



## Future Events

### MSWA Meetings

May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Hands On and Open Evening

June 6<sup>th</sup>  
Martin Lawrence  
Enhancing your turnings

### Other Events

July 19<sup>th</sup>  
Alrewas Show

July 26<sup>th</sup>  
Kings Bromley Show

## Club Competitions

May  
Challenge – Decorated Platter

June  
Novice – Door Wedge

## Chairman's Notes

The meeting next month is the first of two Open or Hands on Evenings. This proved a popular event last year and we hope that it will be so again.

Apart from the social interaction, otherwise termed “chat”, this is an opportunity for you to see different techniques in action. Bring along your questions, failed projects and ask the other club members for the answers to whatever is impeding your progress in the wood turning field.

We expect to have Paul Bellamy with his tool sharpening workshop and Ron Dixon as the Saw Doctor.

There will be four lathes in use ranging from the club lathe down to one of the smallest lathes marketed in this country, one that would allow you to practice your turning on the kitchen table. That is, if your other half would let you import your hobby into her domain.

### Philip Watts

## Volunteer Needed

Those members of the club who visited the recent Axminster “Ten Turners Turning” weekend could not fail to have been impressed by the clarity of the camera/flat screen television set-up used at the demonstrations.

We have been looking at ways of improving the visual side of our demonstrations and this is one way forward. We are investigating the additional storage that would be required at the Village Hall. The cost of the equipment would be in excess of £500.

Some members have bemoaned the fact that we do not use a raffle on club nights to raise funds. We could do this if there was a demand and if a volunteer came forward to organise prizes and run it on each night.

Two questions for you:

1. Do you want a raffle?
2. Would you be prepared to organise it?

Answers to me at [chairman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:chairman@mswa.co.uk) or by phone.



## Editor's Scribblings

Just a short newsletter this month. Your Editor was lacking in inspiration, and in contributions for the Newsletter. Thanks for Will Rose for this month.

I am equally short of inspiration for the choice of decorations for the platter for next month's competition.

Philip Watts

## When is a platter not a platter?

I have been threatening for some time to give my definition of the difference between a platter and a shallow bowl and the fact that the next Challenge is for a decorated platter makes this an appropriate time. Consulting Ray Key's book "The Woodturner's Workbook" for assistance and support in my view produced not a clarification but a further confusion because he introduces the word "dish" to the debate. So we have the three terms a platter, a dish, and a bowl to consider.

I think that this is the point where function dictates the form. The words platter and plate are nowadays synonymous and imply a spread of food such as cheese or meat. Thus a wide flat receptacle is required that is stable when a knife or fork is used to cut or pick up whatever is on the plate. However, the edge of the platter has to be raised to allow fingers to be placed underneath in order to lift the platter or plate from the table. So the item has to have a relatively wide base compared to its overall diameter.

On the other hand, a bowl is used to contain contents of a liquid form or items like fruit that will gravitate towards the centre. This allows the bowl to have a relatively narrow base and yet remain balanced. Modern wood turning concentrating on form rather than function has taken this to the limit. Ray Key suggests bowl bases lying between two fifths and two thirds of the overall diameter. There are examples of bowls by Bert Marsh, however, that definitely break this rule. A recent cover picture on Reflections showed a bowl that took this even further, having a hemispherical form to the lower part that effectively is a non-existent base, allowing the bowl to recline at an angle.

Which leaves the question of what is a dish. The dictionary suggests that a dish is a shallow container for food. So that leaves it somewhere between a platter and a bowl. Not much help there. I will leave you to determine that for yourself.

## Club Competitions

Only two entries for the Novice Competition. Both provided spinning tops. In first place was Ivan Cottrel, second was Peter Wood. Regrettably, your reporter failed to take photographs. For this, I apologise.

## Newsletter

The Newsletter is for your and the club's benefit. If you have something to say then write it and send it to me for inclusion. I can accept text in almost any format, although simple text files are the best. Similarly, I can accept photographs in both hard and soft copy, in many formats.



## April Demonstration – John Berkeley



John Berkeley is a well established turner with a reputation in the field of the hand chasing of threads in particular. On this occasion he showed us that technique as well as his ability to turn in miniature. On the way, he demonstrated a number of techniques with applications in those fields as well as others.

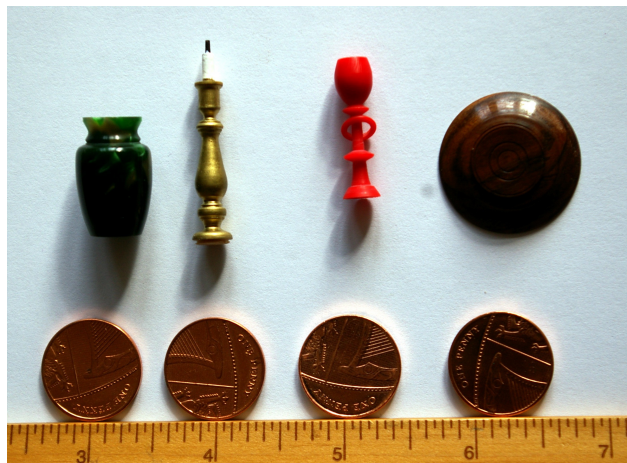
This is not the place for an exposition on threading techniques, there are plenty of books and articles on that which would do the job better. John's view that there three items need for successful threading. They are Patience, Practice and Perseverance.

