

NEWSLETTER

# INSIDE 2020 ISSUE

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*Ben Dick - Ukibori demonstration*

 April - June

*Demos cancelled due to COVID19*

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**Remote Demos:** Martin Saban-Smith, Chris Fisher, Paul Hannaby, Ian Hipkin, Stuart Furini and Les Thorne

 Committee

Commitments of the Committee



*Biker by Malcolm Arter*



## AGM, JAPANESE UKIBORI & ZOOM!

Hello fellow turners and welcome to the only 2020 issue this year. Due to COVID, we had to cancel several demos, but, thanks to sterling efforts by Mary Ward, we managed to stage 6 remote Zoom demos, so we still endeavoured to keep things going.

As you may already know, due to work and other commitments, I will be stepping down as EGW Secretary at the 2021 AGM. Although I have enjoyed my stint as secretary, work (and workshop!) pressures have meant that I can't give it the effort I feel it requires and I don't think it's fair to continue without my full attention on the job. I do hope someone can step into my shoes and I'm keen to give as much support as required to the lucky candidate.



# March 46 members



This was the last of the attended EGW meetings for 2020. We announced the results of the French knitting dolly competition that had been set by John Askew who we met at the Hands On Day last year. The winner was our chairman, Clive Baker.



Mike Harding did a show-and-tell of a hard pine vase with a pewter surround (see picture).

## COMPETITIONS

### SENIOR – DECORATED EGG ON A STAND



1st	• 1. Chris Horne (15)
2nd	• 2. Malcolm Lister (6)
3rd	• 3. Clive Baker (1)
4th	• 3. John Last (1)

### NOVICE – EGG CUP AND SAUCER

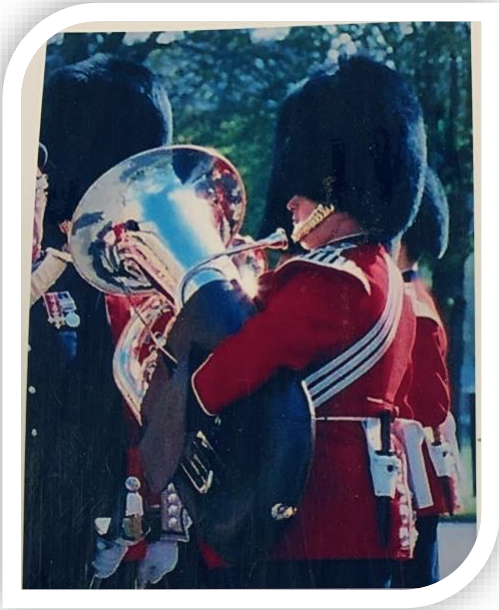


1st	• A. Bob Sheppard
2nd	• B. Martin Moore
3rd	
4th	



## Ben Dick – Ukibori platter

This month's demonstration was brought to us by Ben Dick. Ben is ex-Army where he played in the band (see photos) and, following his departure from the Army, he tried his hand at driving instructing and working in construction where he found he liked to work with his hands.



### UKIBORI PLATTER

Ben handed around one of the items he was going to demonstrate making – an Ukibori platter. This had a series of unusual bumps in it, some raised and some sunken which gave a very pleasing effect.



Apologies in advance for the poor photos – I thought they'd come out better when I took them.

Ben starts with the blank mounted on a screw in the chuck and turns the bottom, with a small spigot.



Back in the chuck on the spigot.



Cleans up the face. Tricky piece of wood, so he tries a sheer cut.



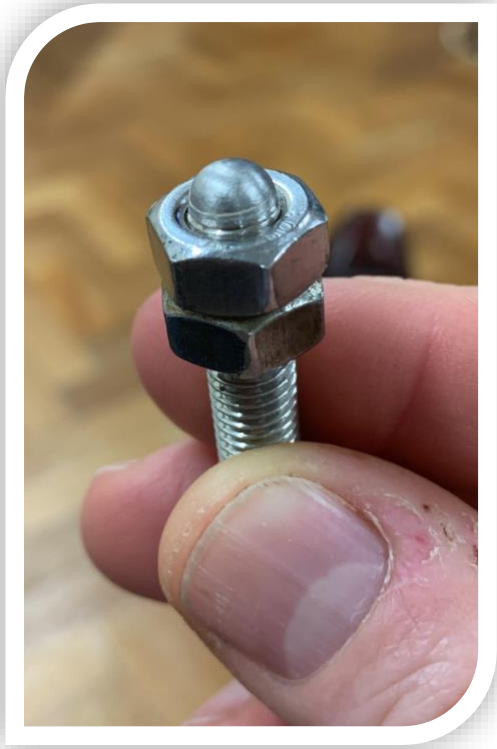
Now he makes another chucking point on the front face and sands the surface to finish with a Simon Hope sanding arbor.



He marks out where the pattern is going to be.



Then punches some dents into the wood in the pattern area with a polished and ground bolt (8mm?) and hammer.



