

Masking Up, Covid or Dust?

For everyone's safety, we have all had to get used to wearing masks over the last year due to the unprecedented pandemic of Covid 19.

It is just as important for your health, to wear a mask in the workshop to prevent inhalation of dust particles, particularly the microscopic ones that are not apparent. View the air through a shaft of light and the density of dust is obvious when turning and particularly, sanding.

A disposable face mask is better than none, but for full protection a powered respirator is the answer. It is important to maintain and replace filters as necessary and to make it as easy to wear as possible. Peter Castle shares his experience with us in the following article.

Aircap Renovation

'Twas my hope to get back to turning this spring so, in anticipation, I thought it was about time I renovated the Aircap. It has been in storage for 5 years so, no doubt, the batteries would be in need of replacement.

If you have an Aircap, or similar, then I'm sure you will have come across the problem of the cable getting caught up with the toolrest. Brainwave..... Attach the battery unit to the cap itself and do away with the cable altogether.

A quick session on ebay produced a plastic box (£3), with its own switch, for two 3.7v lithium-ion batteries (£8). All that was needed was to solder the connections to the new unit and rig up a clip to hold the box on the cap itself.

All went well until I turned it on andwhoops.....very little air got into the cap. Did that mean the two new batteries were not up to the job? No, by removing the filters I found that the motor went into top gear so simply a matter of clogged filters. When cut in half it was obvious why the air was not passing through.

I did not have any replacements in stock but I do have a roll of G2/M5 synthetic filter material which I use in the Heat Recovery Unit (if anybody wants some let me know). I then cut some to fit, added new outer filter discs and all is well.

The only turning I have done since was two 14" maple rings for steel columns and the cap performed as it should with, possibly, a slight increase in positive pressure.. If the Gorilla glue holds up all will be well.



Replacement batteries and holder



Holder mounted on cap



Clogged filters



Replacement filters

February Competition Results

The winner of last month's competition was 7A, Peter Hawes. Other entrants were 1N, Gareth Garner; 2N, Mike Moon; 3N, Anne Simpson; 4N; Mike Pollard; 5A, Lynn Chambers; 6A, Sandra Day. Some lovely work! Well done everyone. Thank you, Richard Hasleden for judging.



Covid 19 has disrupted our meetings for a year now and there is still no certainty that meetings will resume in time for our summer social and competition.

However, the subjects for that competition last year were set before lockdown. I know some members had already begun work on their entries and in some cases, completed them. Therefore, whenever we hold our next competition, the subjects will be the same. To refresh your memories they are as follows:

Novices, a set of eggcups; intermediate, a vase with textured embellishment; advanced, a box within a box.

We look forward to lots of entries with no excuses of lack of time!

Members' Work



Paul Filsell has been busy making himself some hollowing tools based on a Jimmy Clewes design. He is also turning an urn for a deceased cat. Shown is work in progress, the lid. Paul's daughter, Rosie, made the brass insert



Honey pot and dibber
by Lynn Chambers.



Back in February 2018 (see newsletter March 2018) Paul Howard came to the club and demonstrated his sphere turning and fluting jigs by making one of his well known owls. The jigs are available on his website, www.paulhowardwoodturning.co.uk. There was also an article on the project in Woodturning magazine 316 if you are interested.

After the meeting, Paul gave me the owl with the task of decorating it with pyrography. I would have covered it in feathers but that had already been done. For a long time I had no inspiration but recently, a sense of guilt pushed me to put pyrography pen to wood. I decided to design an oak tree around the owl and this is the result.

Competition Entries



1N, lamp 11½"x6½" made from a gatepost.



2N, Sycamore bowl 11" coloured with intrinsic paint



3N, Ash vase with a decorative split, 6" x 4½"



4I, Two bowls made from one piece of yew 5" long.



5A, Nesting natural edge bowls in laburnum, largest one 9" x 3"



6A, Bowl and lid in Xylia wood 7" x 2"

Chairman	Maggie Wright
Vice Chairman and	
Competition Secretary	Peter Castle
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	John Turner
Events organiser	Greg Collett
Librarian	David Spice
Newsletter editor	Sandra Day
A-V co-ordinator	Brian Rowson

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April Newsletter

Next month's newsletter will be published on April 18th.

Please send any material for inclusion to reach me by Tuesday April 13th.