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Chairman's Comments

By Eugene Grimley

Welcome to the first Shavings of 2021. 2020 was to say the least a difficult year but everyone's efforts to keep in touch through Zoom and our Facebook page have been commendable. Our response to the requests for work for the Children's Hospital in the pandemic lockdown had to be seen to be believed

It is still difficult to predict when we will be able to meet again as a group but we have planned for reopening even if we have to keep revisiting our plans as the pandemic continues. Even with the rollout of vaccines this seems some way off. Its for this reason Zoom, Facebook and the odd telephone call are really important.

I am aware that not all of you have taken advantage of this but for a New Year Resolution I would like everyone to try to get/keep in touch with at least two other members. Hopefully this will keep us all in contact and help those members who are missing the social aspects of our meetings at the Wood Shed.

Remote Internet Demos (IRDs)

Remote Demo's have become the new normal as we proceed though this pandemic. Youtube, Chestnut, the AWGB, the AAW and Record (see below) as well as a large number of celebrity turners (throughout the world) are now directly providing for that demonstration fix while meetings at the Wood Shed are suspended. If you find something that would be of interest to others why not post the link on the Ulster Woodturning Facebook page.

IWG News

Most of you will have received an email from the IWG and/or Mark informing you that IWG membership has been extended until (at least) June 2021. How this will be collected remains to be seen as it is unlikely that we will be meeting by then. Our

Chapter is not in a great place financially but we have discussed our budget for a continued closure in 2021 and we should be able to carry on without additional funds. This is a changing situation ultimately dependent on Covid, lockdown regulations and the Wood Shed reopening.

Wood Shed News

While the Wood Shed remains closed due to covid restrictions Sam and Lynda are continuing to work behind the scenes answering telephone calls and dispatching orders by mail and carrier. Tel 028 94433833

Our Christmas contribution was amazing

The partnership that Ulster Woodturning has supporting the play team at RVH Children's Hospital with woodturned items continues to make a huge impact on many young patients' stay in hospital.

Jenne was stunned by our continued contribution in spite of covid and was lucky to have collected some of the work a couple of weeks early otherwise we would not have been able to get everything in the car. The photos show only the 2nd collection! Look for Samantha's penguins, alpacas and snowmen!

See what was done with some of the figures produced for June 2020.

The Hospital used our efforts by having a "Penguin" day on Thursday 3rd December followed by a "Snowman" day on Thursday 10th December. The week of 14th to 18th December was to be devoted to the Christmas trees.



Easter – Eggs & Chicks etc

For Easter we would be really grateful if you could make chicks, eggs in eggcups (as large as possible) and the rolling pins etc.

If you decide to make rings and small items for babies remember that they must be made with safe woods.

As mentioned in our last Shavings our supply of 4x4 timber is used up so we may have to resort to sourcing our own white wood (pine). As 4x4 isn't readily available 3 x 3 will be ok. This means that the eggs in cups will be approximately 6ins high. Another reason is that with the Wood Shed being closed it is also very difficult to get wood out to you.

Easter is early this year so completed work will need to be ready for 6th March. We will sort out collection arrangements later depending on the Covid regulations at the time.

Zoom Update

The next Ulster Woodturning Zoom meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 26th January. There will be a presentation by Paul Finley. February will see presentations by Jim Stevens on caring for your lathe.

Also servicing your chuck and discussions on dust extratction.

Later in the spring there will be an evening with Emmet Kane discussing his work and thoughts on woodturning.

As our Zoom meetings are a collabourative effort please feel free to get involed by doing a short demo, presentation or leading a discussion. Contact Mark with suggestions and offers.

Record Power - free demos

The first Live Demo Session of 2021 was by Theo Haralampou who showed a way to turn spheres of any size without using special jigs or tools by using the shadow method.

He demonstrated

- How to set up the shadow board
- Steps to centre and align the light
- How to get the best cuts using scrapers, bowl and spindle gouges.
- Removing the shadow with practice cuts.
- How to stop your sphere cracking.

To get notification of and links to future demos email miked@recordpower.co.uk with subject line: **RSVP** to reserve a place.

Once he has your details you will be informed of each demo and sent the appropriate Zoom joining code.

Note that these demos usually take place on Saturdays at 12.30am and 9.30am.

The next Record demo is by Andrew Hall. Sign up as above to get the Zoom code.

The next Conkers Live demo is by Emma Cook (The Tiny Turner) on Thurs 4th February at 7.15pm. It's on Chestnut Finishes' YouTube channel but again if you sign up with Chestnut you will get emails to tell you who is on next and when. These do not follow a regular pattern but are roughly 3 weeks apart – the last.

Committee Contact Details

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Data Protection

Some of your personal details, i.e. email address, and telephone numbers, are held in our records. We only use this data to coordinate Ulster Woodturning. If you would like to know what information we hold and how we use it, or if you wish us to remove it from our records, please contact the Secretary, Mark McGranaghan. If your information is removed, you will no longer receive any official communication (emails, telephone calls or correspondence) from Ulster Woodturning or the Irish Woodturners' Guild.

Comments and suggestions should be forwarded to the Shavings Editor