

Shavings No 58 - December 2019 Ulster Woodturners'

We had our AGM before the December demo. We agreed to change our name to the Ulster Woodturners'. We elected a new Chairman and Secretary, Eugene Grimley and Mark McGranahan. Our committee will be sorted in the new year. Thanks must go



to those standing down, Terence Aston and Ian Keith.

Ricky McDonald was awarded the Roy McKay Trophy for 2019, a worthy recipient.

Message from our leader

As the incoming Chairman of Ulster Woodturners may I, on behalf of the Committee, wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2020.

Please keep Michael Dickson in your prayers/thoughts as he is very poorly at this time.

There will be an Extra Shavings early in the New Year to set out the plans, ideas, etc for the coming year at the Woodshed.

Eugene Grimley

Max Brosi visited The Wood Shed, Templepatrick, to present the December demonstration for the Ulster Woodturning Chapter. He brought some examples of his unique style with him and started his demo by making a 3-d intersecting pipe piece he calls the 'Octahedron'.

After mounting a blank between centres, Max trued it to a cylinder and, measuring the diameter of the cylinder, transferred that dimension lengthwise on the cylinder to lay out the boundaries of a sphere. It is very important to mark, and retain, the centre line. With the sphere limits defined, Max cut the down the external lines to leave a flat face on each side of the



cylinder before starting to shape the sphere.

The sphere had a diameter of 148mm so Max used a ratio of 0.293 to determine measurements on the sphere.

$148 \times 0.293 = 43.364$ so Max rounded that to 43.5mm and set his dividers to that measurement. He scribed a line 43.5mm from the end of the sphere along the cylinder and then across the flat face side (endgrain). This was repeated on the other side.

Max took the corners off the cylinder cutting to each line scribed on the top and face of the cylinder. The cut lines were kept flat because these will be faces of the octagon that is being cut. When both new faces were cut Max marked a line in the centre of each face and then divided those into quarters before taking the new 'corners' off, joining mid-lines to mid-lines. The ridges were removed by shear scraping to leave a sphere. Max likes to use a limited range of tools that he knows will perform multiple functions and the Woodcut gouge ([Woodcut NZ](#) &



[Axminster](#)) is a favourite because just the tip can be replaced when necessary.

Ensuring the centre line was intact, Max used the lathe index to lay out lines every 90 degrees. He then cut a spigot for the chuck jaws at each end and on each side until he had six spigots that could be held in the chuck. After cutting spigots on each side the nubs were removed with a carving

chisel so that the jaws could close properly on the spigot.

(TOP TIP - Max told us that if we burn our fingers to pinch an earlobe and the pain will go away immediately. We will be expecting reports on the efficiency of this technique please)

A 2" x 2" blank was mounted in the chuck and cut to make a jam chuck to hold the blank at the headstock end after holes were drilled in it so the hole could be completed on the opposite side.

At the tailstock end of the blank Max had a plug on a faceplate that was shaped to match the bore of the Forstner bit he used and had a wall height to match the thickness of the pipe so that he just had to cut the wall of the pipe to match the height of the back of the plug.

The blank was mounted in the chuck in preparation for drilling with a Forstner bit and held with the spigot on each face. Max rotated the blank until all three pipes intersected and then mounted it on the two jam chucks in order to remove the wood



and show a pipe. This is where the special faceplate with the plug and rim came into use, in that, Max used the height of the chuck to set the wall thickness. When as much wood as possible can be removed

with a gouge there will be little pyramids at the intersections. These are removed with a carving gouge, carefully blending the pipes together.

After our break and raffle Max mounted a blank to make a carved sphere. He repeated the exact same process as in the morning to create a sphere and, without having to explain what he was doing, he produced a sphere very quickly... testament to the efficiency of his process. The sphere was grabbed in a chuck and bored from both sides to produce a doughnut-type shape. Max then measured the diameter of the chuck jaws when they were closed in order to set the diameter of a recess he could expand the jaws into later on both sides of the piece. After cutting the recess on one side Max tested the fit before repeating the process on the other.

