



Trafford & District Woodcraft Club

NEWSLETTER

Club Website: www.traffordwoodcraft.co.uk

JANUARY 2021

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

The only wood related work was when I saw the online demo from Pat Barrett from Wexford, arranged by Cheshire Guild. Although he only made a square box with pewter inlays, the presentation and professionalism were excellent as was his meticulous attention to detail. His support team in the shape of his daughter and his wife did sterling work to make the demo run smoothly.

There is also a good article in Woodturning Monthly about IRDs (interactive remote demos) which appear to have taken off in a big way. There is even talk of using them instead of meetings or at least in addition to. They point out that apart from the social side, IRD with more cameras, is better than watching a turner in person.

My other abiding interest is the US Presidency. I am sure that I have never followed previous incumbents so avidly but I guess the reason is obvious. I have managed to read almost all the critical books from Omarosa Manigault Newman and Mary Trump to Bob Woodward and John Bolton (POTUS disliked his moustache). Some of these were a bit weak and slumped quickly into boring autobiography, others had the ominous ring of truth. This now needs an update after the events of 06 Jan. It beggars belief that with the Leader of the Free World, his supporters took him at his word and stormed the Capitol. (The sound on my mobile was off for a while, when it came back the true extent of the intrusion became apparent). We have to see what else is in store up to 20 Jan but let's hope we are rapidly approaching the death throes of this incredible episode. Perhaps then I can get back to just reading crime fiction. Some good news I have also just received my first jab so feel that the way is now clear for us to be rid of the scourge. It won't come a moment too soon, even if I do have to wait twelve weeks for the second one

So I will wish everyone a Happy New Year and trust that 2021 has to be an improvement on last year

Robin Walling



FREE WORKSHOP KIT

Several lengths of 4" corrugated dust extraction pipe
and maybe a few clips.
Just ring 07779874513 and it's yours.

Sadly soon after our recent Christmas Party we lost our member, Henry Milner.

So we are reminded of that Christmas Party in 2018 and the beautiful cake made by Ann Walley and Carole Hazle to mark the 20th Anniversary of Trafford & District Woodcraft Club. During the evening Henry was invited to cut the cake as you can see to the left.

HENRY MILNER

Henry will be well missed. He loved life and his family. He was proud to have served in the Royal Marines then on to Manchester City Police Force where he was in charge of Fire Arms and was on many bodyguard services. He loved working with wood and was a keen member of Trafford Wood Club. He made many nice pieces in wood. He adored his family and was my greatest of pals. Goodbye Henry.

Contributed by Cliff Farrington

Henry Milner QPM 1938-2020

Sad to report that Henry passed away early December, aged 82. He was a founder member of the club and had served many years on the clubs Committee. He was a generous benefactor. To mention one instance, he purchased the small gazebo that we use at outdoor events, without wanting any fuss.

He also provided a silver sugar bowl to be presented as an annual prize to the "most improved" new member. He did enjoy competition that could, and did, lead to a few straight words. He never explained how the awarding of the bowl would operate. The committee several times debated the steps to implement such a wish but never had a practical solution. However that sugar bowl is in use whenever we meet and enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit to collect the 50p contributions. The small brass plaque on the plinth, made by Henry, will now be changed to record and perpetuate his memory.

We were pleased to invite Henry to cut a special cake made to celebrate the Clubs 20th Anniversary in December 2018. (*Ed: See picture and further on in this, Page ??*). He didn't appear very often after that, partly because of the distance and traffic from his home in Runcorn and his health. Amongst other issues he had a pace maker fitted that sometimes played up.

In order to understand where Henry was coming from you need to know that he was an ex Royal Marine commando 1955-1963 and then served in the Manchester police personal protection unit (including the Papal visit to Manchester) and as a firearms officer /instructor until retirement in 1992. He was awarded the Queens Police Medal of which he was justifiably proud.

All that is relevant because he was always on duty inspecting the Clubs kit. His regular target was the condition of the gouges and on one occasion dismissed the lack of sharpness as "embarrassing" when he was showing a new member how to use one. I thought someone was going to be put on a charge. It's unlikely we shall see his like again, **RIP Henry.**

Contributed by David Jones

Henry Milner was also a member of The Cheshire Guild of Woodturners. Henry went to train with Liverpool based professional Woodturner Ray Jones and qualified in City & Guilds.