He then sprays a light coat of black paint on it so that he could see the bottom of the holes when he turns it. He then turns away most of the black paint and, once the spots are gone, it's ready to sand.



This needs to be carried out to the best finish possible. Now it's ready for the steam process.



Once steamed, the dents magically turn into bumps.



The piece was then remounted on the lathe and the centre was hollowed into a bowl



He notes that some of the dents haven't turn into bumps as he hasn't taken enough wood off.

He then reverses the platter onto a friction plate to turn the base.



And burns rings on the base for decoration with a final sand to finish.



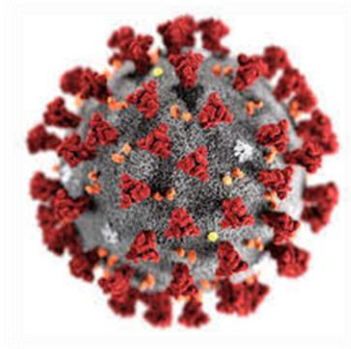


To remove the nub, he chisels most of it away and uses a credit card with a hole in it to protect the base whilst he saws off the final bit. Then he uses a sanding arbor in a Jacobs chuck to sand down to 240 grit.



The final piece finished.

# April - June



The year was brought to a halt in March/April by the arrival of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Meetings, competitions and demonstrations were all cancelled as lockdown took effect.

**CANCELLED**

# July - December



As life in lockdown became the 'new normal', people started to find inventive ways to stay in touch even though physically getting together was difficult. Mary Ward, the EGW Events Coordinator, discovered that many demonstrators were equipping their workshops with camera and media equipment and could carry out remote demonstrations directly from their workshops.

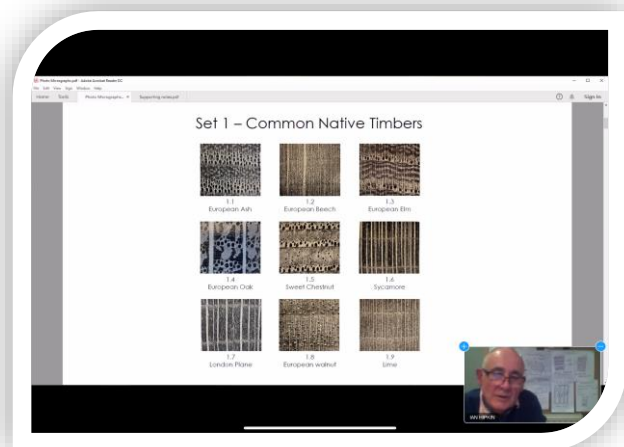
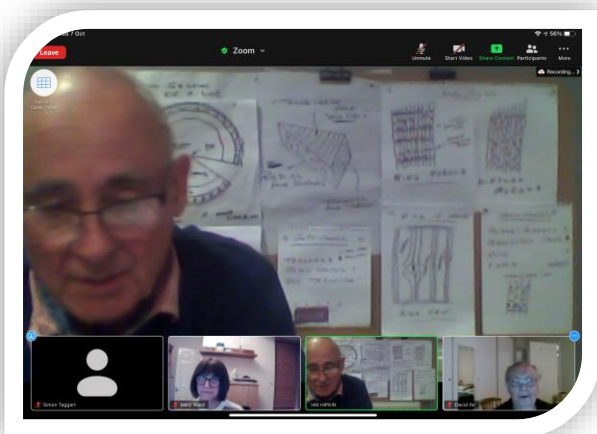
This was all facilitated by using the Zoom application from a personal computer or tablet and meant that EGW members could participate from the comfort and safety of their own homes. It also meant that the EGW committee could still attend meetings using the same technology.

Consequently, the EGW events calendar was relaunched in **July** with an initial demonstration by **Martin Saban-Smith** over Zoom with 31 members attending. Martin covered bowl turning methods with some nice camera angles and digital photo overlays explaining techniques used.

This was followed up in **August** with a demonstration by **Chris Fisher (the 'blind woodturner')** who proved that you don't need sight to turn wood well. This was attended by 27 members.

**September** brought a demonstration by the chairman of the AWGB himself, **Paul Hannaby**, who showed us some thread-chasing techniques with 29 members attending.

To break up the routine, one of our members, **Ian Hipkin**, gave a remarkably interesting talk and demonstration in **October** on types of wood and how to recognise them. This was accompanied by flipchart drawings and microscopic slides showing the characteristics of each type of wood.



In **November**, **Stuart Furini** gave us all a flamboyant demonstration of the use of colour in turning with some useful tips on preventing the paint from going everywhere.

Finally, instead of the usual Christmas party, we had **Les Thorne** showing us some useful techniques for making bowls in **December**.

## COMMITMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

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With thoughts of writing this edition of the newsletter in mind, I asked our committee members what they had been doing over the isolated year of 2020 ...

