

The Erewash Valley Woodturners Association Lockdown Newsletter

August 2020
Issue No.5

Dear member,

Thank to those members who have contributed their woodturning items enabling this newsletter to continue.

Recently we received the following message from the Greasley Church Council.

"Greasley Parochial Church Council are currently looking at the ever-changing guidance on the re-opening of the Church Hall. Risk Assessments are being put in place and the logistics of opening the Hall are being looked at. Therefore, at this time the Church Hall will remain Closed until further notice."

Under the continuing circumstances of maintaining 'social distancing and other measures' it is the only possible outcome for the foreseeable future.

So, I would like to continue with the production of this newsletter to keep our presence and interests active between members for as long as it is necessary. Therefore, please continue to submit your ideas, items, articles, etc.

The last remaining Charity fund raising function, the West Hallam Ploughing match, planned for 20th September has been cancelled too.

Trevor has recently received the following:

It's from a Rob Atkinson who writes:

"To EVWA

About 3-4 years ago my neighbour cut down a large pear tree and 2 pieces of its trunk have been sitting in my garage, waiting for a good home since then. Sizes 16" diameter by 20" long, and 16" diameter by 27" long (with a split). I wondered if any of your members would like to come and collect them (no cost). [REDACTED]".

If you are interested, bear in mind the diameter, a chainsaw will be necessary to reduce the logs to a suitable size, etc.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that we were approached to see if members would be interested in "live on-line demonstrations". Due to the low response we have since indicated that we would not, as a club, be taking up these opportunities. It would require the interest of about 40 members at £5 a time to cover the expected costs.

Take care and safe turning.

Robin

1. Peter Favell

Segmented bowl work.

I wanted to have a go at making a segmented bowl but was very inexperienced. I did some reading and found there are many articles and suggested designs on Pinterest and YouTube.

One of the articles I was reading suggested that the base of the bowl should be a disc. This was being proposed because if the segmentation pattern had been continued to form the base it was most likely to split or crack in time.

As these bowls were my first attempt I decided to take the advice and have a solid disc as a base to avoid any subsequent issues with splitting or cracking and hence wasted effort!

As you can see from the photographs I made two bowls with a solid disc base. I turned a foot on one and removed the foot on the other.

I am uncertain just how valid the advice was about needing to make the base from a solid disc. I'm not sure it does much for the bowl appearance and makes it look a bit bottom heavy / solid, that's only my opinion!

I guess the reason to produce this article is to find out what the members think about the advice to make the base of the bowl a solid disc or continue all the way with the segmented pattern. I would be interested to hear what is their recommended / preferred method of making a segmented bowl with respect to the base?

Peter Favell

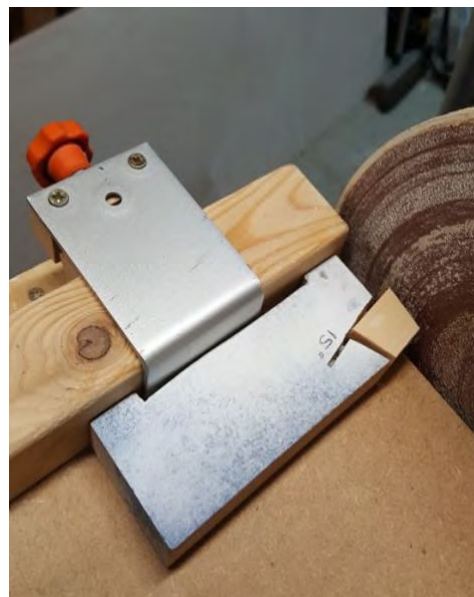


Have you any ideas and tips you may wish to pass onto Peter? R. I'll pass them on and share in the next newsletter.

