

The Erewash Valley Woodturners Association Lockdown Newsletter

July 2020
Issue No.4

Dear member,

Welcome to the 4th issue of the Lockdown Newsletter.

Despite the recent easing measures undertaken by Government, it still is difficult to foresee a return to club meetings in the near future.

Social distancing will, without doubt, be the inevitable difficulty for any group meetings.

Consequently, Trevor has undertaken to cancel all remaining demonstration bookings for 2020 and has been busy preparing the club bookings for 2021, and for 2022 too.

That said, several demonstrators around the country are showing their resilience and innovative skills by offering “live on-line” demonstrations to woodturning clubs and are canvassing their availability in this sphere.

I am aware of the diversity of computer skills within our club membership- some of you do not have access to a computer, some of you have to share a computer, and many of you have discussed that you watch the often questionable woodturning videos on YouTube.

However, I would be interested to hear from you, of your opinion, whether it is worth considering and pursuing “live on-line” demonstrations.

For those of you who are not aware of how this would work, such demos would be arranged basically as follows.

- a. A date and time would be arranged with the demonstrator, (e.g. one of our ‘normal’ club nights)
- b. One common format is “Zoom” so all participating members would have to download the appropriate app.
- c. For the pre-arranged demo a code and a password would be sent to participating members to watch the demo at the pre-arranged time
- d. There would be a charge to the club by the demonstrator. How we could organise this to members depends upon what interest is shown.

As mentioned earlier, I am aware there are a small number of members who do not have access to a computer, and of course this proposal could not include them directly.

So please air your views on this subject, because, as mentioned, I cannot foresee club meetings, at Greasley Church Hall, being available for some time yet.

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My thanks you all who participated in last month's Virtual Competition, and to those who sent me their votes. Despite the limitations of such a competition, I believe it was a reasonable success.

Currently, I have no more contributions for a further Newsletter, so please continue to send in your photos of what you have been producing.

Have you any ideas to incorporate in further editions?

Perhaps you have a story or two, such as:

“situations to avoid in woodturning”

“amusing stories in woodturning”

“problems you have faced and overcome”

If so, please do send in your stories.

On that note, below is a lovely tale by **Chris Meaden**.

Finally, over the past months there has been a number of enquiries about you wanting to pay the annual subscription fee. Also, there is a concern that if not paid, then you will be removed from the mailing list.

Under these difficult circumstances we are facing, let me assure you we are not accepting payment for annual subscriptions until we are next able to meet. Until such time, no one therefore, will be removed from the mailing list.

About 14 members paid their fee immediately following the AGM on March 11th, and any reimbursements due will be agreed at the first available meeting.

In the meantime, take care and keep safe.

Robin

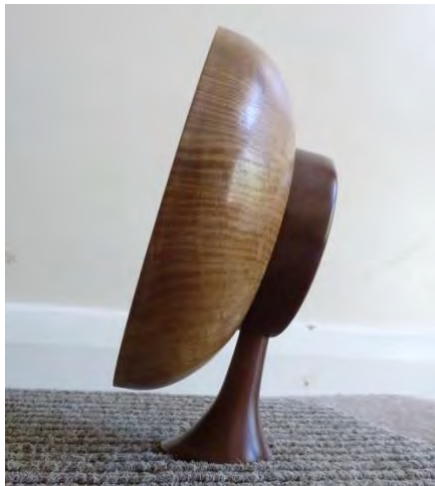
1. Chris Meaden

My Clock

Some of you may recall my entering a clock for the last competitions. I tell this tale as the clock not only tells the time but also reflects some of my personal history. The clock comprises three components, excluding the mechanism. Each reflects a period of my life. Liz wanted a couple of pasta bowls. I decided to do a practise one in a piece of elm (Steve's of course) and the inevitable happened – I made a funnel. Not wanting to waste what turned out to be a pretty piece of wood, much thought and discussion lead to the clock. It represents my current period – cock ups and make do.

