



WEST SUSSEX WOODTURNERS **LOCKDOWN 2021 NEWSLETTER**

EDITION 4

An Associated Club of the AWGB

Hopefully we are now looking forward to the beginning of the end of lockdown and can hope we might get some meetings in this year.

From Scot Grant aka The Blue Light turner:

As you may be aware the South East Region has been lacking a representative for the AWGB since John's Resignation some months ago. I was approached at the End of January by the AWGB after showing some interest with regards to training Available and Assisting with shows, To ask if i would consider taking on the South East Regional Representative Role. After some meetings with Paul Hannaby and Derek Puplett via zoom and time to look at what is involved, I agreed to take on the role, with the aim of finding some assistants in the northern part of the region, as it extends from the south coast up to Norfolk, and from the East Coast as far over as Milton Keynes.

At The AGM of the AWGB on Sunday, I was Duly Elected as The South East Representative and have been made a Trustee and Director of The AWGB. It is gonna take time for me to get to grips with the role fully but with support I hope to be able to assist Clubs and Members in the region with any queries going forward.

Another point to note from the AGM is that the Renewal Grace period for members of the AWGB to renew their membership has been extended until the end of may 2021.

And in other momentous news:

I have now had my 2nd Covid jab; luckily I have had no real reaction. I had a slight headache the day after the first jab and a slightly sore arm for a couple of days after the second one.

AND yet more:

Stewart Furini is doing a Conkers Live demo at 7.15 on 12th April. I gather there could be an outbreak of colouring and possibly texturing.

My thanks go to Colin Willetts for yet another fantastic project. This month is part 1; next month will be the completion (unless you can spin it out for another month Colin.)

This project was not for a beginner and highlighted some safety issues, one of which was the need for an emergency stop button, (more later).

It started with a large misshapen lump of Olive wood that has been under my carport for a number of years waiting for inspiration! Given the amount of spare time available lately I thought it was time to turn it into something. It had numerous splits, cracks and bark inclusions and with a maximum dimension of 11 inches too big to go under my band saw.

Top



Bottom



Since it had no flat surface my normal mounting method for bowls of a screw chuck was out of the question as were a faceplate or faceplate ring for the same reason. So it had to be between centres. I don't have a Steb centre and seldom use a four prong drive, neither of which I deemed safe for this project as a catch (highly likely give the piece) would likely cause either to try to bore further into the wood and possibly loosen the tail centre with disastrous consequences. So to my usual first choice of a Ring centre in this case located into a hole, drilled into the top, deep enough to be into solid wood. Then if there is a catch, the wood just stops, the lathe continues to turn but nothing else happens.

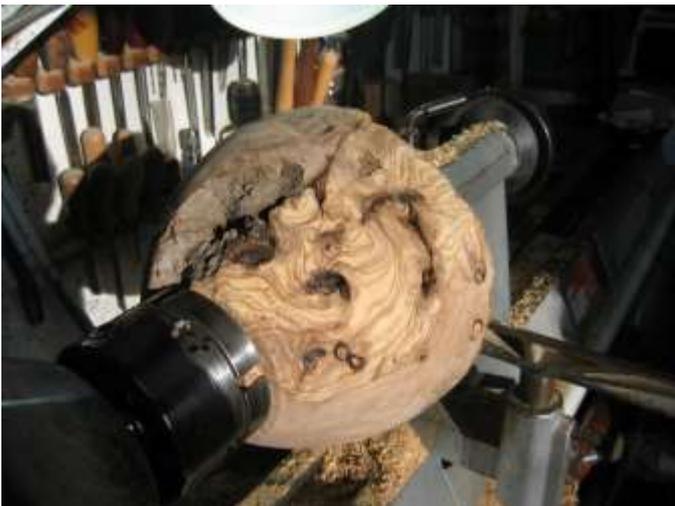


With the wood mounted between centres I set the lathe on its slowest speed of 100 rpm, stood well clear and switched on. Nothing disastrous happened so I increased the speed gradually to 350 rpm before vibration started to increase. Using my largest Bowl gouge I started removing the worst of the odd lumps but was cutting air for more than 90% of the time.

As more solid wood appeared I managed to increase the speed to 500 rpm, and began to form a spigot for the chuck. With the grain was all over the place some of the cuts were in the 'wrong' direction to try to get a better finish. Note: although the spigot is not continuous there is enough solid wood for each jaw to grip onto.



The piece was remounted into a chuck, but still with tail stock support, and hollowing started. I was continually edging up the speed and had now got to 800 rpm as some of the out of balance had been removed.



Hollowing continuing but tail stock is restricting cut so the tailstock was removed and headstock swivelled about 15 deg. to give better access without having to lean over the bed bars.

(Note: I am getting increasingly concerned about the large crack that is appearing)



Disaster! While trying to reduce the thickness of the side wall there was suddenly some heavy vibration; I hit my emergency stop button and found that nearly half of the side had fallen off and had landed at my feet. I think I was lucky that as the speed was relatively low it just fell off rather than flying about the garage.



Hollowing continued very carefully at reduced speed, although with half the side missing and the overhang from the tool rest now over 3 inches I now deemed it unsafe to continue with a bowl gouge working down from the side as normal to reduce the base thickness.



I reverted instead to using some homemade scraper tools cutting from the centre outwards. The top one is simply a piece of 6mm steel rod ground to shape and mounted in a steel shaft with a wooden handle and used to reduce the thickness in the bottom of the bowl. The bottom one is something I inherited with my first lathe but appears to be along the lines of the Carbide hollowing tools that are currently available and was used to smooth out the surface from the previous tool.



The bowl is still work in progress and is still in the chuck. All sanding apart from the very bottom has obviously to be done by hand and I am still picking out bits of loose bark from the voids. I have yet to decide how to reverse chuck and hold it and remove the spigot. Final dimensions: 9" dia x 4.5" high.



Safety Notes:

How many members have thought about how they would turn the lathe off in an emergency? The problem is that many lathes, mine included, have their on/off controls on the headstock. When turning a bowl or similar this means that to turn off the lathe the turner has to reach past the piece. This is worse if a swivelling headstock is rotated off centre as the off switch is now further away from the turner and probably out of sight. With this in mind, some years ago, I fitted a No Volt Release switch with a large red stop button on a post just about level with my right knee so in an emergency I can switch the power off instantly. The slight disadvantage that I occasionally hit it by mistake is a minor inconvenience.

With a project like this always make sure that all of you is the safe side of the tool rest at all times and stand well clear on first switching on. Given the irregularity it is essential to stop the lathe to adjust the tool rest and keep it as close as possible to the piece.

With bits of loose bark etc coming off a full face visor was essential.

The Solution to Terry Hooper's puzzle is:

1. A strong blast of air from your mouth on the slope 4 -5"away
2. Using a straw strong blast on the slope a few inches away
3. Moisten thumb and press on top for a while and then pull up

Did you manage and did anyone else manage?

NEXT MONTH:

I'm still looking for ideas or contributions as usual although I will have part 2 of Colin's Olive bowl. Other than Colin Willetts (a serial contributor) and Stewart Furini (with his Zoom meeting) only 6 other members have contributed items for the Newsletter.

MEMBERS SHOW AND TELL TABLE:

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