2. Bob Baron

3. Lathe-mounted Sanding Table

1. Being in need of a disc sander when I first got a lathe I made a simple box to slide and lock to the bed bars. A platform that could slide across at 90 degrees sat on top. Faceplates were made from melamine faced chipboard to take self adhesive sanding discs. A removable mitre fence completed the job.
2. Starting to dabble in segmented turning I soon realised that accurate cutting of the segments was vital and something that I was failing to achieve. A club DVD by Malcolm Tibbett showed me the way. By modifying the table I was able to sand the pieces to the exact length and angle required, repeatedly.
3. A wooden rail was fitted to the table, parallel to the lathe bed to guide a rectangular jig. The jig has one corner cut away to allow the sawn segment to sit at the correct angle while being pushed against the sander. Only the outer edge of the segment is allowed to touch the jig. The jig has 2 feet which slide against the rail, either side of an adjustable length- stop. A precise sanding angle is achieved by trimming one or other foot until a trial batch of segments form an exact semi-circle. The photo shows this much better than I can describe
4. A consistent length is best achieved by sanding one edge of each segment then setting the length stop to allow the other edge to be finished. I know this all sounds complicated and tedious but, once the correct angle has been set, batches of different-length segments can be quickly produced at will.
5. The next outing for the table will involve mounting a drill chuck in the headstock. I'm hoping It should be ideal for furniture dowelling.



3. Pat and John Noakes

As I sit here writing this, I remember that we should have been at the Cromford Steam Rally this last weekend, (1st/2nd August). What a shame, as the weather was lovely, and I think we would have been very successful as it was a new venue for the club. Even though all this year's events have been cancelled we are hoping that next year will see them all up and running again. With this in mind I have again been busy turning items for our charity stall concentrating in particular on items for children as we get quite a lot of children at our stand. The photo shows examples of my turnings. Of course, it could be the lure of the bingo cage that draws them to us!!

In the meantime, John made himself a steady rest to assist him in hollowing long turnings. It was made from 18mm plywood and three inline skate wheels. He found the plan on YouTube! The steady proved to be extremely sturdy.

Pat Noakes



4. John Young

I have been playing with Milliput epoxy putty inlays. This was my first attempt at this and on reflection I think the inlay should have been much more random in pattern with smaller 'stripes' to give a more exciting effect to the pattern. However, I proved the technique and also discovered that on a warm day one gets a shorter than expected working time with the epoxy (maybe 25 to 30 mins). I was pleased with the finish on the inlay and will definitely try this technique again.

Best wishes
John Young



5. A request from George Reilly – *would you like to share a response?*

A personal suggestion.

I'm still pretty raw at wood turning but I keep trying.

However, whilst the suggestions on what to make come freely from the hands-on events and the other members the information doesn't always include the types of wood suitable for these jobs.

Decorative items are often a matter of personal discretion on behalf of the turner but for things like spoons, honey dippers, spinning tops etc, an idea of the top 3 woods, why these woods and their qualities would add to my understanding of wood and its qualities.

Additionally, the knowledge and experience of those well established wood turners and senior members is invaluable. Whilst I'd like to add I'll ask questions when we are together, it's often a case that the written word is our first point of reference.

Could I ask if there is or has ever been a book review suggested? I bought Keith's book based on my very first attendance at the club and it's in my hands more often than not but I've also had other books that in many cases are not suitable for a beginner, not something you can always gauge when buying on line. These could include books suitable to understand on how to get the best from machines and tools.

Just a suggestion.

Thanks.

George Reilly (XR)

I'll pass on any useful comments you may have onto George – RB.

6. More from John Young

I have done a couple of turnings; an olive bowl with ebonised finial and a natural edge bowl. I became a member of the funnel club, turning through the base of the natural edge bowl! I managed to turn a plug and repair it. So, I have now made a depth gauge (see attached photos). This consists of a length of ply with a central strip below that sits on the lathe bed and will slide along it. The front edge of this strip makes contact with the headstock. At the end of the ply strip furthest from the headstock is an upright supporting a dowel that is extended over the ply base as far as the face of the chuck. In use the gauge is placed on the lathe bed and slid along so that the dowel comes into contact with the bottom of the bowl. When this is so, the gap between the front of the ply and the headstock is the thickness of the bowl base.



