



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB

NEWSLETTER March 2024

www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk

Notes from the Editor

Inside you will find my report on the demonstration by our own club member Peter Deeming. His sword wielding Gonk was very interesting and joined his other family of axe, sword and spear wielding Gonks on display.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd April. It will be a hands-on session. The planned sharpening session will now take place later in the year. Unfortunately, I will not be at the next meeting as I'm on holiday in Japan and Hong Kong.

On Tuesday 16th, we have a demonstration by Wolfgang Schulz-Zachau. Wolfgang recently appeared on the television programme "Handmade: Britain's Best Woodworker 2023".

Woodworks@Daventry is coming along soon. The best woodturning event of the year is on Friday 10th May to Saturday 11th May. It's free to enter and there's free car parking too. Volunteers please to help put up, take down and represent the club at the event.

Daventry Sports Centre NN114FP. Approx 10am - 4pm on both days.

Sayonara

Rob Sheehan

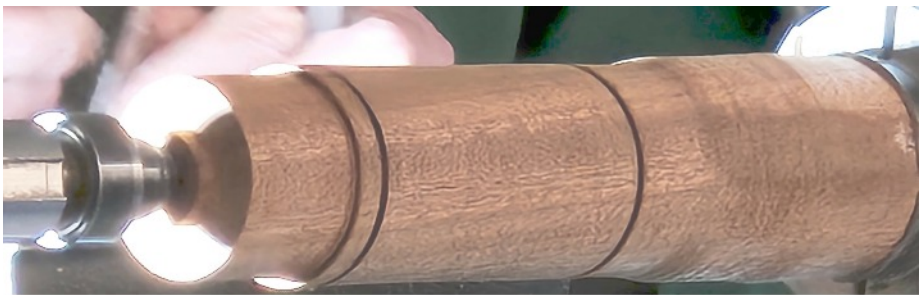
Secretary, Newsletter Editor & Web Site Manager

Gonk by Peter Deeming

Rob Sheehan 2/4/2024



Peter started with an already rounded blank of Mahogany 2" diameter and 8" long. Holding one end in a chuck and the other by a live centre, he marked the transition points by eye - dimensions do not need to be exact for this project. Using a narrow parting tool and starting at the tail stock end, Peter cut into the transition points. Firstly leaving about 5mm waste, then 1" for the helmet, 5mm for the helmet rim and the bottom of the Gonk 4" from the first line. Peter turned the helmet



down to 40mm diameter and rounded over the end. The rim was tidied up and left at 48mm diameter. He then undercut the helmet slightly down to



a diameter of 40mm and tapered the body from 50mm at the base to the 40mm undercut at the helmet. After removing the tail stock, Peter finished rounding over the helmet. He then sanded everything. After examining the grain on the helmet, Peter chose the best side for the face and drilled a 6mm hole about 10mm down from the helmet rim (Peter bought his Black & Decker battery drill from Argos for £24.50 Unfortunately that drill is now £45). Holes are also needed for the arm, shield and helmet horns. Peter does not drill these on the lathe as the sideways orientation can result in them being drilled in the wrong place. Peter prefers to wait until the Gonk is upright before drilling the remaining holes. Peter applied a coat of shellac sanding sealer (was £6 now £12.22 from Toolstation) followed by Chestnut Microcrystalline wax. After buffing to a shine, he parted off, undercutting the base.



Next Peter turned the shield. This came from the same piece of Mahogany as the body. Using the same 50mm diameter as the base of the Gonk, Peter curved over the face and decorated it with two shallow grooves using the narrow parting tool. He then textured in between the two line with his home-made Henry Taylor Decorating Elf (£66.98 from Axminster but £13 for the home-made version). Peter sealed it and waxed it and used a stiff brush (nail brush) to remove the excess wax. He then cut down the back of the shield, leaving a 6mm diameter spigot 10mm long. Peter parted off the shield.



Switching to a pen-blank sized piece of Mahogany, Peter turned an arm. At home, while the blank was still square, he drilled a 6mm hole about 8mm in from the end. This part will form the hand and the hole will hold the sword. Peter turned the square blank down to 11mm diameter using a 1/4" spindle gouge for a length of 3". He rounded over the end and, 20mm from the end, Peter turned a cove to separate the hand from the arm. The total arm length was 2" with the last 10mm being turned down to 6mm, to fit the arm into the body. Peter sealed and sanded the arm before parting off.



Using the same blank, Peter turned the nose. He rounded over the end and, 10mm from the end, Peter turned a 10mm long, 6mm diameter spigot to fit the nose into the body. The nose was sanded, sealed, waxed and parted off.



Next, Peter explained how to make the sword. Using a lollipop stick, cut off a 2" length for the blade. Cut a 3/4" length from the other end and round over the cut end. This makes the cross-guard. Turn a 10mm long dowel, 6mm in diameter for the handle. Glue the three pieces together and paint them silver.

Finally, the helmet's horns. Using a 35mm diameter blank of Apple (lighter coloured wood that looks like horn), Peter used a Captive Ring Tool to cut a 6mm thickness, 35mm diameter captive ring. Using a drill mounted drum sander, Peter sanded the inside of the captive ring. He then marked three lines on the ring. Using a clock face as reference. One top centre 12 O'Clock, one at 4:30 and one at 7:30. Mounting the ring in a small vice, Peter used a junior hacksaw to cut the ring into three pieces on the marked lines. The two longer pieces form the horns, the shorter piece is waste. Peter used a flat sanding disc in his drill to taper the horn ends to points. Note - Viking helmets did not have horns. It is only films and TV that show them with horns.



Peter now drilled the remaining holes - all 6mm. Two on either side of the helmet for the horns. Two more towards the front of the body for the arm and the shield. Remember to align the nose hole to the front before drilling the holes.

The Gonk's beard was made from the fur collar of a charity shop coat. This is much cheaper than buying pre-prepared beards from the likes of the Tiny Turner. The fur must be carefully cut to size. The length must fit from underneath the helmet to the base of the Gonk. The width is arm hole to shield hole. When cutting the fur, cut with the fur backing on top. The specified sizes are for the fur backing. The fur itself cascades downwards and sideways. Do not trim off this excess. The fur must be notched for the nose. Peter folded the fur in half and carefully cut a slot to fit round the nose spigot. Using superglue, Peter coated the body on all areas where the beard would fit. Ensuring the notch was central, he glued the beard into the undercut below the helmet and all the way down the body between the arm and shield holes. Peter then glued in the nose, the shield and the arm. The arm is glued so the hole will hold the sword at a jaunty angle (not dead upright). Gluing in the horns finished the Gonk.

Peter said any timber can be used and sometimes he paints the shields etc.

He then showed us his other Gonks, holding axes, swords and spears.



Some of Peter's other Gunks



Members' Work





NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB EVENTS 2024

January	2nd	No Meeting	
	16th	Demo	Rob Sheehan
February	6th	Demo	Nick Adams
	20th	Demo	Bob Smith
March	5th	Hands-On	
	19th	Demo	Peter Denning
April	2nd	Hands-On	
	16th	Demo	Wolfgang Schulz-Zachau
May	7th	Demo	Bill Bennett
	10-11	Woodworks@Daventry	
	21st	Demo	Giles Headley (pottery)
June	4th	Demo	Robert Till
	18th	Hands-On	
August	6th	Demo	Paul Hannaby
	20th	TBD	

Events at Other Clubs

Please contact the club to check times/dates/locations before attending

Coombe Abbey (Walsgrave Baptist Church 10 am)
Saturday April 20th demo by Mick Hanbury