Henry loved a practical joke and would often wind up fellow founder member, my late father in law, Ron. He valued their friendship and when in 2018 Ron beat him to enter that big workshop up there, he was very upset! I hope they have a wood club set up by now.

Henry had poor health for some years and back around 2010 he decided to 'throw in the towel' and sell all of the kit. He was very generous when, as a new member, I enquired about buying his lathe and threw in many other tools etc. I was pleased a short while later when he bought some new kit and I liked to think he was saying that his workshop was his happy place.

Henry appreciated how his local GP looked after him and volunteered at the surgery every week doing clerical admin.

Contributed by Julian Birtwell



TED BENNETT

Ted Bennett passed away early January 2021. He had an engineering background and had worked for International Combustion in Trafford Park.

He served as a Club Committee member for many years. During the time that the Club met at Altrincham College, we had to move out for several months so that a major roof repair of the workshops could happen. Ted as a member of the congregation at the church on Brooklands Road was able to negotiate the use of the hall in the church grounds.

Ted was a private man and so not many of us knew him intimately. However he was a kind man and many remember the support and generosity of spirit.

RIP Ted.

Contributed by David Jones

By a strange coincidence, in one of those "small world" conversations, it turned out that Ted was acquainted with an uncle of my wife. He was employed at International Combustion, Derby and lived nearby in Sinfin. As part of his job Ted travelled to the Derby factory and they met in the company's social club where Uncle Harold (by then retired) went to play chess once a week.

David Jones

ZOOM CHRISTMAS PARTY – Although the invitation had been open to all members and their partners, only a small group attended the online Christmas Party on Tuesday 15th December. However there was much fun and chatter, the Christmas Woodcraft Competition and musical entertainment. Christmas Hats, tinsel, mince pies and drinks were provided by the attendees which involved a bit of teasing and enquiries as to the content of the various mugs and glasses on view!

John Willson gave the results of his Christmas Quiz (printed in the December Newsletter) and subsequently there was a small quiz of Tie Breakers and Paul Yates was the winner.

Thanks to all who helped make the event fun and we all hope that if we have another such event that more of you will join in.

TDWC CHRISTMAS 2020 COMPETITION RESULTS

TURNING

- 1: Brian Ledsham – A Duo (Pair) of Chairs
- 2: John Willson – A pair of asymmetric Candlesticks
- 3: John Axon – Limewood decorative vase
Julian Birtwell – Wood Smart-phoned Amplifier
Martin Nield – Burr wood decorative dish

CARVING:

- 1: Jo Garry – Figurine Musical Box
- 2: Andy Wilkins – Santa Decoration
- 3: Julian Birtwell – Long Applewood spoon

WOODCRAFT:

- 1: John Axon - Party Popper Cannon (Toy)
- 2: Julian Birtwell – Illuminated Rustic Christmas Tree

The Zoom Competition: How it worked.

Having entered in advance, entrants were asked one by one to show their pieces to the camera and give a brief description of the materials and work. Whilst only allowed to produce one piece of work in each class, they could enter any or all of the three classes. The panel of judges were allowed to ask questions or to see the workmanship closer.

Then during the musical entertainment by Brian Ledsham the judges communicated privately by phone and gave their marks to the Head Judge who then co-ordinated the results.

Note: Judges whose partner/husband had entered the competition were not allowed to vote for those entries!

ZOOM: We hope most people are getting to grips with Zoom meetings, which with a little understanding is fairly simple to use; but if not, please do give a committee member a ring who will talk you through it or find someone else who can help. It is quite possible that we will have more Zoom meetings and demonstrations before things get *back to normal* and we would hate for you to miss out.

SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SELF ISOLATION TDWC STYLE

Many of you might have seen recent NHS 'JUST' cancer awareness campaign on TV. Lots of us, me included, might think that such material is for others and not us! WRONG. I am not writing this to get comfort or sympathy but to urge you all to be aware. I urge everybody to be 200% aware of their body and its functions.

I have had a cancer scare but I am now OK and can see light at the end of the tunnel, especially as on January 5th I had my first Covid vaccine injection and my treatment is due to start next month to control any future growth and get me back to normality.

