



Trafford & District Woodcraft Club

NEWSLETTER

Club Website: www.traffordwoodcraft.co.uk

APRIL 2020

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

While preparing for the AGM we were assailed by the Coronavirus which has put everything into disarray. As you know the Club activities have been suspended along with almost everything else and we dig in for the long haul until we can be free of it.

One cheery note I see the residents of West Virginia reckon they have been practising social distancing since 1878.

However our esteemed Editor is keen for us to keep communications running to retain continuity, so newsletters will continue for the foreseeable future.

In March, Brian Ledsham gave us a very interesting demonstration. Further on in this newsletter, John Willson gives us the details along with photos supplied by John Axon. Thank you to both.

Your Committee is current investigating how best to hold the AGM so the formalities of the Club may be observed and decisions taken.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019 - 2020

So we should note that the last year was successful for us with a steady flow of new members and with thankfully few leavers.

The outdoor events were also a success and included John Leigh Park, Sale Lions, Timperley Country Fair, Hayfield Show, Sale Arts Trail and Ashton on Mersey Christmas Fair. This last event produced more than £600 in sales. I was mostly involved with Sale Arts, where we were more prominent than in previous years having our marquee alongside the Bean and Brush Cafe in Sale.

We again sent a coach load of members to Harrogate for the Woodworking Show in November 2019.

Our expansion has caused us to consider whether we are able to acquire further equipment. We are planning to put a proposal to the 2020 AGM.

When looking at my report last year I was reminded of the big loss of Ron Virgin. We still miss this founding member, being constantly reminded of him by Julian producing what seems an inexhaustible supply of his kit as competition prizes.

Finally many thanks to all members who help with operating the club and trust that before too long we will be up and running again.

Robin Walling

FORTHCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS

CANCELLED APRIL, MAY & JUNE DEMONSTRATIONS and CURRENTLY HOLDING OFF RE JULY

If you do Facebook I am trying to keep our page up to date re Demonstrations and when we might reopen. Similarly our website will be kept up to date. I am sure your committee will be emailing important changes and updates.

Several early summer events have been cancelled.

Hopefully our first TDWC events will be in September

All 2020 demonstrations/events are in the diary section of this newsletter.

I have started bookings for 2021. If you see a woodworker who you enjoyed please get a business card from them and tell me and I will try and follow it up.

NEW DEVELOPMENT

Our new camera system was trialled at Brian Ledsham's demo and initial results were not bad. Improvements will come as we get used to using them, switching between cameras and using the 3rd camera to show above the lathe shots.

We then need to get a microphone and sound system so that everybody in the hall gets both good audio and visual.

We know what microphone to buy but welcome any suggestions for available (free?) kit that could cope with microphone input and powerful enough to be capable of filling the hall

COMPETITIONS

CANCELLED March 31st & June 2nd but if we are lucky there will be completions each month from when we reopen, which I am praying may be July.

NEW DEVELOPMENT for those who like entering our competitions.

Cumulative competition entry scores are in the newsletter

At the end of the year prizes will be awarded for highest score achieved.

1st place 3 points 2nd place 2 points 3rd place 1 point

Plus 1 point for each entry and you may enter up to 3 items each of the Turning, Carving or General woodwork categories.

Competitions are to be monthly once we reopen.

See the diary section of this newsletter and on your notice board for full details of 2020 competitions.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

We are well on with booking outdoor events for 2020 and looking at some possible new events.

- ♥ Saturday May Wythenshawe Forum **WAITING FOR FULL DETAILS--CANCELLED**
- ♥ Sunday May 24th Friends of Ashton on Mersey Village in Ashton Park - **BOOKING CANCELLED**
- ♥ Sunday June 7th John Leigh Park Altrincham-**BOOKED CANCELLED**
- ♥ Sunday 14th June Sale Lions Father Fun Day at Worthington Park Sale-**BOOKED CANCELLED**
- ♥ Saturday & Sunday July The Heatons Arts Trail **-WAITING FOR FULL DETAILS**
- ♥ Saturday & Sunday July Sale Arts Trail **WAITING FOR FULL DETAILS may not be on this year**
- ♥ Saturday 12th September Timperley Country Fair Larkhill Timperley-**BOOKED**
- ♥ Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th of September Hayfield Show at Little Hayfield-**BOOKED**
- ♥ Saturday 14th November TDWC Annual Trip to Harrogate Wood Show ****DETAILS TO FOLLOW****
- ♥ Saturday November 21st Ashton Village Xmas Fair - **BOOKING**
- ♥ Saturday November/December Sale Arts Trail Xmas Bazaar - **WAITING FOR FULL DETAILS**

New faces and new woodcraft are always welcome, as are members who are prepared to help at end and start of day. We normally take a lathe and try to demo most of the day as well as selling members work. TDWC book and pay for these events and deduct 10% fee to cover stall fees.

