

Fungus foray with Peter Hawes



Longstanding club member, Peter Hawes, gave his first demonstration for our May meeting.

The subject was fungi and Peter came very well prepared with some very attractive pieces of work to show beforehand. The fungi were turned in different styles, some singly and some arranged in groups which looked very effective.



Before beginning the main demo Peter shared a tip on facing off a piece of wood dead flat by using abrasive wrapped round a straight edge then it was on with the demo.

Peter began by mounting a piece of yew between centres, turning a chucking spigot and remounting in a chuck. The cap of the fungus would be at the tailstock end and he brought the tailstock up for extra support. Peter began shaping the cap using a spindle gouge and leaving a natural edge around the bottom of the cap. He removed some of the waste around the stem and then used a parting tool to undercut the base of the cap. Next Peter started shaping the stem into quite a bulbous shape leaving enough room at the chuck end to undercut the bottom of the stem when parting off. Having achieved a pleasing shape, Peter removed the tailstock and refined the finish on the cap and stem with a skew. He then sanded the work, wrapping abrasive around wooden takeaway spoons and forks to get into the tight spaces without catching his fingers, another handy tip! Peter then showed how to create the annulus or ring on the stem, using a skew.



The fungus was then sealed and burnished with a handful of shavings before parting off. Finally Peter used a pyrography pen to mark in the gills for extra effect.



Peter Hawes with a selection of his work, some purely ornamental but some with a purpose, such as pen holders.

At members request, Peter continued the demo by showing how he turns his slender fungi. After mounting the piece of wood in the chuck, he turned a succession of caps, parting each one off as he went. He drilled a hole in the underside of each cap and glued in a stem. The stems were made from peeled holly twigs which had a curve making the slender fungi look very natural.

It is not easy to stand and turn in front of an audience for the first time and we must thank Peter for the effort and time put into this demonstration.



The proceedings then continued with a sale and auction of equipment and tools from various sources. Thank you John Turner and Anne Smith for turning out the cupboard and also Peter Castle, our auctioneer. Thanks go also to Brian Rowson and team for managing the audio visual system and to Alan Capon who is now organising the tea and coffee. The sale was followed by the raffle and lunch. In the afternoon members got busy on the lathes turning their own toadstools. There was a good selection of branch wood to choose from as well as pieces of weathered wood for bases and holly for stems. By the end of the meeting there was a variety of finished fungi. Well done everyone.



Members with their finished work. Left to right, Fred Mitchell, Mike Pollard, Colin Reith and Alan Capon.

Members' Work



Above, Tortoise by Mike Pollard, Owl by Lynn Chambers and right, goblet by Brian Blanks



Lamp by Gareth Garner

Urn with ornamental turning by Mike Knight. Turned originally some years ago but recently restored.



Reminder for June Meeting

June 10th.10.00am

(Note 2nd Sunday not 3rd.)

We are hoping to cover the following topics: deep hollowing, finishing, sharpening, tool surgery and pyrography.

Please bring any relevant tools or problems for advice.

For sale

Two petrol chainsaws going cheap
Contact Peter French 01424420965

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

July Meeting

July 15th 10.00am

Summer Social and Competition.

We shall be having our usual BBQ, meat supplied, but please bring a plate of food to accompany it. We welcome your partners and friends. Please remember your competition pieces.