

## Christmas is Coming



This year has been a turbulent one with many restrictions placed on us all due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The upside for many of us woodturners is that we have had more workshop time and I know some members in particular have been making good



use of the time. Over the last couple of months some of you have been making items for Christmas, either decorations or gifts.

In the past we have had club sessions on making decorations and as we still have a couple of weeks to go, here are a few of those ideas. They make very good practice for everyone but particularly novices as the internal finish is not so critical since it does not show. They also make good use of all those little offcuts that we woodturners are reluctant to throw out.

Back in November 2012, Maggie Wright showed us how to make hanging decorations for the tree.

She looked at shape and form as well as turning procedures. I particularly liked her results though I did not get round to making any of my own until last year following another demo, this time by our competition secretary, Peter Castle. Peter turned some snowmen, Christmas trees and puzzles but Maggie's decorations were on show again. See newsletter November 2019 for details.



In 2016, club member, Lynn Chambers, turned some lantern tealight holders. This project can be seen in the December 2016 newsletter. If you no longer have these editions you can view them on the club website. Lynn has recently been making more Christmas items.



Lynn's lanterns were turned using box making techniques. The sizing allowed a battery tealight to be put inside, the light shining through holes drilled round the sides. You could adapt this and pierce a design instead, either random or perhaps Christmas themed shapes. Lynn used coloured battery tealights but there are other small coloured lights available such as fridge magnet ones.

Here is another idea. Have you come across a product called 3D Crystal Colour lacquer? It is available as sets of applicator pens and the colour medium can be applied across small gaps. You can thus fill across pierced holes to produce a lovely stained glass effect when lit from behind with a white light.

Maggie's style of decorations were hollow hanging tree decorations. You could of course just turn these between centres but unless they are thin icicle styles, they are really too heavy to hang without weighing the branches down.

Like Lynn's lanterns, the body of the decoration can be turned as for a box, hollowed out in two halves then glued back together before adding finials.

Maggie's technique involved mounting the body in the chuck and hollowing from one end only. The hole used for hollowing through, is then covered by the base of the finial. Normally turned with a tenon, finials fit into holes drilled or turned centrally on the top and bottom of the body.

Finials give plenty of opportunity for design and turning practice. They look good in contrasting timbers or you can add colour if that is your preference. The ones I made last year were natural wood brightened up by adding tiny craft bows, stars and beads. Beads can be expensive but the jewellery section in a charity shop will provide a good selection beads as I discovered when making lace bobbins with spangles. Small screw eyes can be purchased for the hanging loop. My low cost option was to drill two tiny holes in the top and push in a piece of brass wire bent into a small U shape. If you have no brass wire a brass paper clip cut into sections will suffice equally well.



Wire loop



In the Christmas competition of 2017 advanced turners were asked to make a pair of wands. Here is an update on one of those entries from Richard.

A few years ago, I entered this wand in the club competition - category make a wand. It had a star on the end for the competition but Maggie said she didn't like it and that I ought to take it off and enter it for the London show. I took the star off but unfortunately broke the end section of the twist. I have now just made a new twist and glued it on and also made a stand for it to sit on. Richard Haselden.



Mahogany and Ebony - wand. Stand Xylia and Box.



### Online Competition Update.

You will remember we operate a handicap system when judging our monthly competition at meetings. Given that it is not practical to implement this for our online competition and it is difficult to compare the three classes purely from photographs, the committee have decided that an extra prize will be awarded in the online competition on some occasions at their discretion.

The first of these will be awarded to a member of the novice class in the January competition so novices, here is a chance to make your mark. There will be an overall prize as usual. To help the evaluation, from now on entries will have N, I, or A to show the class of the turner as well as a number.

Just a reminder, entries should be turned within the last two months of the entry date. Winners will receive a Stiles and Bates gift voucher.

### November Competition

Last month's competition was won by number 5, Pete Hawes for his turned and carved Sycamore pot

Other entries were as follows; 1, Gareth Garner, 2, Malcolm Page, 3, Paul Filsell, 4, Mike Pollard, 6, Ken Allison, 7, Richard Hasleden.

Thank you to judge, Marion Brunt.



December Competition Entries.



1, Sapele ring box with brass and mussel inlay. I



2, Segmented pot. N



4, Pepper and salt mills. A



5, Platter with resin and oak centre. I.



3, Matching games. I



6, Christmas Carousel 30cm.high with turned and carved figurines. Heat from the tealights turns the impeller and platforms. A.



7, Natural edge pot in Leatherleaf verbena. A.



9, Lamp, natural edge birch log and burr with a robin carved in lime and soldered wire legs. A.



8, 12" x 2" sycamore platter with carving.A.

## Members' Work



More decorations. Above by Mike Pollard and right by Lynn Chambers.

Below, Ice bucket from Holly 8"high 8½"wide top and 5½" base, brass powder inlaid knot holes and cracks. The inside has 2 coats of water proofing/food safe treatments. By Chips Bishop.



Above and right, three pieces by Brian Pope.



Musical trinket box in burr hawthorn by Sandra Day. The tune plays when the lid is removed to release brake pin, see first picture. A black velvet insert, not shown, fits inside. The movement winds up with a key in the recessed base where the recipient's initials are pyrographed.

## Abrasives

Some of you have contacted me for supplies of abrasives this is ok, as I have various stocks. Paperbacked, cloth backed, and abranet.

If anyone needs some, please phone or email it can be sorted out, but can you collect?(Hastings) I can give you prices over the phone, and you can pay by cash or cheque, made out to Wealden Wood turners. Brian Pope. 01424441920 Email brianpope2018@outlook.com

## For Sale

**Scheppach 200mm wet stone sharpening system**, jigs and guide included, nearly new condition. £60.00. Contact Brian Pope. 01424441920 Email brianpope2018@outlook.com

**Draper Lathe, thought to be a WTL90.**

Although 12 years old it has never been used (am told it was a Xmas present for 'the wife' but she never tried it)

Appears to be in good running order. Chuck still in box plus one HS bowl gouge. Cosmetic condition is 'as used' with slight surface rust.

I noticed one of these on ebay recently went for £310 with 18 bids. There is another at present with 7 bids and currently at £175, check next weekend for final price.

Can be viewed Burwash Common, offers please.

Contact Peter Castle.

## Peter Rigby

Members will be sad to learn of the recent death of Peter Rigby from pneumonia.

Peter was a longstanding member of the club and a regular at meetings until his health deteriorated. He was very sociable and I shall miss our chats about farming, beekeeping and woodturning.

Our condolences to Peter's family.

SAD

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

## January Newsletter

This is due for publication on 10<sup>th</sup> January. Please send your competition entries by Tuesday 5th

*Wishing you all a Happy Christmas  
and a Brighter New Year.*



We hope meetings will resume before too long but in the meantime keep well and keep turning.