If you have only just joined you may not know why we do these fairs so here goes

1. To advertise TDWC and get new members
2. To help members sell their stuff and if they want to attract commissions.

CHRISTMAS

2020 Xmas Party is on December 15th and the last meeting of 2020. The raffle is always a good fundraiser.

There is a box for raffle items in the TDWC storeroom. All suitable donations in the box. THANKS.

OTHER 'CRAFTY' EVENTS THAT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair 8-11 October 2020 has announced relocation to Victoria Baths Chorlton-on-Medlock M13 0FE. Fab event and a fab new venue.

NEW KIT

I know we can't use the Club's workshop at the moment but thought I would let you know that we have some new bits of kit.

- We have a set of Cole Jaws which will fit all of our chucks. These look like a small Pizza cut into 4 and with the aid of buttons screwed into them can help with finishing the bottom of turned items. They are very useful but please do ask for guidance if you are not aware of their use and more importantly their limitations. E.g. there is a speed limitation which is stamped on them-from memory it is 600 RPM.
- We have got several sets of both drive and revolving centre Steb Centres. These devices were introduced to be as a safer way to hold stuff on the lathe. We have fittings which will make them usable on every lathe in both small (1/2") large (1"). Same caution applies as above. If anybody like these the originals were made until a few years ago by Robert Sorby. Apparently the patent expired and several other firms are now making them. These include Chronos, Charnwood Rutland, however each firm do not do all the sizes. Called Crown Centres not Steb Centres and importantly they are less than 1/2 the Sorby price.
- We are trying to buy some gouges from a retired woodturner for workshop use.
- The Scheppach lathe which we had retired has been refurbished and it should last until we have funds to buy new. So this makes a total of 8 lathes for workshop nights.

Julian Birtwell



Demonstration by Brian Ledsham on Tuesday 3rd March

It was exactly 4 weeks since Dave Thwaite demonstrated for us and now it was Brian's turn. For the second time my loyalties were tested as NUFC were once again playing a vital cup match this evening. However TV football did not stop over 30 members and guests coming to this dem'. Perhaps this was the biggest club attendance on record.

As Brian had a lot to do we started at 6.55pm and we were asked to keep the tea-break as short as possible. Brian explained that he had taken up turning on retiring from the police ten years ago and was self-taught. He now has an interest in creating top quality thin-walled hollow-forms without the need for expensive specialist tools such as swan-necked carbide cutters.

His method is to shape a log into a 'sphere', then part it into two halves each of which is hollowed out into a bowl shape. These two hollow 'hemispheres' are then glued together with the original grain pattern matching and the join disguised so that it is invisible.

Brian had brought along half a dozen of his impressive hollow-forms showing just how effective this method is.



Brian started with 9" by 6" cherry log mounted between a step-centre (safer than a dog-tooth drive) and a revolving tail stock. Ron Virgin had stored this log since 2012 so it had been drying out for 7 years and although cherry is very prone to cracking Brian was confident that this piece should present no problems. As the first stage is removal of bark Brian wore gloves and a full face shield and kept the lathe speed low at about 500 rpm.

Using a shallow 'European' spindle roughing gouge he reduced the diameter substantially and during this process frequently moved the tool rest forwards to minimise the gap. He then switched to a very sharp bowl gouge to cut through the end-grain as he created the 'sphere'. Each end had a projection which was shaped into a dovetail chucking spigot with a shoulder. It is dangerous to do the parting process with the wood in compression between centres so instead the piece was now mounted on the spigot chucking point of what would be the top half.

A pencil line was drawn along the middle so that grain could be aligned later and then the piece was halved. In this process the groove was made 50% wider than the parting tool to avoid jamming and the lathe was stopped when there was still about 2 cm of wood left to cut. The final parting was done with a Japanese pull saw.

The hemisphere still in the jaws would be the top. This was drilled right through to the chucking spigot with a 16mm Forstner bit held in a Jacobs chuck in the tail stock. The lathe speed was 300 rpm and the bit was withdrawn occasionally to clear away dust and shavings which may result in overheating of the drill tip which could cause heat cracks in the wood. This hole would eventually become the small opening at the top of the finished piece.

