



Future Events

MSWA Meetings

March 6th
Paul Jones
Practicalities of Spindle Turning

April 3rd
Paul Bellamy
A Deep Bowl turned from a Plank

Other Events

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Craft Fair

February 28th -1st March

Club Competitions

March
Challenge
A piece of involute turning

April
Novice
Honey Dipper

May
Challenge
Laminated Bowl

Chairman's Notes

This year's programme started with the return of Ken Allen, an old favourite, giving us something to think about on the subject of Involute Turning. "What's that?" was the question being posed to me at the beginning of the evening. A clearer view was evident by the end of the evening.

One feature was the use of the two new cameras that the Club has purchased. Hugh Field is to be congratulated on the work that he has put into this area and the results are obvious. One small problem remains, that of providing the demonstrator with a suitable light for them to see the workpiece. At the moment, the audience has what is almost a better view on the screen.

Hugh is also looking for assistants to become competent in putting together the equipment at the beginning of the evening, controlling it during the demonstration, and putting everything away at the end of evening. A comprehensive set of instructions is being prepared by Hugh and he will be delighted to talk you through the process. We will also probably make this the subject of a training session at the Open Evening in May.

The Novice competition got off to a good start with a reasonable number of entries and the best entry came from a newcomer to wood turning and the club. Anybody wishing to have feedback on their offerings and how to improve is encouraged to approach the more experienced turners, who will always be willing to give advice.

Philip Watts



Editor's Scriblings

Most of us have some of an appreciation of different woods but the subtleties of the grades of plywood are a different story. This situation is not helped by the actions of one major local Builder's Merchant advertising "Marine Plywood – Not suitable for boat building".

Philip Watts

For sale on behalf of the club.

The club was recently given a Record Lathe to pass onto a member wishing to take up turning. After considering a range of options, the MSWA Committee decided that the most appropriate course of action would be to trade this lathe on and use the proceeds to purchase a smaller lathe that would then be available at the various craft fairs and shows that the club attends and at the Club Open and Hands-on Evenings.

Accordingly the following lathe is available:

Record CL3- 36x30.

This is a professional quality lathe with a capacity of 36 inches between centres and comes with a bowl turning attachment that permits bowls up to 30 inches in diameter to be turned. A $\frac{3}{4}$ hp motor is fitted and the five pulleys fitted provide a range of speed between 425 to 2000 rpm. The lathe is mounted upon a steel stand. Both lathe and stand can be dismantled for transport.

The lathe is offered for sale to club members at a price of £350 for the lathe and £100 for the stand.

The lathe is available for viewing at the Editor's garage in Sutton Coldfield and delivery over a reasonable distance could be arranged.

Please contact the editor at editor@mswa.co.uk if you are interested.

A Snippet for the Newsletter

We all know the adage "Measure twice (or even thrice) and cut once", but that doesn't work if the dimension that one has in mind at the start is the wrong one.

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.