John demonstrated the techniques by producing a small threaded box from a material known as Casein, which he described as the nearest thing to ivory that can be legitimately purchased today. I would have included a photograph but the final product mysteriously disappeared during its trip around the audience. Somebody out there must know where it is!

John gained a lot of his knowledge from Bill Jones. For those of you who do not know this name, Bill was one of the last ivory turners in the country and wrote regularly for the magazine "Woodturning". He was a great advocate of a wide range of home made tools. One in particular was the three sided "Pointy" tool still obtainable today. The other device was the arm rest, with the handle tucked under the arm and resting on the conventional tool rest, this makes a convenient and flexible extension to the rest and facilitates working across the face of the work piece.

John then moved on to demonstrating some examples of miniature turning, aided by a pair of 2,5 diopetre spectacles. First off was a miniature candle stick in boxwood just one inch or 25 mms high. A touch of black felt tip marked out the wick, Tippex showed up the candle portion and some gold paint produced the effect of a brass candle stick itself. What is incredible is not just the overall size of the item but the detail within.

Second, a goblet with a captive ring in a red polyester resin and finally a small vase in an acrylic with a pattern akin to that used in the noted Conway Stewart fountain pens. See the photograph below. There was still time in hand for John to demonstrate a platter turned cross grain. The upper face and rim was turned first before reversing into a ring of wood formed to grip the piece and itself to be gripped by a chuck, thus preventing the item being marked by the metal chuck jaws.



Throughout, John dispensed tips and advice on all aspects including that of the use of home made tools manufactured from any available steel with a sufficient hardness. Small chisels and old Allen keys being examples. The availability of such materials in Car Boot Sales and the like was highlighted. An enjoyable evening.



## Yarn....n. 1.A spun thread. 2. A tale.

“Will you make me a yarn bowl please” asked Belinda. “A what I replied? What’s a yarn bowl?” “It’s a bowl to keep wool in when I am knitting. To stop it rolling all over the floor. It’s an American idea which I saw on the internet”.

Well that was the conversation last year. I duly had a look on the internet as instructed and there it was a fine segmented wooden bowl, maybe eight inches high and six inches diameter with a slot down one side. Many other examples were in ceramics. It would be a bit of a big lump for my Record DML 305! I told Belinda I would have a go but she would have to wait as the blank I had in mind was not fully dry. I had earlier been given some pieces of Cedar of Lebanon by a man in Lichfield. Well that was on condition I cut the tree down first.....fair swap!

The turning was nothing out of the ordinary, Cedar of Lebanon being quite soft, it turned very easily except for the knots which contrasted significantly tending to cause a stutter at each revolution. For the inside I used large drill, followed by various bowl gouges ground at differing angles to get down to the bottom and finishing with a ring tool at slowest speed. With care and a bit of practice it coped quite well with the knots. I decided it needed to be fairly thick 8 to 10mm. to stand up to regular use.

In hindsight I might have cut the slot to follow the grain but as a “design opportunity” arose when a small knot at the rim decided to launch itself into orbit (correctly predicted by Chris Gibb). I started the slot at the site of the “launch pad”. Various methods were considered from a Dremel with a fine cutter, a coping saw, or a router mounted on a purpose made fixture above the lathe. In the end an electric jig-saw at slow speed did the job with the bowl firmly clamped in a large carpenter’s vice. You will see there is a small hole 10mm, at the end of the slot in order to accommodate the wool as it unwinds from the ball and hold it in position. Since the sole of the jig-saw would be resting on a compound curved surface (not ideal) and I would only get one crack at it I decided to cut the slot first and then drill the hole as I couldn’t be sure if the slot would end up in the centre of the hole. I was able to widen the slot slightly using the coarse set of the teeth. I was aware that the slot needed to be smooth so as not to snag on the wool so it needed to be just wide enough to be able to insert double abrasive cloth.



The bowl was finished with beeswax which meant that it should retain its polish as Belinda uses it. This produced a warm colour to the otherwise pale wood.



Belinda was delighted with the end result, cuddling it along the lines of Henry Sandon of Antiques Road Show fame. Whether she cuddles it in bed as Henry does his beloved pots I wouldn’t know!

Will Rose.



