you to the AWGB for their generous grant towards the event.

Winter Competition

The subject for all three classes is a pair of named Wizard's Wands, not necessarily identical.

The Frank Elworthy Cup, an Open class for any spindle turning.

The Charlie Newson Cup, Partner's choice .

The Richard Hasleden Cup, Monthly Competition accrued over the year.

For Sale

Jet 1220 Variable Speed lathe with bed extension,
lots of tools and wood blanks.

Tel Kevin Head 01424753959

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

October Meeting

October 15th 10.00am

Terry Smart will be showing Chestnut Products during the morning session.

Unfortunately the tools and equipment due to be auctioned after lunch are not yet available but we still plan to have an auction if members can bring any unused items to sell. **So please look round your workshop to see if you have any surplus tools etc. that someone else could use. Please pass this on to anyone you know who does not use email.**

To finish the day there will be a session on marbling so bring some turned and sanded but not sealed items if you would like to have a go.

Next Month's Meeting

Please note change of date

November 26th 10.00 am

Colwin Way, a well known turner who tutors and demonstrates for Axminster Power Tools and writes for Woodturning magazine, will be joining us for the day.