



MID WALES WOODTURNERS

www.midwaleswoodturners.com

a branch of

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Newsletter : May 2020

A Message from your Chairman

As you can see we will do our best to send out a Monthly Newsletter to all our members. We need to keep in touch to achieve some kind of normality in our regular interests. If you are like me the grass isn't growing fast enough or the weeds growing to keep me busy in the garden. All house cupboards have been sorted, windows cleaned, gutters cleaned of the winters debris and the shed and fence painted again.

I am so glad I have my workshop to enable me to be kept busy and be diverted from the endless news items filling our screens and newspapers. So what have I been up to in the workshop? I made myself concentrate on smaller items which would come in for Christmas sales and gifts, therefore not taking up much storage space. I also set myself the challenge of using five different designs for each project. These were light pulls, tea light holders with metal inserts, bottle stoppers, egg cups, bottle openers and some boxes.

Derek's Competition

This is for a child's stool so it will involve faceplate and spindle turning. I have been trying some ideas out on paper but have not decided yet what to do on the top. It could be in:-

- Inlaid with different woods
- Have textured and coloured bands
- Inlaid with different materials
- Use pyrography for a pattern or picture
- A painted design

The choice seems endless, so I will have to make a decision some time soon.

Chairman's Challenge

This was for a toy for a child with moving parts. There has been a table at the Minerva Centre when the Christmas Fair is on in November/December where a local Llanidloes man makes a huge range of wooden toys, so there is plenty of scope for designs. The good thing about this is that you can use up many small bits of wood you just could not throw away. Remember that the toy must be finished in a toy safe finish, but many oils are o.k. to use but read the labels.

A Personal Project

Some of you will remember the model traction engine I made about 6 or 7 years ago. This took me about three months to complete during the winter. Then the model of the David Brown tractor from about four years ago. I am now beginning to make a model of an Allis Chalmers tractor from the 1950's. This was a very different looking tractor,

orange in colour to the normal ones then and now. Lots of yew will be used. My teenage years saw me driving one of these on the farm during hay harvest, great fun. So how do I go about this?

1. Get some photos of the tractor from the internet. I wish I had taken some photos at last year's Caersws Vintage Rally because there was one on show.
2. I use a piece of A3 paper to draw a life size plan, but you must start off with the main chassis. In the case of the Allis it does not have a chassis but the engine, clutch housing, gearbox and rear axle are the core of the model.
3. I always find that this stage involves a lot of changes on paper. It's all about getting the proportions right
4. Now I get some odd pieces of softwood to transfer the basic core to 3D. This helps a lot to get an idea of the size, proportion and scale.
5. Finally I am ready to start making..

I will keep you posted on progress. It is good to have a long term project as I find it keeps my interest and involves a lot more than turning. I remember many years ago a member brought in a model of a horse drawn farm wagon, such skill and detail. Another member brought in a working wooden clock which he had made. All the movements were hand cut.

The year ahead

When the cub meets again is completely unknown, but we will get back to normal so we can all look forward to the pleasure of sharing each others achievements and chatting to old friends. If you would like to send something in to Kym for inclusion in future newsletters it would be much appreciated. Photos of some of your work would be great.

Best wishes and stay safe

John