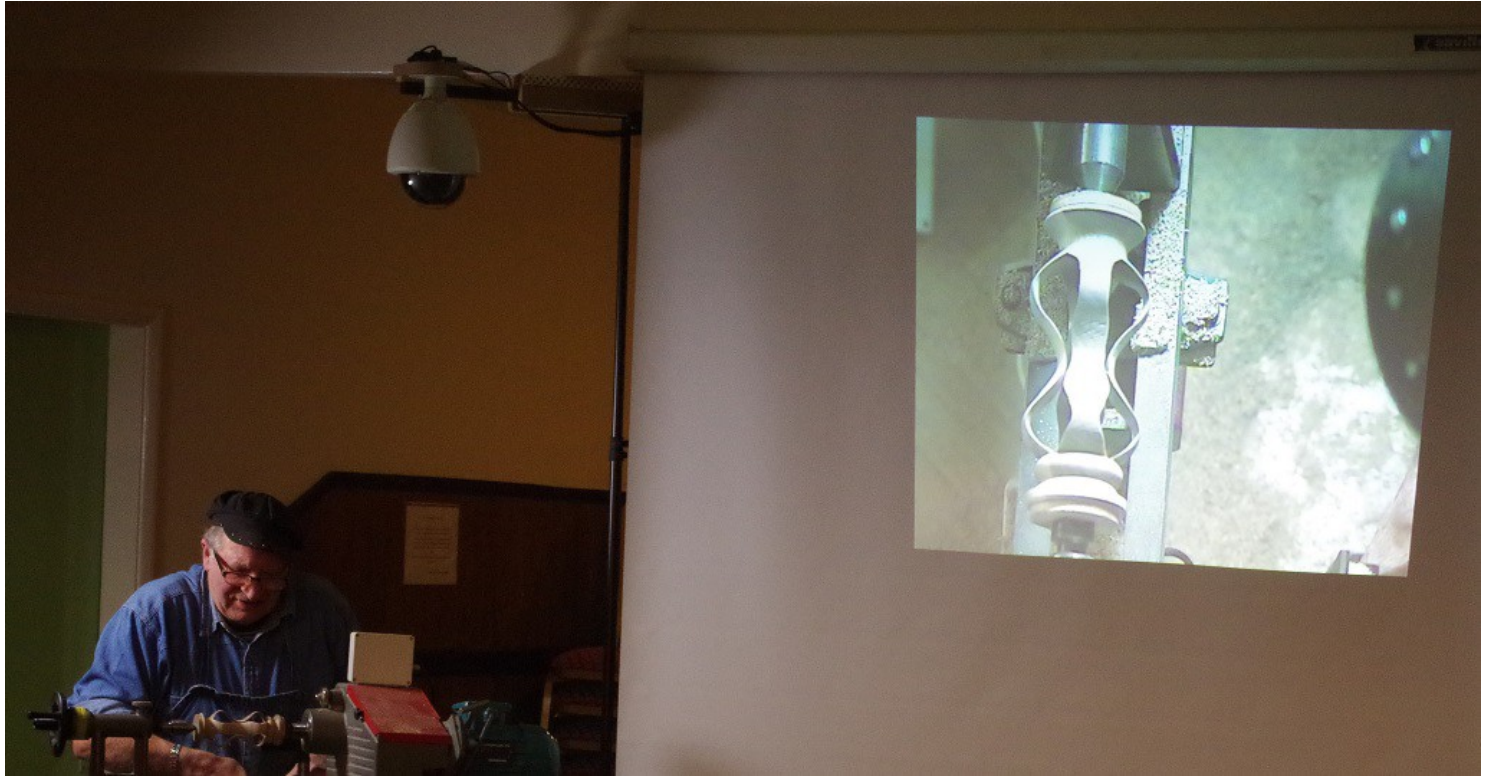


Wood 'n' things



February Demonstration – Ken Allen – Involute Turning.

Ken is well known to members of the MSWA, being a founder member. He has never failed over the years to find us something different to do in his demonstrations. The subject this year was Involute Turning, a topic new to at some of the less experienced members. Ken broke the project down into a series of simple steps and thus hopefully encouraged many to tackle the replication of his work.



The starting point was a perfectly square block, in this case of ash but Ken recommended sycamore as being the best choice for this type of work. The project was to be a base for an ornamental candle holder that had been bought for Ken's wife by a member of the family. The outside was turned first with the block mounted lengthways between centres using a 1/4" bowl gouge with a long grind. Whilst this in fact a piece of spindle turning, Ken like many experienced turners prefers to use the stronger and more stable tool. The ends of the work were retained as square sections. The central area of the turning were then finished, starting with a 120 grid paper.

Now for the first of the Blue Peter moments of the night. The next step would have been to have sawn the blank lengthways into four sections, preferably on a circular or band saw, using the square end sections as the reference points for this. The practicalities of an evening demonstration meant that Ken produced four sections that had been cut previously. He then demonstrated how each section would be reversed such that what had previously been the outer faces of the square section now met along the centre lines. Again at this point these items would have been glued together but a further prepared piece was produced that had undergone this process and which had been given time for the glue to harden fully.



Wood 'n' things



Both ends of this glued up piece had then been covered with a square of plywood to give a firm foundation when placed back between centres on the lathe. These end pieces were secured with glue and pinned for extra security. What had been the inside of the blank and now the outside was turned until the desired shape had been achieved, with windows being formed as the internal profile was revealed.



The part turned project showing the developed shape of the central section.

The end square sections had now served their purpose and were turned away to provide tenons for insertion into a base and top cap of a contrasting wood. Finishing of the centre section is done at this stage starting with 120 grit and working up through the grades. Ken emphasised here the use of a better quality abrasive paper as being more economical in the long run and the need to finish by sanding with the grain.

Top and bottom sections were turned individually from walnut, with the grain running across the lathe. Each section was mounted first on a screw chuck before reversed onto a conventional chuck. After finishing of these items, the whole assembly was glued up and clamped in the lathe to ensure that everything was in line.

Once again, Ken demonstrated how to break a project down into sections and to build up what appeared to be a complex design into manageable components.

Editor's note

Those members who do not have a circular saw or bandsaw with the capacity to quarter the part turned project might consider building the initial blank up from four square sections, using the paper joint principle whereby a layer of paper within the glued joint allows the part turned blank to be split back into its component parts.



Wood 'n' things



Competitions

This month was the first for the less experienced turners within the club and five members took up the challenge. The requirement was for a simple bowl or platter under six inches in diameter. First by popular vote was a simple classical bowl showing excellent finish by a new member, Simon King.



This is where the Editor found that he could not read his own scribbled shorthand notes and the identities of the second and third placed entries will remain anonymous until next month, by which time I hope to have corrected my error. Please accept my apologies for this.





Wood 'n' things



From the past

Having some spare space to fill, I thought that you might like to see what the club was up to some twenty years ago. Note the price of the demonstration, admittedly a full day at the Village Hall with a meal thrown in, but it demonstrates that we are working hard to keep your costs down.

MID-STAFFS WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION.

NEWSLETTER.

JANUARY 1995.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.

Well another Christmas came and went, I am sure everybody who attended the clubs Christmas evening thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ken and Valerie and everybody else who supported the event for their hard work. Many thanks again.

January saw our annual A.G.M., an informative evening with much to discuss on the clubs direction for 1995. Voting took place for the re-election of committee members, with Ken Allen still acting as chairman for another year. One or two members raised problems they had about the A.W.G.B. Being an A.W.G.B. member entitles you to 10% discount off your purchases at Alan Holthams. The A.W.G.B. also supports and pays for demonstrators such as Ray Keys Sunday seminar. Members who are not receiving the A.W.G.B. newsletter, this matter will be looked into.

After the A.G.M. Bill Kinsman entertained everybody with his excellent and witty slide show. Many thanks Bill.

On Sunday February 12th, between 10a.m. & 4p.m. Ray Key will be holding a demonstration at the Village Hall, a deposit will be required this evening. See Mark Pickering. Price for the day is £ 10 for association members, £ 12 for non-members. Meal included. Full remittance required on the day.

On March 10th, the West Midlands Club and the Mid-Staffs Club will be meeting for an evening of social discussion.

This event has been organised by Doug Birch, any queries, see Doug.



Wood 'n' things



Club information

Your club committee for 2014 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – John McElroy

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Abrasives -

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

Email: editor@mswa.co.uk

Webmanager – Philip Watts

Email: 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 £1.40 for a set of 5 sheets-120 -400 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.

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

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