Brian now used a bowl gouge with a fingernail profile to hollow out the hemisphere starting near the circumference. The wood in the centre was removed as late as possible because this acted as a stabilizer and prevented the outside from flexing or distorting during the process. When all the wall was about 10mm thick the inside of the bowl was smoothed off with a scraper. The other half was now placed in the jaws and hollowed out as before. With this bottom half still in the jaws the top piece was glued back into place with the grain lined up using the pencil mark. Pressure was applied using the tail-stock for 10 minutes whilst the glue dried and we had a tea break.

Using the bottom wing of a very sharp gouge Brian refined and smoothed the whole of the outside leaving the wall about 7mm thick. A thin groove was cut on the join line and two similar grooves cut on each side of this centre line about 15mm away. The 3 grooves were burned black using a length of bare wire held between two pieces of dowel. Brian used the lathe indexer and a £10.99 Aldi pyrography iron resting on a home-made jig attached to the tool rest to burn 24 evenly spaced spot patterns between the black lines. The whole surface was sanded through the grits 120 to 400 finishing with kitchen towel which is finer than 600 grit. Two coats of sanding sealer were applied.

Brian used a bowl gouge to remove excess wood on the top half at the tail-stock end left a small flared neck around the hole he had drilled originally. He slightly enlarged the hole and blended the curve of the sphere into the ogee curve of the neck. After more sanding and polishing he reversed the piece and mounted it by the neck fitting over a shaped cone held in the jaws. Some non-slip matting and pressure applied from the revolving tail stock made this an effective friction drive. He cut away the other spigot from the base to leave a slightly concave bottom for the piece to sit on without rocking. A few concentric rings were cut into this base for decoration.

At this point the clock chimed 10 so there was no time for Brian to show his waxing technique with a series of buffing wheels. However the finished piece was still impressive and the audience showed its appreciation for Brian's 3 hour marathon. We all learned a great deal and I for one will probably have a go at this type of hollow-form sometime. And Newcastle won so in a few weeks' time I can watch them on TV taking on Man. City.

John Willson



LOST AND FOUND... The missing cole jaws for the nexus chuck have been found. Thanks to those who endeavoured to find them.

Crafts make us feel rooted, give us a sense of belonging and connect us with our history.

Our ancestors used to create these crafts out of necessity, and now we do them for fun, to make money and to express ourselves.

Phyllis George

SELF ISOLATION TDWC STYLE

So what's wrong with self-isolating in your workshop!
I guess it all depends on your partner, but so what's new!
I had a different day in my workshop today as at long last I have actually installed my dust extractor.
It was bought from ASK tools and they shut up shop before we moved to Sale West and that was 5 years ago. Crazy I know as it is fantastic.
Making space now means that I now have more empty floor space.
Tomorrow I am going to tidy up some shelves.
Where will this end?
Don't worry I am also doing a bit of turning at the same time.
However I feel that that old favourite the 'to do list' approaching.

Keep on Turning, Carving or Crafting with wood.

A few days later!!

Oh I do love my wife.
But I did find allowing her free access to my workshop most disturbing.
Here we are a few days later and I still can't get to the lathe as so much stuff has still to be tidied up or a new home found for it.
God knows where this might end as Old Boris is talking about months.
I simply won't say it in her earshot but it did need doing and once I can find everything it might even be an improvement.

Oh and another thing!
We did need to get our wills updated, what with grandchildren popping out regularly. Anyway it appears that will writers are 'key workers'. Our solicitor said he had never been one of those in all his working life. A painless process done over the phone with emails to follow.

Julian Birtwell



From Mr Fly- on-the-Wall:

How they all suffered at Sale West because the ancient heating system broke down.

Grown men complaining of the cold, pitiful.

Remember your Mum telling you to put an extra jumper on?