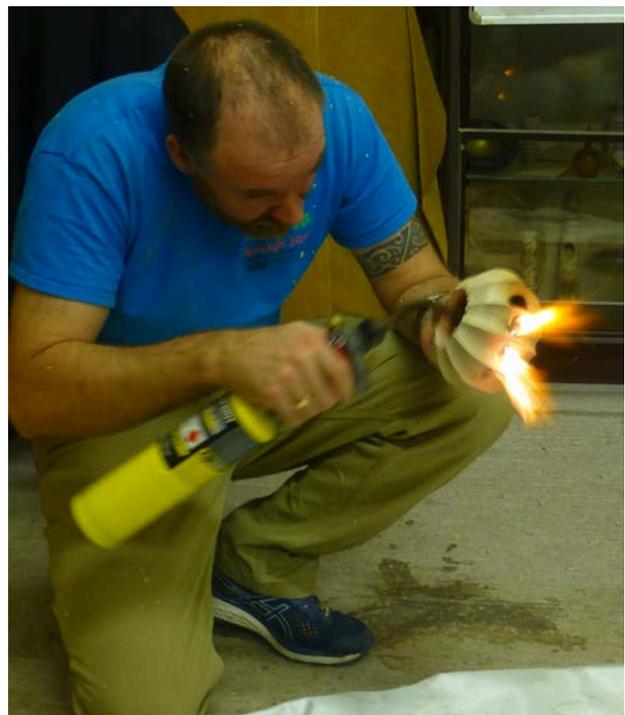
Max advised us to be very careful when expanding the chuck jaws because it would be easy to burst the form when it is delicate.

The next step was to mark out the sphere. Using a bradawl Max marked every second hole on the twelve centreline positions. He then chose any two opposing marks, mounted the sphere between steb centres, and marked a line on either side of the centreline mark. He then turned a cove between these two lines. It was at this stage Max showed how the internal spigot would become important as the chucking point gets cut away in this process. With the cove cut the sphere was moved two marks and the process repeated until the entire surface was covered in coves. This process requires gentle cuts... no hogging out wood!

When the outside coves were complete the sphere was held on the internal recess and the hollowing began... very gently. Max hollowed towards the centre of the sphere in order to break through the wall and leave holes in the coves. When he had gone as far as he could he reversed

the hollowform and completed the hollowing. The holes will be rough but burning will sort that issue out later. In order to sand the inside Max recommended using an abrasive on a sanding stick for safety reasons.

The piece was completed by burning with Mapp gas to clean up the edges of the holes in the coves. Don't do this on a floor covered in dust and shavings.



To complete his demo Max showed how a ring tool worked. He mentioned Ulf Jansson, a Swedish turner who is an exponent of the ring tool ([Facebook](#) and [Woodturning Cruise](#)). After mounting a blank in the chuck Max drilled a hole with a Forstner bit and then cut from that hole to the rim of the blank with a ring tool. The tool has an internal and external bevel, the external being used for bowl cuts. Max tilted the tool to vertical before cutting and opened the cutting edge a little to get started. It is possible to make both inward and outward cuts with the tool. Max sharpens the tool with an Arkansas stone. Crown ring tools ([Wood Shed](#))

We thank Max for this very interesting and entertaining demo and hope to see him at the Wood Shed again.

2. David Stewart

Competition Results.

Both competitions were for candlesticks. A single for Category 1 and a matching pair for Category 2.

Category 1

1. David Spence



3. Gerry Leddy



Category 2

1. Jim Neill



2. Bruce Low



3. Malachy Totten.



The January 2020 competitions are:-

Category 1 A box

Category 2 A Finial box

We wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and New Year and hope that 2020 will be kind to you all.

Thanks for this Shavings must got to Brendan McAreavy, Paul Finlay, Peter Lyons and Eugene Grimley.