Particularly look for red pee when you go to the loo. One night only a few weeks back I paused the TV and went to the loo as usual. For some reason, I know not why, I switched on the light. After all I am a big boy, I can pee in the dark can't I? However I was amazed to see red in the pan and I hadn't eaten home cooked beetroot. I had the sense to speak to my GP the very next day and he was straight on to it with a potential cancer referral. I have had a couple of nights in hospital and listened to the other guys there all with various forms of bladder cancer and to be honest it scared me to hell. You don't know what you don't know. Now I am fairly confident I will keep all my plumbing and that cancerous cells have been removed.

You might now see more of the truth of what I meant in my recent Newsletter articles when I said that my workshop has kept me sane.

Each time I go into my workshop I think could this project make a good demo for when we reopen? Because when we've all had our vaccine and we are allowed to reopen finances may be tight for a while, due to all of our income streams having been closed. TDWC members will do the first few live demos so this will help cashflow. But rest assured I am in touch with the professional demonstrators who were due to come to TDWC during 2020 and they are all just waiting for the call, as are all the event organisers. So despite the current lockdown some part 2021 just might be back to normal.

Your committee is doing the following to make sure that there is minimum delay once the green light is on:

1. Submitting our 2021 annual room rental booking for Sale West Community Centre to Amey (acting for Trafford council)
2. Together with our risk assessments for our weekly meetings, again to the landlord

My workshop continues to keep me sane; So I especially hope you keep fettling and safe.

Julian Birtwell

Trafford & District Woodcraft Club

Chairman & Librarian: ROBIN WALLING 0161 929 8472

Secretary: MARTIN NIELD 01925 757542 Treasurer: DAVID JONES 0161 747 0392

Events: JULIAN BIRTWELL 07779 874513

Committee Members: David Thwaite, Andy Wilkins, Paul Yates

Club Website: www.traffordwoodcraft.co.uk

THE STATUE OF HIS HIGHNESS OLIVER CROMWELL (Correct, see Google)

In the December Newsletter Robin described a visit he and Doreen made to Wythenshawe Hall, presumably before lockdown, unless he was just testing his eyesight. At the end he mentions the statue of Oliver Cromwell (O.C.) that now stands outside the hall. During the civil war Parliamentary forces attacked the hall but its very unlikely that O.C. ever visited the hall.



Robin is not a Mancunian and can therefore be forgiven for thinking the statue "grew" there but it was only put there in fairly recent times. It had stood in the middle of the road, Deansgate, near the Cathedral since 1875. The whole area bounded by Deansgate, the lower end of Market Street, Cross Street and Hanging Ditch was redeveloped, in two attempts, during the 1960/70s.

That particularly affected the medieval row of half-timbered buildings known as the Shambles that stood on part of the site that became M & S. At first it was jacked up and burrowed under to provide a car park and years later another brainwave had it dismantled brick by brick (and daub and wattle) and re-erected next to the Cathedral Close in a L shape. A client of mine was involved in "party wall advice" concerning the new elbow that needed to be built where none had previously existed.

(Right: The Shambles)

Anyway the statue of O.C. didn't fit into the new traffic scheme and after spending some years in council storage was moved to Wythenshawe when someone behind a desk decided the good folks of Wythenshawe might like it.

There has been some suggestion, so far not implemented, that Oliver moves back to Manchester to be located in the " Historic Quarter" i.e. near the Cathedral, The Shambles, Cheethams School, and the old Corn Exchange, etc. Shades of Disneyland creeping in?



Oliver's Head

If you think O.C.s statue has been around a bit consider what has happened to his head. Full gory details on Google, what did we consult before Google arrived.

He died of natural causes in 1658 and was buried in Westminster Abbey amongst the Kings and Queens. At the Restoration Charles 2nd had him disinterred in 1661 and put on trial for treason etc. and the embalmed corpse was beheaded and quartered. The head was stuck on a pike above Westminster Hall and remained there until a storm broke the pike in 1685. The head was picked up and disappeared into private hands until it turned up in 1710 belonging to a Swiss-French collector of curiosities called Du Puy.



On his death in 1738 the head passed through several owners until 1815 when it was sold to Jos. Wilkinson. It remained in the family until a Horace Wilkinson offered the head to the chapel of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge (O.C. had been a student there) in 1960.

It was interred in secret in the chapel in the oak box it had been kept in since 1815. The burial was not announced until Oct. 1962. I wonder if they would like a statue to go with it?