7. Bob Barnes

These are a really simple projects and make great gifts.
My main reason for doing them was to try using inlays of different wood I found the simplest way was to cut the blank with a bandsaw and glue a single piece of veneer in with super glue. **Question does anyone have any tips or good ideas for different inlay designs.**

Regards
Bob Barnes

(I'll pass any of your ideas onto Bob and share it in the next newsletter if you wish)



8. David Woodward

Hi Robin and all. I have been busy making a few items from that walnut root I dug up last year. The diameter of the tree was 1 metre across, it took me 3 days of hand digging around it to get it ready for the farmer to lift it out with his forklift. I then cut it into manageable pieces with my chain saw then slabbed it up on my travelling bandsaw. The mushrooms are turned from some of the smaller root pieces and turned wet, so they distort naturally when drying. The memory box timber I had cut at 24mm slabs so was dry, it has comb joints to the corners is lined top and bottom with cedar. The curved top is a "structural veneer" cut on the bandsaw and bonded to the cedar, there is a sliding drawer inside. I have had great pleasure producing these items from a black walnut tree root which was destined to be consumed by Mother Earth. Regards to all. David.

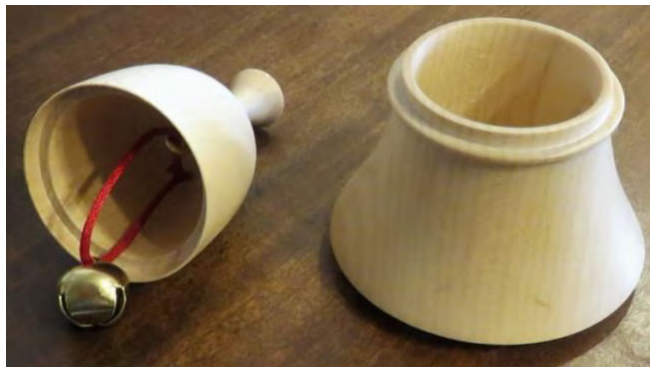


9. Trevor Lewis

I attach photos of 2 recent box projects inspired by (copied from) articles in Woodturning:

- This is a rare attempt (for me) at using colour - Jo Sonja fluorescent turquoise - which does seem to contrast strikingly with the ebonised and ebony elements. It certainly brightens up some dull beech and birch
- A bell box - with suspended bell. The Woodturning article said that a bell is rung on a ward to celebrate remission after successful treatment for a cancer patient: something I hadn't heard before.

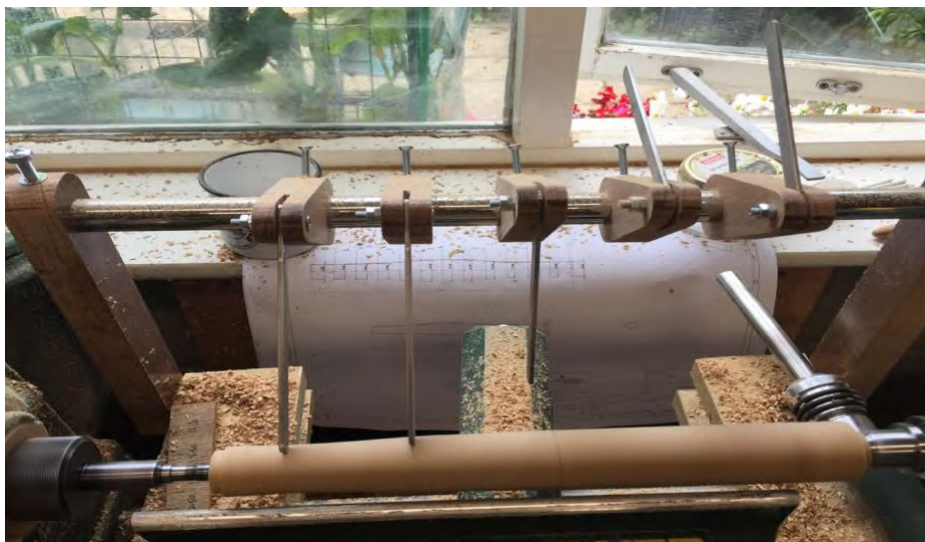
Cheers,
Trevor





10. Finally - your truly

I have recently been producing a significant number of stool legs and their stretchers. I share with you my copying fingers made from off-cuts and a few nuts and bolts and thin steel bar. It certainly made the reproduction easier, more exacting and quicker.



Best wishes to you all. Remember, please keep sending me your items, etc. Robin