



Forthcoming events

Club Meetings

August 5th

Downloaded video evening

September 2nd

Richard Findley, spindle turning masterclass

Club Competitions

August

Novice

Lidded box with square features

September

Challenge

Bowl or platter with pierced features

Other Events

September 9th & 10th

Yandles Woodworking Show

Yandle & Son Ltd
Hurst Works
Hurst
Martock
Somerset
TA12 6JU

Use this link for more information:

[Yandles show](#)

Chairman's Notes

Last month I wrote that we were hoping to have a stand at the Kings Bromley Show. Unfortunately, the show organisers were unable to provide us with the facilities that we previously enjoyed of power and shelter. We have, therefore, withdrawn our application. One of the reasons that we go to such shows is to try to increase our membership.

We are going to try a number of other approaches to the same end. I am submitting notices to the Rugeley Advertiser for the Community Notices section. This small booklet of advertising material is circulated to 7000 homes in the Rugeley area and hopefully will catch somebody's eye. We are ordering some business cards that can be carried by members and passed on to anybody expressing an interest. We are also preparing some small flyers that we will be handing out at subsequent meetings. We will be asking you to take a number of these and to either hand them out or seek to get them posted in local libraries, community centres or on supermarket public notice boards.

Your committee hope that you will co-operate fully with these initiatives. Any increase in membership will bring new blood into the club and will improve the financial situation, allowing us to continue the programme of demonstrations that you presently enjoy.

Philip Watts

Index to contents

Editors Scribblings	Page 2
Treasurers mid year report	Page 2 - 3
July Competition	Page 3
Competition, results so far	Page 4
July Demonstration - David Lowe	Pages 4 - 6
UK & Ireland Woodturning Symposium 2016	Pages 7 - 9
Hints & tips	Page 10
Items for sale	Page 10
Club information	Page 10
Useful suppliers	Page 11



Editors Scribblings

Can we really be halfway through 2016?

It doesn't seem like 6 months since I volunteered to take over editing the Newsletter from Philip, but here we are with my 7th effort. I hope you enjoy reading it.

At my request, Vance has written a mid-year report which follows my "scribblings".

Those members who attended the July meeting were given the opportunity to complete a brief questionnaire on Club matters; thank you to those who returned them. There will be an opportunity at the August meeting for anyone else who wishes to complete one to do so. The results will enable the committee to decide if changes need to be made to improve your enjoyment of club membership.

Two things that did stand out were firstly an almost unanimous support for the downloaded video evening in August, which is encouraging; but secondly, and more worrying, is an almost unanimous reluctance of members to consider joining the committee. I will openly admit that not too many years ago I felt the same, but having now been a committee member for about 4 years I have come to realise that there is great satisfaction to be gained from it. Those members who have indicated that they might consider a post on the committee will be contacted in due course. I am sure there are other members who possess skills which would benefit the club if they would consider volunteering.

Hugh Field

Treasurer's midyear report.

The increase in annual membership and monthly fees in recent years appears to have steadied the ship. Our current end of June balance is £3024.59 and this compares well with other years at the same point. (E.g.: 2012 - £2847.72; 2013 - £30013.86; 2014 - £2898.98; 2015 - £1843.29). Of course, the increases in membership and monthly fees are not the only cause of the encouraging news. Members will be aware that our most significant expense is for demonstrations given at the club by professionals - but this year we have so far benefited (financially at least!) from two evening demonstrations by club members where no charge was incurred. These, together with 'hands on' events which also do not bear the cost of a professional demonstration, has made this aspect of the clubs expenses a lot less than might otherwise be the case. A projected end of year balance which is based on likely/historical income and known/forecasted expenditure would seem to indicate an end of year balance a little below the £3,500 mark – but this is only a projection!

Our financial success relies heavily on membership and attendance. If membership drops and attendance at evening demonstrations also falls then the projection may be significantly in error!

Membership report.

Your committee would like to thank you most sincerely for your membership and attendance! There wouldn't be a club without you!

Currently our membership is at 31 fully paid up members. For various reasons this is lower than previous years and this topic continues to be a discussion point at committee meetings – how can we improve membership numbers/attract more people to the club? (*Any suggestions from club members would be very welcome!*) Our attendance at local events and craft fairs has produced only limited success in attracting new members, though of course we are delighted when they have had the desired effect! The



fact that they do occasionally yield the desired result (and also help with club finances) means that we shall, when possible, convenient and can be properly staffed, continue to attend and support them.