David Jones

TRAFFORD & DISTRICT WOODCRAFT CLUB

DATE	TIMETABLED CLUB NIGHT EVENTS	BI MONTHLY COMPETITION - 3
2021	DEMO nights 1 st Tuesdays monthly 18.30 – 22.00. (Feb to Nov) except April when due to Easter it is 1 week later on April 13 th Xmas Party on December 15th 18.30 – 22.00. All other 'Normal workshop' Tuesdays 18.30 – 21.30	classes - Turned - Carved - General woodwork

Jan 5 th		
Jan 12 th		
Jan 19 th	Until further notice our weekly Tuesday evening meetings are cancelled	
Jan 26 th		
Feb 2 nd	As at 14/01/21 your local Woodcraft Club doesn't know when we will reopen.	
Feb 9 th		
Feb 16 th	However we do have plans for 2021	
Feb 23 rd		
Mar 2 nd	The programme of demonstrators and outside events that were booked for 2020	
Mar 9 th	are all hanging on for our call and as soon we can sensibly rebook we will do	
Mar 16 th		
Mar 23 rd		
Mar 30 th		
April 6 th	Normal club workshop	
Apr 13 th	DEMONSTRATOR TBA	Competition --
Apr 20 th	Normal club workshop	
Apr 27 th	Normal club workshop	
May 4 th	DEMONSTRATOR TBA	
May 11 th	Normal club workshop	
May 18 th	Normal club workshop	
May 25 th	Normal club workshop	
SUNDAY MAY/JUNE PARK**TBC** FRIENDS OF ASHTON ON MERSEY VILLAGE BIG PICNIC ASHTON		
Jun 1 st	DEMONSTRATOR TBA	Competition --
SUNDAY 6th JUNE JOHN LEIGH PARK ALTRINCHAM FAMILY FUN DAY**TBC**		
Jun 8 th & Jun 15 th	Normal club workshop	
SUNDAY 20th JUNE SALE LIONS FATHERS DAY @ WORTHINGTON PARK SALE**TBC**		
Jun 22 nd & Jun 29 th	Normal club workshop	
JUNE THE HEATONS ARTS TRAIL **TBC**		
JULY SALE ARTS TRAIL SATURDAY & SUNDAY JULY **TBC**		
Jul 6 th	DEMONSTRATOR TBA	
Jul 13 th & Jul 20 th	Normal club workshop	
Jul 27 th	Normal club workshop	
Aug 3 rd	DEMONSTRATOR TBA	Competition --
Aug 10 th & Aug 17 th	Normal club workshop	
Aug 24 th & Aug 31 st	Normal club workshop	
Sep 7 th	DEMONSTRATOR TBA	
SATURDAY 11th TIMPERLEY COUNTRY FAIR @ LARKHILL TIMPERLEY **TBC**		
Sep 14 th	Normal club workshop	
SATURDAY 18th & SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER HAYFIELD SHOW & SHEEP DOG TRIALS **TBC**		
Sep 21 st & Sep 28 th	Normal club workshop	
Oct 5 th	DEMONSTRATOR TBA	
Oct 12 th & Oct 19 th	Normal club workshop	
Oct 26 th	Normal club workshop	Competition --
Nov 2 nd	DEMONSTRATOR TBA	
Nov 9 th	Normal club workshop	
12th-14th NOVEMBER HARROGATE WOOD SHOW @ HARROGATE SHOWGROUND**TBC**		
Nov 16 th & Nov 23 rd	Normal club workshop	
Nov 30 th	Normal club workshop	
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SALE ARTS TRAIL XMAS BAZAAR **TBC**		
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ASHTON ON MERSEY VILLAGE XMAS FAIR **TBC**		
Dec 7 th	Normal club workshop NO DEMO IN DECEMBER **see 14 th below**	
Dec 14 th	Club Xmas Party - free entry to members & partners. Food & drink donations most welcome.	Competition Your favourite item not yet seen @ TDWC
Dec 21 st & Dec 28 th	Closed -- Merry Xmas & A Very Happy 2021	

DATE	TIMETABLED CLUB NIGHT EVENTS	BI MONTHLY COMPETITION - 3
2022	DEMO nights 1 st Tuesdays monthly 18.30 – 22.00. (Feb to Nov) except April when due to Easter it is 1 week earlier on March 29 th Xmas Party on December 14th 18.30 – 22.00. All other 'Normal workshop' Tuesdays 18.30 – 21.30	classes - Turned - Carved - General woodwork

Jan 5 th	Normal club workshop **NO DEMO IN JANUARY**	No Competition this month
---------------------	---	---------------------------