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 and Andy Wilkins

Club Website: www.traffordwoodcraft.co.uk

If you change email address, it is really important to inform the Hon. Sec. so we can ensure you get the newsletter

TRAFFORD & DISTRICT WOODCRAFT CLUB

	TIMETABLED CLUB NIGHT EVENTS	BI MONTHLY COMPETITION - 3 classes
DATE 2020	DEMO nights 1 st Tuesdays monthly 18.30 – 22.00. (Feb to Nov) Xmas Party on December 15 th 18.30 – 22.00. All other 'Normal workshop' Tuesdays 18.30 – 21.30	-Turned - Carved - General woodwork

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS DEMONSTRATIONS AND COMPETITIONS (up to June 30th)
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO CURRENT RESTRICTIONS OVER COVID 19

Mar 31 st	The Tiny Turner aka Emma Cook – Woodturner & Carver	COMPETITION CANCELLED
Apr 7 th	Normal club workshop	
Apr 14 th	TDWC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by Normal club workshop	
Apr 21 st	Normal club workshop	
Apr 28 th	Normal club workshop	
May 5 th	Ian Clarkson - Woodturner and Tree Surgeon NEW TO TDWC ****CANCELLED COVID 19 ****	COMPETITION CANCELLED
May 12 th	Normal club workshop + committee meeting	
May 19 th	Normal club workshop	
SUNDAY MAY 24 th FRIENDS OF ASHTON ON MERSEY VILLAGE BIG PICNIC ASHTON PARK ****CANCELLED COVID 19****		
May 26 th	Normal club workshop	
SUNDAY JUNE 6 th FRIENDS OF JOHN LEIGH PARK ALTRINCHAM ****CANCELLED COVID 19****		
Jun 2 nd	Dave ATCO Atkinson – Woodturner ****CANCELLED COVID 19	
Jun 9 th	Normal club workshop + committee meeting	
Jun 16 th	Normal club workshop	
SUNDAY JUNE 6 th FRIENDS OF JOHN LEIGH PARK ALTRINCHAM ****CANCELLED COVID 19****		
June 23	Normal club workshop	
Jun 30 th	Normal club workshop	

CLUB EVENTS FROM JULY 1ST ARE PLANNED SUBJECT TO THE EASING OF COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS.
THESE WILL BE CANCELLED OR CONFIRMED IN DUE COURSE.

Jul 7 th	Paula Keary - Bodger NEW TO TDWC	Competition-- Your Covid 19 project
SALE ARTS TRAIL SATURDAY & SUNDAY JULY**date to be confirmed**		
Jul 14 th	Normal club workshop + committee meeting	
Jul 21 st	Normal club workshop	
Jul 28 th	Normal club workshop	
Aug 4 th	Steve Heeley - Woodturner	Competition – A 'T' light holder
Aug 11 th	Normal club workshop + committee meeting	
Aug 18 th	Normal club workshop	
Aug 25 th	Normal club workshop	
Sept 1 st	Chris Fisher RPT 'The Blind Woodturner'	Competition – Something for the Bran Tub
Sept 8 th	Normal club workshop + committee meeting	
SATURDAY 12 th TIMPERLEY COUNTRY FAIR @ LARKHILL TIMPERLEY **BOOKED**		
Sept 15 th	Normal club workshop	
SATURDAY 19 th & SUNDAY 20 th HAYFIELD SHOW & SHEEP DOG TRIALS **BOOKED**		
Sept 22 nd	Normal club workshop	
Sep 29 th	Normal club workshop	
Oct 6 th	Julian Birtwell – Woodturner TDWC member	Competition – A box/bowl with a lid
Oct 13 th	Normal club workshop + committee meeting	
Oct 20 th	Normal club workshop	
Oct 29 th	Normal club workshop	
Nov 3 rd	Pete Osborn - Woodturner NEW TO TDWC	Competition - Any item with a natural edge
Nov 10 th	Normal club workshop + committee meeting	
TDWC ANNUAL COACH TRIP TO HARROGATE WOOD SHOW SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14 th **DETAILS TO FOLLOW**		
Nov 17 th	Normal club workshop	
Nov 25 th	Normal club workshop	
SALE ARTS TRAIL XMAS BAZAAR - DATE TO BE CONFIRMED		
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21 st ASHTON ON MERSEY VILLAGE XMAS FAIR -		
Dec 1 st	Normal club workshop NO DEMO IN DECEMBER	**see 15 th below**
Dec 8 th	Normal club workshop	
Dec 15 th	Club Xmas Party - free entry to members & partners. Food & drink donations most welcome.	Competition Your favourite item not yet seen @ TDWC
Dec 22 nd AND Dec 29 th	Closed -- Merry Xmas & A Very Happy 2021	

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DATE 2021	DEMO nights 1 st Tuesdays monthly 18.30 – 22.00. (Feb to Nov) Xmas Party on December 14 th 18.30 – 22.00. All other 'Normal workshop' Tuesdays 18.30 – 21.30	-Turned - Carved - General woodwork

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