Attendance at club meetings varies. Given that our membership is 31 it is a little surprising that attendance at the club evenings averages 20. Of course this means that approximately one third of the membership does not attend every month. Membership and attendance fees, with the addition of the AWGB demonstration grant, are the only reliable income the club can count on. The committee acknowledges that unless your name is Ron Dixon it is rarely possible to attend every club meeting. *WE NEED YOUR ATTENDANCE* so please do your best to come along whenever you can. (Failing that just send us the money☺)

Vance Lupton

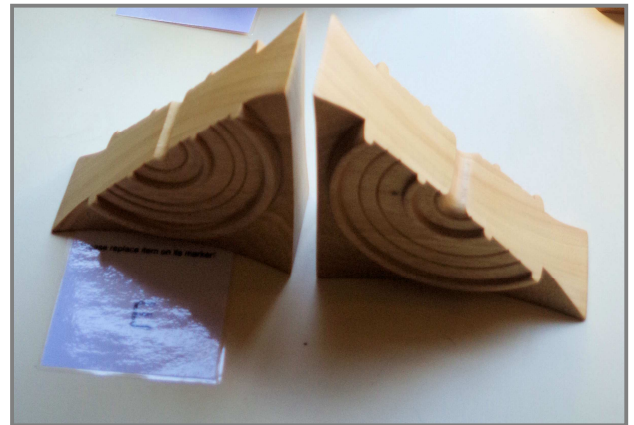
July Competition

The July Challenge was for a pair of turned bookends. There were 5 entries of varying styles!

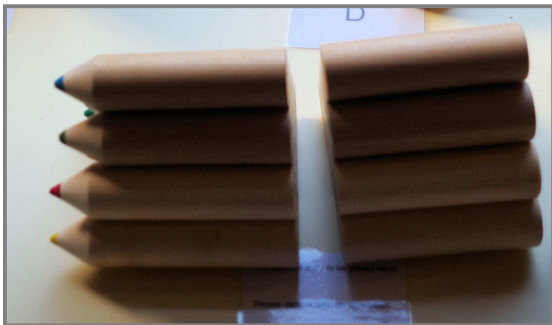
(photographs courtesy of Philip Watts):-



1st place - Hugh Field



2nd place - Dawn Hopley



3rd place John McElroy



Other entries from Jane Russell and Philip Watts



2016 MSWA Monthly Competition Results so far

Surname	Forename	NOVICE							Total points	CHALLENGE					Total points	
		Feb	Apr	Jun	Aug	Oct	Dec	Mar		May	Jul	Sept	Nov	Jan '17		
Field	Hugh								4	2	4					10
Gill	Edward (Ted)								1	3						4
Hopley	Dawn								1		2					3
King	Simon								2							2
Lupton	Vance									4						4
Massey	Graham		4					4								0
McElroy	John									1	3					4
Russell	Jane								3	1	1					5
Watts	Philip								1	1	1					3
Williams	Philip	4						4								0

David Lowe demonstration - Zipped vase



David Lowe has begun turning in 2009 as a pupil with Sue Harker, although he also admits to having been influenced by the work of Joey Richardson. He was accepted onto the Register of Professional

Turners in 2012 and is based today at the Woodcraft Gallery and Workshop at Snainton Woodworking Supplies near Scarborough.

Ted Gill, our Events Secretary had asked David to demonstrate one of his signature pieces, a zipped vase. It transpired during the evening that David had made about 600 of these vases and had difficulty in meeting the demand in sales from the gallery.

The starting point for the project was a block of sycamore 5 ¼ inches square by 10 inches long mounted between centres on the club lathe. Having turned this block down to the round, a tenon to suit the chuck was formed at one end. The importance of making this diameter virtually equal to the closed diameter of the chuck was emphasised as this maximised the holding power. The work piece was then reversed onto the chuck.

Key measurement points were then pencilled in at 1/3 and 2/3 points along the blank, delineating the location of the neck and point of maximum diameter of the vase.



