

SAW –May 2020

Member's Magazine and Information
Special Covid 19 lockdown edition



Website: <http://www.shropshire-woodturners.org.uk/>

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The end in sight?

There's a glimmer of light... we can go a bit further afield for our exercise (520 miles?) and might soon be able to go shopping again (if you fancy the risk) ...but a SAW meeting still seems unlikely for a while yet so the newsletter will continue to rely on virtual visits, photos and web links.

Thanks to all who responded to the appeal for contributions to the newsletter. I have been sent details of two projects that are the basis for pages 2 and 3. And there's Calamity Corner too.

Training and skills development

On 21st May, Teresa sent an email with information from the AWBG about live demonstrations by professional woodturners. In case you missed it, here is the information again:

Talking Turning Zoom Sessions <https://www.awgb.co.uk/category/zoom-chats/>

We have a number of turners who have agreed to give us a guided tour of their workshop, a talk about what they make and a Q & A session too. These are all free of charge to anyone wanting to participate and you can connect from almost any internet enabled device using the link below. It's the same link for every meeting.

us02web.zoom.us/j/97244298850?pwd=V2VmMHRXSG8vN0lUd0g0SHBTRWpJUT09

Meeting ID: 972 4429 8850, Password: 042020

The line up for June:

- Tuesday June 2nd, 7.30 Ronald G. Cambell 8.30 Martin Clarkson
- Friday June 5th, 7.30 Andrew Hall AKA The Hat Man. 8.30 Kade Bolger
- Tuesday June 9th, The colourful Ed Oliver 8.30 Jon Simpson
- Friday June 12th, Jimmy Clewes 7.30
- Tuesday June 16th, 7.30 Matthias Bachofen Beer 8.30 Gary Lowe
- Friday June 19th, Emma Cook (TBC) 7.30pm
- Tuesday June 23rd, Colwin Way 7.30pm

Most of these sessions will be available online a few days after the event. You will need to register first. All details can be found on the website.

Cynthia Mee who provide the above originally also recommends the following as inspiration for the bowl shown here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucge2PtkrK4> - Dixie Biggs(for carving)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vURQDAjpQlk> - Sue Walters (for burning)



Member Project 1 - A Project with Not a Lot of Wood Turning

Colin Mee has been problem solving... he said: " I am in the middle of re-building the engine for my Austin Healey Sprite. As part of the exercise I treated the engine to a new adjustable cam drive-chain set up. All was going well until I fitted the timing cover and found that it fouled the adjusting nuts on the cam sprocket. The simple solution would have been to hit the cover with a big hammer to push the front out a bit but I knew that I would leave a mass of ugly dents, so I gave the problem some thought and, unable to sleep one night, inspiration struck!



I found a suitably sized block of softwood, mounted it on the lathe and turned it to 5" diameter so that it fitted inside the timing cover with suitable side clearance. It has a slight domed top and gently tapering sides and a passably smooth finish. Next, I made up a larger block and routed out a circular hollow below the cam sprocket's position. Pockets were cut to accept the oil vapour separator, the crank shaft oil seal mount and the timing pointers. With my die and mould complete, I mounted the whole assembly on my little cider press. After a few pumps on the jack, a gentle dome was formed in the timing cover.

The timing cover was fitted back on the engine and tested. It all turned smoothly and with no knocks or rattles from the cam timing department. With that done and dusted it was on to the next stage in the rebuild.

Hitting the cover with a big hammer would have been much quicker and turning the die and making the mould took many times longer than actually



pressing the dome in the cover but working through the problems and producing something that could, at a pinch, be described as a factory finish, was immensely satisfying. "

Member Project 2 – Getting ready for Christmas.



Julian Birch is making these Christmas decorations to sell for the Lyneal Trust at their Santa Cruises. (He volunteers at the Lyneal Trust which runs canal trips for disabled people. Interested members could look at lineal-trust.org.uk.)

He also suggested the following:
<https://worstjokeever.com/wood>
for a supply of some terrible jokes...such as:
Q: When is a piece of wood made king?
A: When it's a ruler (oh dear!...)

Calamity corner

Alongside all the photos of successful projects, I thought it might be helpful to mention some of the less successful, but nevertheless instructive, examples... so I start with my own attempt at something out (too far?) of my comfort zone...

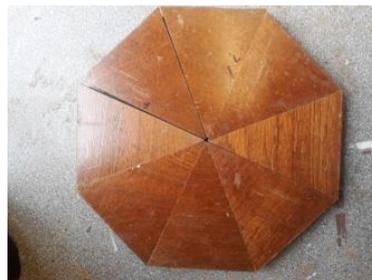
The challenge

Thinking of the fruit bowl challenge for April and, not wanting to spend a lot of money on a 10" blank, I thought of some sort of segmental turning..... and also challenged myself to think how to make a bowl from the least volume of wood, starting with a long piece of hardwood from an old bed.



The solution

1. Make a base from 8x 45° segments and lightly glue on a spigot. Turn to a circle, cut out a recess for the chuck and remove the spigot.



2. Make "walls" from 8 trapezoidal blocks cut and joined to form a splayed octagon (working out the theoretical compound angles took days.... but I now have spreadsheet so can compute them in an instant).

3. Make an adjustable jig to secure the octagon on the lathe and hence be able to expand the internal octagon to a circle. Note the four cams to ensure the whole was centrally located on the plywood backing board.



4. Glue the circular base into the now circular wall

5. Turn the whole to form the bowl – hoping to impress Tim Roberts with a state of the art segmental bowl...



What went wrong?

Quite a lot! Cutting the sections wasn't accurate enough...even an error of less than 0.5° in each of the 8 sectors resulted in a gap of 3mm gap at the perimeter. Some sanding helped but it was not good enough! And the point at which the eight sectors met wasn't precisely in the centre ... and that meant that the pieces didn't align properly...



Cutting the 8 trapezoidal pieces for the walls was even harder.. The geometry theory is great but, again, tiny deviations from theoretical angles resulted in the small gaps between the pieces...

Conclusions

1. I learnt a lot – especially the calculation of compound angles...
2. I need some help

Recipe please

Paul Bragg contacted me to ask "do you know anyone in the club who has a formula and /or technique for making brickettes from waste chippings and sawdust? My son has moved house and has a multi fuel burner and I like to make good use of my waste. "

And finally... for the June Newsletter

Please keep sending photos and stories of your woodturning adventures – I am still keen to have a section on woodturning machines and tools - *especially ones you have made yourself*. or anything non woodturning if it's of interest..

Nothing to show off?? Then please consider sharing your story of a *failed* project – as a contribution to Calamity Corner..

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