

**The Erewash Valley Woodturners Association  
Lockdown Newsletter**

**Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
Issue No.2**

I hope the first Lockdown Newsletter last month was of some interest to you.

It is important to me, and I am sure to yourself, that we try and keep the interests of our club together during this difficult period of Coronavirus lockdown.

As I write, there appears to be no end date to when we shall commence returning to any degree of normality.

Together with my wife Jan, I have been busy gardening and painting our front porch which has been the bulk of my recent activities. However, I have thankfully had several respites in my workshop. (I am not that keen of painting, although it is quite necessary at times).

Many thanks you all who have contributed your ideas and pictures of your “lockdown” woodturning items. Please continue to share your ideas. They genuinely help to keep the basis of our club alive.

**1. David Woodward**

This is some of the stuff I've been up to during lock up. I hope I can get the pics uploaded for you all.

The two child's chairs I made from English oak one for my grand-son who is just 1 year, the other for my daughter's friend who also has a new daughter. Plenty of simple spindle turning, the seats are 22 mm thick and shaped with router, angle grinder and finished with hand scraper. The chair finish is rusting plastic coating

The other two pics burr oak. The set of 4 are a commission I have done for a lady in Lincolnshire and the others are just for pleasure. I've left the bark inclusions etc. as part of the rustic design, the storks are from separate pieces. The finish is Osmo poly x. The brick is for picture scale.

Regards to all David.





## 2. Peter Favell

I fully support a members lockdown letter.

I have made some hedgehogs and a slug like thing from pine cones, these can be used at the next fair we can get to, maybe West Hallam.

The second photo is some trickery I have taken from a book by David Springett, hopefully the puzzles will entertain the grandchildren once we can all meet up again! The puzzles were great fun to make particularly during the lock down when the workshop became an important place to be!

Happy to share my e mail and phone number with other members.





### 3. Bob Barnes

Please find attached 2 pics of bird feeders.

These can be made from any small scraps of wood you have. I used them to try out different finishes on these I used coloured embellishing wax on the outside.

Regards

Bob Barnes





#### 4. Chris Meaden

This is the story of a disaster.

It all started when a (former!) friend gave me a piece of an old oak fence post, a little over a foot long and about 3 1/2 inches approximately square. It had been cleaned up enough to see some interesting grain together with a few natural splits and a touch of localised rot. Gerry would have designated it “firewood” without hesitation. I wish I had listened to him.

I was effectively challenged to produce something from it.

The grain effects meant that it would be a shame to remove too much material, which ruled out the likes of bud vases. I did not fancy hollowing with the number

of splits in the wood. The final choice was a pair of three- sided candle holders. Big mistake. The wood was extremely heavy and hard. I was not worried at the start about turning off centre – my lathe is a Record Maxi-1 weighing in at 210kg. which I thought would absorb most of the vibration – wrong again! Finally the design depends on the accurate setting out of the turning centres, to the extent of sticking plain paper over the ends to be able to mark accurately. I knew better. I marked out on the end grain between minor areas of rot.

Turning proved a nightmare. I should have stopped as soon as I started and rethought the whole design, but – hey ho – I persevered. The combination of vibration and resulting fairly slow speed, the hardness of the wood all combined with my ineptitude, resulted in two candle holders that are asymmetrical with smooth but undulating curved plain sides. The tooled finish was diabolical resulting in a huge amount of hand sanding, starting with 60 grit floor sanding paper! Old oak is extremely hard for sanding, in case you did not know.

Lessons learnt – 1) apply common sense, 2) choose your friends carefully, 3) apply more common sense.



PS Does anybody want a pair of candle holders – seconds?

## 5. John Young

In my last submission for the newsletter I mentioned that I was making a music box merry go round. I have just completed it. Pics attached. When you crank the handle the merry go round rotates and it plays Bolero. I hope you and other members are finding time to enjoy the workshop. Best wishes. John Young



6. David Woodward



Before looking at the caption below – do you know what this is?



Hi all members. This is my latest turning job, it's called a swingle tree and is used as part of a horse harness to attach harrows or other horse drawn implements. It's 720mm long and 70mm diameter in the centre. Made from ash. Someone else is providing the ironwork for the attachments. Happy turning. David