

HORNSBY DISTRICT WOODTURNERS INC.

Established 1983.

eNEWSLETTER JULY 2020.

Welcome to all via Zoom. Saturday 11 July was our third monthly Zoom meeting conducted from Elwyn's workshop with demonstrator John Edwards describing and showing the use of his Vermic brand Sphere Turning unit.

Return to Shed attendance proved to be popular and busy with the statutory 15 maximum places often being filled. Thursdays busy with yet another order for honey



dippers and on one day all attendees, learners included, turning dippers. The 500 required have now been made – so many thanks to all the members who made this significant number and also to John

Markham who provided the wood. Well done again.

The Shed's AGM will be held on Friday 21 August from noon, with special arrangements organised to fulfil the Corona Virus regulations. Also due in August and/or September are the Spring Raffle and our AGM; the raffle can wait like our postponed Winter Lunch but we may be required to organise an AGM 'before summer commences.'

The Shed Member of the Month for July is turner Elwyn Muller – congratulations Elwyn and well deserved.

Booking in for Shed attendance continues and please follow all Virus regulations in force when in the Shed.

Sadly this month there were no photos or Information Exchange, and only one Show & Tell being a medium sized camphor laurel bowl turned by Elwyn with 4 mm (horizontal) beads featuring on the whole outside of the bowl; difficult and interesting.



The Zoom demo commenced with 20 attendees with John describing the unit and his reason for its purchase, the latter to turn spheres exactly and quickly. The unit is custom made for a majority of the 'popular' brands of lathe.

The cutter is a circular tungsten carbide head set at the same height as the axis between the head and tail stocks. At the head stock end the spigot cylinder is clamped in a scroll chuck. Below the turning and immediately below the central axis of the cylinder is the 'central pin.' This pin can move along the bed and clamped to suit the position required to develop the sphere 'on the cylinder.' The cutting head moves with this pin as its central pivot in order to form a sphere. See the attached photo.



The maximum diameter possible is 150 mm and the unit operates with a cylinder the desired diameter of the sphere and the length exactly the same dimension as the diameter



with smaller diameter spigots extending from each end which are connected to the stocks. To turn a sphere mark out a pencil line around the centre cylinder at the desired position, set-up the pin exactly under this line and tighten the nut locking the unit's 'banjo?' Move the cutting head 'in or out' to just touch the end of the cylinder initially and cut away each end to form a sphere by swinging the cutter back and forth moving the cutter closer to the wood on each pass. Once the cutter is nearing the end spigots carefully turn away the tail stock spigot to give a continuous outline and remove the waste wood. Check and remove any small pimple etc which may remain with careful sanding. Also sand and finish the sphere where it has been turned to achieve the desired surface.

The cutter is a scrapper so the turned surface finish will vary and sanding grades will need to be varied dependant upon the wood and wood quality. Care is needed not to sand away too much wood and thus compromising the sphere's symmetry.

Stabilise the remainder of the turning operation by fitting a suitable soft tailstock, in this



case a plug of soft rubber. Return to the headstock end and turn down the spigot carefully, sand and finish as before and part off. Hand sand away any irregularity and finish also as before and the turning is complete.

John turned a second sphere/ball to ensure that we all were aware of the suitability of this unit to provide good, repeatable and fast sphere production.

Time allowed 2 mini demonstrations to follow.

Initially Colin showed the quick turning of



smaller items using a brass spigot protruding from any standard chuck. The diameter of the spigot is such that a 20 mm Forstner drill hole say 55 mm in depth drilled in a blank will fit tightly and hold the blank in place while turning.

Colin roughed down an approximately 200 x 50 x 50 mm blank then turned the cylinder into a pleasant (bud) vase using a detailed gouge and a skew together with a guitar 'E



string?' used to burn the 4 rings into the wood. Note also the bead and fillets.

The final touch was sanding and finishing with a U-Beaut Wax Stick producing a very worthwhile turning in a short time. The design options for this 'spigot system' are all but limitless.

Elwyn then stepped up to his lathe and demonstrated the rapid 'hogging-out' of a largish camphor laurel bowl via the 'up-side-down gouge return method' often used by Richard Raffan. To operate this method it seems that the gouge is rolled over as it reaches the centre of the bowl and brought back towards the circumference with the bevel rubbing on the outside of the gouge thus continuing to turn wood away.



Rapid is right. The photos show the gouge on its return trip and the bowl with just a few of these operations. Something worth learning and it's suggested that individual training from Elwyn is undertaken before trying this method at home!

Thank you John, Colin and Elwyn, a well worked set of demonstrations and surely



appreciated. Thanks also the Colin and Elwyn for switching Zoom and providing the workshop yet again for the Zoom presentation.

For August it will be Zoom again planned for Saturday 8th August from 10 am.