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### CLIVE BAKER – CHAIRMAN



This year has of course been dominated by the Covid 19 restrictions, so thank goodness we have been able to spend time in our workshops. Notable highs and lows for me this year include my daughter completing an “Iron Man” series of challenges (I turned and engraved a wooden medal for her) and the loss of my mother (for whose grave I made a cross with an engraved plate).



The Jubilee Tree on Fair Green in Reach was planted in 1935 and felled in February this year. Frank Harnwell and I spent 2 days on site and have since used some of the horse chestnut to make souvenirs for interested villagers.



An ancient mulberry tree in the bishop's garden next to the cathedral was partly felled and we sold the resulting wood to interested members, raising £185 for the bishop's charity, The Children's Fund.



This year I bought my first petrol-driven chainsaw as I needed to cut down a very overgrown Cypress. It took me several days to get the tree down plus 10 trailer loads to the tip with the greenery and 5 trailer loads home with the firewood.



I have also been practising my bowl turning and making a few conkers.



Best Christmas wishes to you all.

Stay safe and well and let's meet up again in 2021.

— Clive

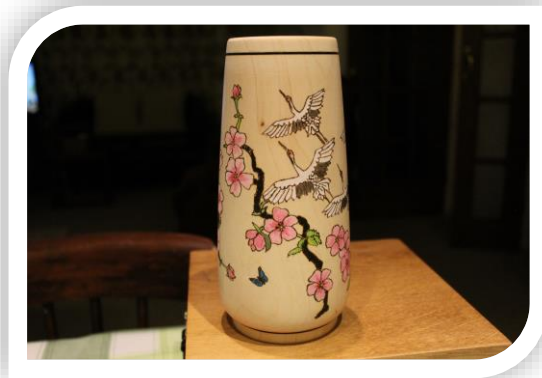
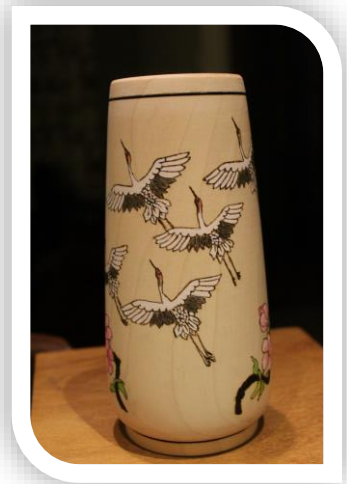
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#### GERRY & JEAN LAWRENCE - EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR

I have made a dozen threaded boxes with my Simon Hope threading jig, an American-style stake wagon, a little airplane and two vases which Jean has decorated with a Japanese scene (see photos on the following page).

The little airplane was made for our granddaughter as a Christmas present; she is at Southampton University studying aeronautics.

The Japanese vases were a commission from someone who often buys from me at Art in Wood. Jean did a lot of research on numbers of cranes to represent good luck and used pyrography and special paints to produce the colours.



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MARY WARD - PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

This was my first attempt at a Hollow Form "thingy". It's about 5" high spalted beech with microcrystalline wax finish and scrap wood sprayed with ebonising lacquer.

I thought members might be amused by my "design initiatives" i.e. the little black top with small opening which makes it very difficult for fingers to get inside to inspect the hollowing depth / finish and the black bottom which was a necessary addition having failed to consider the lack of stability of the tiny base! And also by my husband's response that it was very clever, but he was particularly impressed that I had somehow, during lockdown, managed to get a black plastic top that fitted so perfectly!!

Best wishes,

Mary



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MALCOLM LISTER - COMPETITION COORDINATOR

Enclosed are photos of three items I have made during recent months. I thought I would have a go at making some things that involved new techniques for me.

- 1) The senior competition for May was for a 3" table and a chair. The chair is based on the one Paul Howard demonstrated for us in April 2019. Made in Ash.
- 2) One of the demonstrators last year, can't remember which one, passed round a decorative bangle / bracelet which had copper wire inlaid in it so I thought I would have go on a couple of bowls
- 3) I had never used gilt cream or black lacquer before so tried the process on a nice piece of Ash.

Best Wishes,

M



This year has been a year of dichotomies for me; on the one hand, my commute to work was reduced from 2 hours each way to 15 seconds (from kitchen to study), I was furloughed in April, only to be back at work in May and promoted!

Meanwhile, we can't leave the house except out of necessity and yet our Blended Monkey craft business is taking bookings for workshops on a daily basis – confounding. Luckily, with strict PPE measures in place and social distancing as much as possible, the situation is manageable.

When I do get a respite, I have some time to make stuff in the workshop too. I thought I'd try my hand at multi-axis turning, producing a 11" magic mushroom, a 3" tall penguin from oak and pine, the obligatory Christmas 6" tall snowmen and baubles and some honey drizzlers. I also had a commission for some fruit (not something I find particularly interesting, but fun all the same).



  
*Merry Christmas  
to you all and a  
Happy and  
Prosperous New  
Year!*