The mechanism cover is an offcut of mahogany. Many years ago we sailed, and as part of the exercise I fitted out a fibreglass hull. The cabin sides were from one inch thick mahogany, were 16'6" long and tapered from 8" to 18". A technical note – the cabin sides had to be bent to follow the shape of the hull. On calling the producers of the hull (who would build the boat until you yelled stop, and offered advice if needed) they advised that you slotted the front (narrow) end in its housing, went to the other end, and pulled like b*****y (technical term!). The mechanism cover was an offcut from the cabin sides and thus reflects our sailing period.

The final part is the conical stand. Following the sailing period we bought a small camper van. This had to be serviced annually and we went to the producers of the van for this, near Evesham. It involved an overnight stay. Next door is a UPVC window fitting firm who had a skip outside. One year there was this 4 foot long scrap, mahogany family, window frame section about 4"x6" – far too good for the tip. This was the source of the conical stand part of the clock and reminds us of our motor caravanning days. So you see, I managed to make a history reminder that tells the time. It also reminds me that I still have not made the pasta bowls!



2. John Clark

Hi. I enclose some of my May efforts.

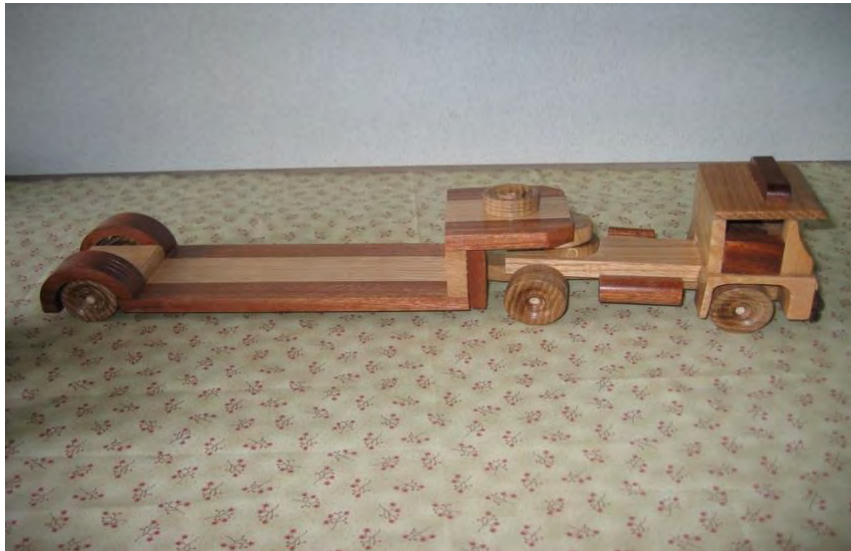
I have the plans for the low-loader and tractor and they can be had for a donation to our charity.

If anybody tries to kick the rugby ball they will get a very sore foot.

Many thanks for all your hard work

John





3. Pat Murphy

Here are a few photos and words for Lockdown turning times.

Making hollow forms is something that has had little interest to me, but lockdown has given me the opportunity to have another look. I am impatient so the thought of spending ages hollowing out a large piece of wood for it to take up what little room we have has never appealed. However, whilst tripping over some wood in the workshop I came across an old Sycamore branch which I must have saved because it looked as though it might have some nice markings, but what to do with it. It was a bit punky limiting opportunities a little so why not give some small hollow forms a go and while at it try some stain work initially inspired by Mark Raby.

So I got to work and decided to make as many as I could out of the limb which turned out to be four. You will see the four photos attached but will notice that one is Yew, the reason being on one I made the inside bigger than the outside. The forms are about 90 mm high by about 70mm diameter

Mark Raby used to float the stains on just using safety cloth and his blending was super, but when I tried the method ,I just got a muddy mess. This time round I used an air brush and the results were more acceptable.

So reasonably happy with the results but the biggest lesson learned is that when you think you are happy with the finial make it thinner. I could see improvements in the finials as I went along but looking at them now think they are still a little too heavy. I may revisit them

Hope you keep safe and use the time to try something new.

