

Changes in Club Meetings

Many club committees took the decision to cancel their meetings even before the lockdown was announced which was a wise and sensible precaution. Several of the club representatives I spoke to, as demonstration after demonstration started falling away, said they were looking at ways to 'keep going' in the form of online meetings. I should think that many heads were being scratched as committees everywhere looked for answers and experimented with various options. Some of them, I know have adopted the use of 'Zoom', one of the worlds leading online meeting service providers.

Berkshire Woodturning Club had booked American finial specialist Cindy Drozda some time ago for a 'remote demonstration' this week. They invited Kennet Valley and Surrey Association Woodturners to join them and I was very pleased to be invited along too, to join the three clubs for her presentation. I must say that the coming together of three clubs for one demonstration in an online environment was a brilliant and unique experience. Cindy's presentation was superb (she has been doing remote demonstrations for a few years now in the US) and well polished (as was her finial at the end of the demo).

And that got me thinking – Remote Demonstrations are a powerful way forward for clubs and demonstrators. Not just for now, when travel is impossible, but afterwards . . . Clubs can book a turner for a remote demonstration that would otherwise be too expensive to bring to their club in person. Not just British ones, but overseas ones, too. Wow! The possibilities are huge.

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