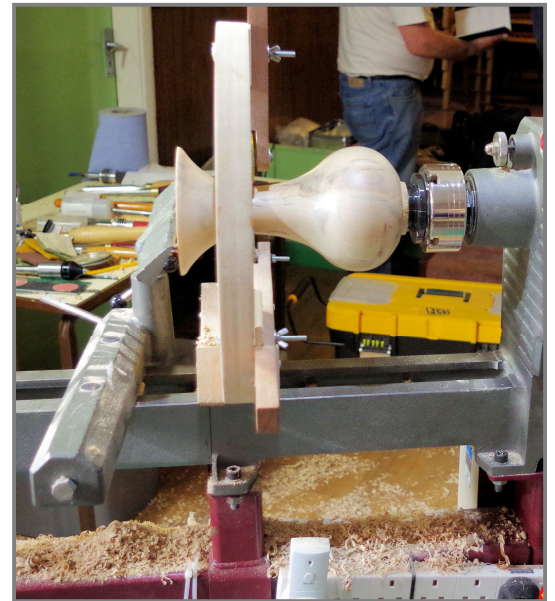


Starting with the neck, David now began to form the external shape of the vase, basically a cove. For this he used a 3/8 inch bowl gouge with a standard grind. The final diameter of the neck was first marked out with a parting tool before the final cuts down to the base of the cover were made. Then the base was trimmed and the curve between the neck and vase base made into a fair curve. Various tips on achieving a good finished curve were given as the work progressed. Final finish was based on the use of sanding discs in a Makita right angle drill and a Mylands cutting compound of an abrasive wax giving a satin finish. This form of finish could be buffed up to a higher level of gloss if this was desired.

David now introduced the use of a steady made by him in mdf and equipped with wheels from in-line skates. This would allow him to take heavier cuts during the hollowing process which commenced with the centre of the blank being drilled out with a Forstner bit. This operation was carried out in stages, limiting the tailstock extension to a minimum to ensure an accurate bore. The neck of the vase was opened up at this time with the aim of maintaining a wall thickness of 3-4mm, or just over an 1/8 inch to maintain consistency of units. Drilling to the final depth required the use of a Forstner bit on an extension shaft.



Hollowing could now commence with a Simon Hope tool, stopping frequently to clear the resultant shavings from the inside of the vase with the aid of a vacuum cleaner and extension tube. The inside of the neck could be sanded with flapper wheels on an electric drill and polished up to match the exterior.



The incorporation of a zip into the vase commenced by preparing the zip itself, cutting the material away back to the metal teeth and sealing the frayed edges with a small blowtorch. We were assured that the whole zip would not disintegrate through this process. The zip was then measured with an opening of about 3 inches. This measurement was then transferred to the vase, after selecting a suitable point taking into account any grain feature that can accentuate the design, by laying the zip onto the vase. The line of the lower part of the zip was then extended up to the rim of the vase. An opening two inches to either side of the centreline of the zip was then sketched in



with a pencil with a smooth curve delineating the slot which was cut with a Proxxon mini jigsaw. Tape protected the finished surface on either side. The slot was extended down with a Proxxon mini circular saw and cleaned out with rotary burs.

The profile of the zip and its fastener necessitated the slot being widened at the point where the zip opened out and this was again done with rotary burs. All the cut edges were then sanded with mini sanding discs.

The zip was then glued in position using super glue, parts of the zip being tackled in sequence to allow it to be held in position without gluing fingers in place at the same time. A second run of superglue along the back of the zip made for a "belt and braces" approach and a touch of glue secured the zipper itself in position.



An unusual project but obviously an eye catching one that has secured many sales for David.



As a bonus after his main demonstration, David quickly turned a sycamore blank to make a simple tea light holder which he then sealed and sprayed with ebonising black prior to “centrifugal painting” with Jo Sonja iridescent paints. He left the piece for Vance to finish off.



Philip Watts

Some of David Lowe’s display items



Obvious Joey Richardson influence!



An interesting effect using “marbling” inks.

Wood for sale at August meeting!

Vance is hoping to bring along some Cherry logs (and possibly some Yew also) to our August meeting. Most are between 5" to 8" diameter by 10" to 26" in length, though there are a few smaller diameter branches of the same lengths.