Pat Murphy
GladTurnings Woodturning







4. Yours truly.





5. Peter Favell

A home-made “sphere turning jig” was used to make these Spheres – details below.

The home- made sphere turning jig was based on an article in a book by Chris Reid. The jig has been developed to fit between the lathe bed rails. The sawn-off G lamp swivels in the wooden mounting block. Two M6 bolts have been fitted to the block to act against the G clamp threaded portion to reduce tool chatter / vibration.

Once the sphere has been turned as far as it can be, it is removed from between centres and the stubs at each end reduced using a fine saw. The sphere is now remounted using a chucking type method (see next page)

The sphere is now mounted between a revolving feature fitted over a live centre so the sphere can rotate and it is in turn pushed up firmly against a suitably shaped piece of stock fitted to the chuck.

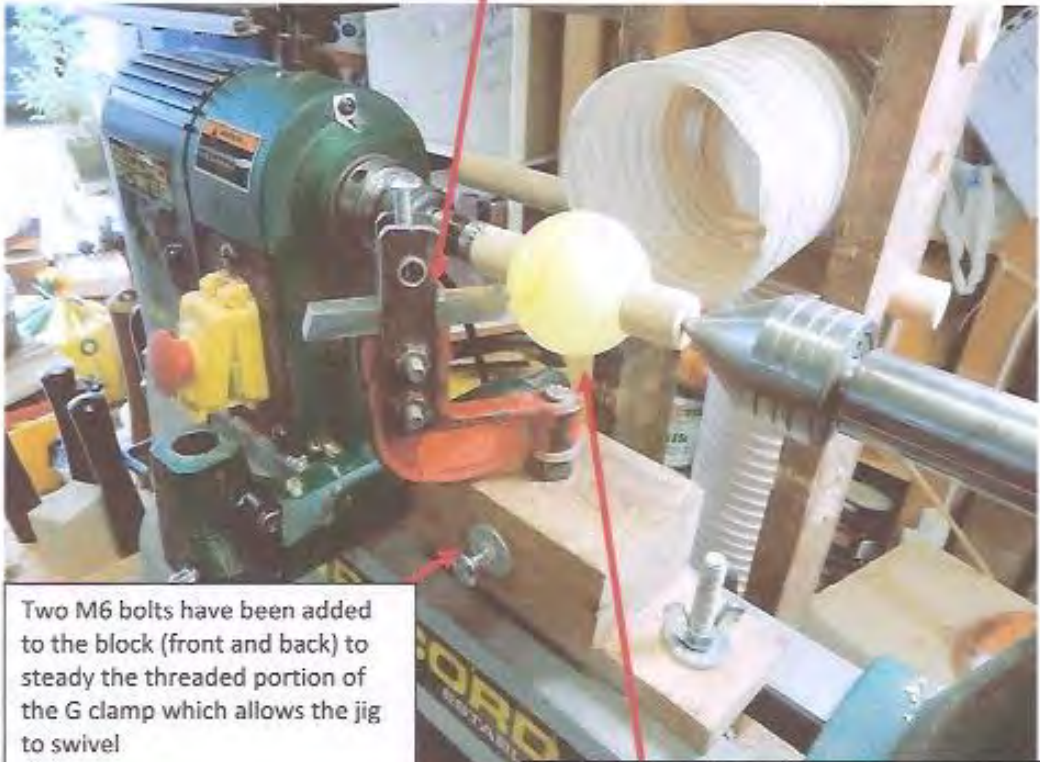
The feature fitted to the live centre is fitted with an O ring to provide sufficient friction to hold the sphere in place. A piece of friction material is fitted between the chuck feature and the sphere to prevent slipping whilst finishing the sphere.

Once firmly held in position the sphere stubs can be turned to clean up the ends and complete the sphere.

Peter Favell

Sphere turning jig

A 10 x 10 mm HSS bar was obtained and used as the cutter



Two M6 bolts have been added to the block (front and back) to steady the threaded portion of the G clamp which allows the jig to swivel

Plastic ball used for illustration purposes



Friction material at the drive end and O Ring at the tail stock