



WEST SUSSEX WOODTURNERS

LOCKDOWN 2020 NEWSLETTER

EDITION 1

An Associated Club of the AWGB

So there I was sitting there on a sunny Sunday morning thinking to myself something was missing. I was being forced into doing some gardening, not one of my favourite hobbies, in fact it doesn't appear on the list at all. And then I remembered it should have been a jovial morning at wood club with all my fellow turners. I wondered if other members would be missing their monthly fix of prize winning journalism and extraordinary photography. (Well if I don't say it myself who will).

All I needed was some idiot to stand up and do a demonstration. But with lockdown in progress that seemed unlikely so I said to myself you better have a go. (My god I hear you say he must have been desperate).

So today's demonstration was on pen turning (I'm not much cop at anything else).



I put the blank on my bandsaw and cut it to the required length, marking the grain direction with arrows. I then mark the centre of each blank using a highly expensive centre finder.

Next is drilling the holes for the brass tubes.



I glue in the tubes using Gorilla glue. You spray a little water down the hole in the blank, spread a little of the glue on the tube and insert it into the hole. The glue then foams up and ensures that any little holes are filled.

After checking you have the correct bushings put the blanks on the mandrel. The reason for the blank having letters on is that I had two identical pieces of blank and I did not want to get them confused.



I tend to use a Sorby Micro roughing gouge, mainly because Beth was given it by a former member and it seems a shame that it should just sit in the tool rack and not get used.



Next we come to the sanding. I start with 180 grit and go to 400; I mark the back of the abrasive with a number so it's easier to tell which grit is which. Don't forget to use your dust extractor.

Next apply the finish of your choice. I used Chestnut spray Acrylic sealer and spray Gloss lacquer. I know quite a few people use CA glue as a finish but as I can be a little accident prone I tend to avoid that. So far I have not actually got myself stuck to a pen blank but I have come quite close so I now avoid it.



Finally putting the pen together I now use a pen press but when I first started I turned 2 pieces of wood to fit the Morse taper of my lathe and stuck a couple of pieces of Corian to the wood.



Honest I'm not hoarding toilet roll this geezer sold it to me cheap.

Next I thought I would try turning some fruit as I had never tried that before. So I asked Colin Willetts how he made his. I have taken the liberty of putting Colin's instructions below.

COLIN WILLETTS – MAKE YOUR OWN SCREWCHUCK

Screw length depends on how thick your wood chuck is but you need about 3/4 to 1 inch of thread sticking out and use a cardboard disk to stop marking the wood.

I usually use a number '8' old type screw as I have plenty, I think that equates about to 3.5 mm in metric, and use a 2.5 mm or 3 mm drill depending on how hard the wood is.

It is not vital; I have one with a number 10 screw for when the hole gets too big. A coarse thread is better, not one of the twin threaded modern ones.

If you can find an old slotted screw rather than a posidrive you can put a staple across the slot to stop it unwinding as you screw the fruit on otherwise you will probably need to glue it.

NEXT MONTH:

Absolutely nothing is happening unless some kind member comes up with something like what I have done. If I get loads I will send them out as separate items. So come along chaps and chapesses give it a whirl.

MEMBERS SHOW AND TELL TABLE:

See the Club's website for examples of work done by club members.

Scot Grant, aka 'The Bluelight Turner' has done a YouTube live video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTY2oPicW-E>

Another one is scheduled for Thursday 16th April at 8:30 pm

<https://youtu.be/wDYnm4Tu680>