## Club information

Your club committee for 2014 is:-

**Chairman - Philip Watts**

Email: [chairman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:chairman@mswa.co.uk)

Tel. 0121 308 7838

**Secretary – John McElroy**

Email: [secretary@mswa.co.uk](mailto:secretary@mswa.co.uk)

**Treasurer – Vance Lupton**

Email: [treasurer@mswa.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@mswa.co.uk)

**Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field**

**Events Secretary – Ted Gill**

Email: [events@mswa.co.uk](mailto:events@mswa.co.uk)

**Abrasives -**

**Newsletter editor – Philip Watts**

Email: [editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:editor@mswa.co.uk)

**Webmanager – Philip Watts**

Email: [webman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:webman@mswa.co.uk)

**Committee Members**

Dawn Hopley

**Health and Safety Advisor**

Hugh Field

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.

## Merchandise



### Abrasives

If you need that finishing touch, the club has packs of Abranet, recommended by demonstrators and other club members, at £2.20 for a set of 7 sheets - 120 -600 grit.



**Books and DVDs** The club has the following DVDs amongst others for hire.

### MSWA DVD List

- 1 AWGB Instant Gallery 1991-2003
- 2 Sharpening GMC
- 3 Turning Projects with Richard Raffan
- 4 Turning Wood with Alan Holtham – Table lamp
- 5 Colouring wood – Jan Sanders
- 6 3 Disc collection – Trent Bosch
- 7 Bowls for Beginners – Ray Jones
- 8 Course on Spindle Turning – Ray Jones
- 9 Making and Decorating Platters – Mick Hanbury
- 10 Making and Decorating Boxes – Mick Hanbury
- 11 Turn It On – Vol 1 – Jimmy Clewes
- 12 Turn It On – Vol 2 – Jimmy Clewes
- 13 Turn It On – Vol 3 – Jimmy Clewes
- 14 All Glued Up No1 – Sue Harker
- 15 Turned Out Nice Again – Sue Harker
- 16 Wood Turning with Steve Heeley – Steve Heeley
- 17 Woodcut Turning Tools
- 18 Robert Sorby Specialist Tools
- 19 Inlaid and Novelty Boxes – Chris Stott
- 20 Hope for us all – Simon Hope
- 21 Hope for us all – Vol2 – Simon Hope
- 22 Wet Turning With a Difference – Stuart Mortimer
- 23 AWGB Seminar 2011
- 24 Turning Green Wood – Michael O'Donnell
- 25 Woodturning, a craftsman's guide. - Mark Baker

**Dawn Hopley has taken over the responsibility for these items and may be seen at Club Meetings**



## Turning tips

This section is for any tips or advice you would like to pass on to other members. It doesn't matter what it is, if you discovered something you found useful, that you think may benefit others, please pass it on.



## Useful websites and suppliers

There is a lot of information available on the internet but some is better than others. If you come across any useful sites, please let me know and I will publish them here.

A tree surgeon near Stafford has several tonnes of small diameter yew logs for sale.

Rob Keyzor Tree Surgeons can be contacted at 01785 284088 (Ask for Jack) or through the website [www.robkeyzor.co.uk](http://www.robkeyzor.co.uk).

Steve is a member of Coombe Abbey Turners and has a massive stock of timber which he is happy to sell to turners and woodworkers. The timber consists mostly of locally sourced native hardwoods, planked and kiln dried, and is available at great prices; some really lovely stuff. Steve lives in Sapcote in Leicestershire, not too far away, and close enough to Axminster in Nuneaton for a joint visit! Steve can be contacted on 01455 273894, and his website is [www.woodcharm.co.uk](http://www.woodcharm.co.uk)

## Questions and answers

This section is an opportunity for members to ask questions for other members to answer, primarily about wood-turning but I see no reason why this couldn't be extended further. There is a lot of knowledge in the club on many subjects and this should be an easy way to get answers.

## Items for sale or wanted

If you have any items for sale, or if you are trying to find something, send me the details and I will put it in the next issue.

### For Sale

Axminster Jet Bench Top Circular Saw JTS-10

Assembled and complete with stand

Little used and taking up room     £150

### Ring Philip Watts on 0121 308 7838

### Custom Toolrests – David Fields

David's grandson is able to make tool-rests, similar to the Robert Sorby system, out of round steel bar. These can be tailored to suit your requirements i.e. tool-post stem and length of the actual tool-rest. At the moment he is only doing straight tool-rests but bowl rests may be feasible in the future.

And if you have a Record lathe and do small spindles, he has developed a cranked tool-post, allowing the tool-rest to get close to the work, without the banjo dropping off the front bed bar.

If you would like to see one, or want to discuss your requirements, please have a chat with David on 01283 229072

### Carnauba wax polishes – Paul Bellamy

Following the favourable reaction to the polishing kits Paul started earlier this year, he has established a supply of carnauba wax flakes. These can be used to make your own 'sticks' or mixed with other components to make a range of polishes. He is selling these in 250g bags but could do larger quantities if you need it. He also has some ready-made wax blocks, comprising 60% beeswax/ 40% carnauba. These are softer than most 'wood-turning sticks' but he prefers this as it doesn't score your work.

He also has more of his 'Buffing kits', similar to Chestnut's system. For more details, e-mail him at [paul.bellamy@mswa.co.uk](mailto:paul.bellamy@mswa.co.uk)