

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983.

eNEWSLETTER MAY 2020.

Hello turners. Trusting that you are all in good health and spirits while isolated. If you need help please (continue to) contact another member by phone to organise assistance.

At this time The Shed is closed. It isn't suitable or practical to run a meeting at The Shed for a maximum of only 10 members all 1.5 meters apart, but allowances could change as soon as early June.

Currently planned for June are our regular demonstration meeting on Saturday 13th and the Winter Informal Lunch on Wednesday 26th. It may well be that another Zoom meeting will substitute for the Saturday meeting and the Lunch postponed until later, possibly July or August? Details will follow by email.

Regarding housekeeping, Bert advises that ex member Arthur Poole has suffered a number of bad falls and is indisposed; otherwise there is little new to advise and nothing to pursue. Thanks to all those members who helped or sent ideas for optimum Zoom operation and recording; also to Colin and Bert for producing over 100 honey dippers for stock.

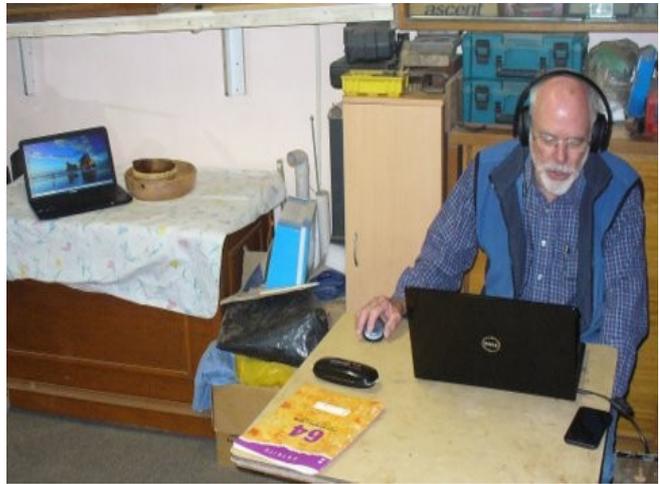
Just a few Show & Tell items. Keith sent in another of his awarded water-colour paintings and Nick phoned in a couple of pics.

Nick found that his newly purchased chisel sharpening rig was immediately successful and is recommended as an



economical unit. His other photo shows the usage of his Arbor ball gouge working on a substantial log which has good colour in its heartwood. Thankfully the ball unit is a rapid cutter when linked to an angle grinder.

The demonstration for May was by Elwyn on *Oval Bowl Turning* and of necessity was via the web on Zoom from his workshop at home. Elwyn, Colin and the committee experimented over the previous two weeks to learn and achieve a suitable 'quality of demonstration' via this previously unknown technique which on the day all paid-off. By 10 am on Saturday some participants were linked and chatting while others were being linked via phone coaching etc for a start by 10:20 with a total of 20 participants including 7 very welcome Shed members and passed members.



A quick 'Welcome to Zoom' from Greg and then Elwyn commenced with a description of the oval turning chuck made locally by the son of a past member some years ago, and how he would develop the turning of this oval bowl with a pronounced top flange.

A number of previously made oval turnings were shown and discussed including the one being copied in the demonstration.

The ovality ratio is varied by a simple side pin control and the size of the turning varied in the same way as for circular lathe turning.

Blanks for oval turning (really) need to be band sawn to the approximate ovality as turning is virtually or actually 'on-the-point' of a 5/8" bowl gouge used in horizontal mode on a modified tool rest.

Due to the above it is necessary to rotate slowly (about 250-300 RPM), take shallow cuts generally scraping until the shape is near to oval.

The first picture shows Elwyn making last minute checks to the phone camera with the lathe in the background showing the chuck, the specialised tool rest and the blank of camphor laurel wood. Note the ovality ratio set-pin protruding on the left hand side of the chuck guard.



The next few pictures show turning the shape of the base and developing the underside of the flanged top. Once the underside is completed sand starting at 80 grit and working down to 250 or 320.



Sanding is difficult on oval rotating blanks so



every effort needs to be made with the final chisel cutting to achieve a smooth surface!



The chuck control pin is reset to give circular rotation and the oval shaped base plinth is modified to a circular profile and sanded.

Remove the blank from the chuck and prepare a hot melt chuck plate to attach to the centred blank's base. With the blank now reversed and glued onto this hot melt plate it is cooled until the glue has solidified then secured in the chuck.

While the blank was being reversed and hot glued the participants were able to speak between each other. Questions were included regarding oval turning and the main query being the cost of the chuck. Advice was that a Vicmarc Oval Turning Chuck is currently about \$2,900.

Drill down into the centre of the top of the bowl with a 55 mm Forstner drill and clean up around the centre cut. Reset the chuck for oval turning. With a sharp 12 mm bowl gouge carefully turn away the top of the flange so as to get a sloping surface closely following the contour of the underside, and then turn the periphery to give a pleasantly thin (say 3 to 5 mm thick) oval flange.



Sadly at about this time the hot melt plate and the blank parted company, and fortunately due to the low speed of turning, without injury or damage. On checking, this problem was found to be caused by a combination of partially punky base wood and ineffective gluing and/or cooling prior to use.

Also fortunately, the bowl turning was not far from complete and an explanation from Elwyn of the required finishing touches was enough to complete his presentation. Additionally a few days later Elwyn emailed a couple of photos of the completed turning which are included showing the detail around the flange and the bark inclusion, but before the usual spray finishing etc.





Another unique bowl and probably the first ever oval bowl to be 'Made on ZOOM', so thank you Elwyn. Participants' emailed feedback was also very appreciative. Good work.

Much of this demonstration can be viewed on the two summaries posted on the web by Colin and Pierre, but be quick. A complete record is available on a USB stick if requested. Colin has produced a shortened version (a 15 min. preview) of the meeting on Dropbox which you may be able to view in part via the attached link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nxwihx4lcztpgc/Elwyn%20oval%20turning%20May%202020.mp4?dl=0>

Pierre has also produced a 35 minute summary which you may also be able to view but only until Tuesday 2nd June on:

<https://we.tl/t-uB7cSDXIIN> (this summary takes about 5 min. to download).

Again thanks to all, particularly Elwyn, Colin and Pierre who helped with this Zoom. What has been achieved will be very useful for the next few months? Also wonderful to see on Zoom Shed members as participants, and great to catch-up with our past members and chat about woodturning and whatever.

To end. A couple of excellent Youtubes which are recommended to help pass the days and the long, dark, cold nights.

- 1 From an ex member about 4 minutes <https://youtu.be/mLZJ-0oCqNc>
- 2 A Short Safety Video about 12 minutes https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IOhHeyoZLaY&fbclid=IwAR26ff7C22Ca79QVZNksdBuSlrUseIUHreffvatHGAjECeg5xn
- 3 Drawing with the Late about 80 minutes <https://youtu.be/PnbHnDC867c>

Despite the isolation, a busy month with a challenging interlude and it looks like more Zooms to follow? Stay well and in touch with more photos, information and turned items for circulation please.

The next Saturday meeting is scheduled for June 13th. Confirmation or otherwise will be emailed closer to this date.