UK & Ireland Woodturning Symposium 2016



This was a new, 2 day event in the calendar, organised by Martin Saban-Smith, Steve Twydell and Mike Waldt (see left). All three are active on YouTube and are to be commended in organising this event (it took 9 months!). They were supported by professional demonstrators Gregory Moreton (whose masterclass I attended), Philip Greenwood, John Boyne-Aitken, Matt Jones. Joe Creed-Kaile, an up and coming young turner, gave his first public demonstration at this event on Saturday 18th June. Unfortunately I missed this as it coincided with the masterclass I had booked.

Help was provided by volunteers from local clubs and sponsorship had been obtained from many companies.

The event was held at the Hilton Hotel near Coventry and many visitors had travelled from all over the UK, Ireland and abroad. Many, like me, had decided to attend both days. It was a nice balance of trade stands and demonstrations, the latter taking the form of an almost continuous series of “public” demos, but also with “masterclasses” for which an additional fee was charged. I found the event to have a very relaxed atmosphere and I am sure that the organisers and sponsors will consider it to have been a great success; indeed they were already talking about a similar event next year, possibly at a bigger venue.



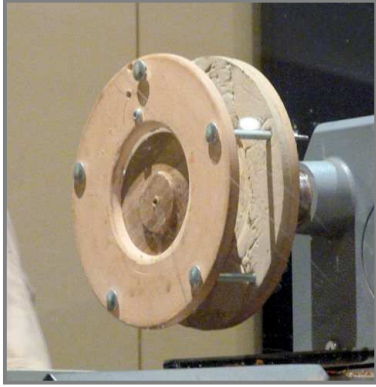
Italian turner Yuval Lahav was a last minute demonstrator (photo, right). His turned items are often “Emerging forms” where the piece appears to emerge from an unturned portion of log, this is a link to the turning of a typical piece: [Yuval Lahav video](#) Unfortunately his demonstration was hampered by not having been able to bring his own tools.



I can only attempt to give you a “flavour” of the event, there was too much happening to give a full account, and photography was compromised by the sheer number of attendees and difficulty in getting close to the action. There was plenty of wood for sale, photos left show Olivers Woodturning and Martin Pidgen’s stands. Prices were very competitive. Dalmann UK (importers of hardwoods from Mozambique) also had a stand.

In the masterclass that I attended, Gregory Moreton showed us how he makes his “oyster” bowls (featured on the cover of “Revolutions” a while ago (see right). Below is a close up of the jig, made of MDF, that he uses for the offset hollowing of the bowl.





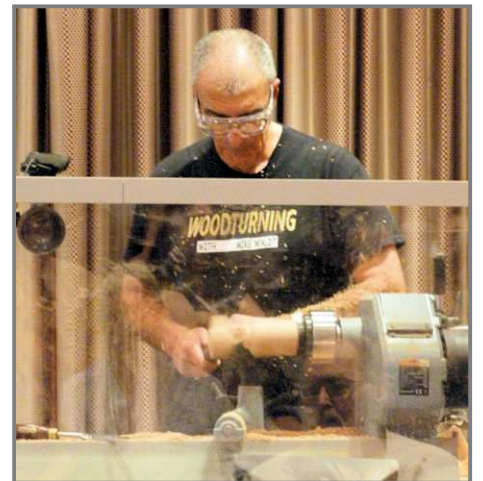
There was a display table of demonstrators work and the AWGB had part of their travelling gallery there (pictures above right).

In the public demonstrations Matt Jones turned a baby rattle (pictures left and right). This was made form two pieces, hollowed out to about 1.5mm thick and used dried peas for the "rattle".



Gregory Moreton (left) showed us how he makes his natural edge "diabolo" forms (see his display table above).

Mike Waldt demonstrated how to turn an offset goblet form (picture right). Unfortunately the cup "disappeared" at an early stage with no opportunity for "take 2" that he would have had on YouTube, but he soldiered on regardless!



A "sneaky peak" into the masterclass theatre showed Martin colouring a hollow form and finishing with his own product, Hampshire Sheen, a blend of danish oil for adding a warm glow to the wood, carnauba wax for a tough finish and microcrystalline wax for additional protection. It works well. He is also experimenting



with a “stick” made from a blend of carnauba and microcrystalline wax. There was a competition which had been run on the UKIWS website prior to the actual event but this had only attracted a handful of entries and I feel was influenced rather more by the quality of the photography than the standard of the work itself.



This was the winning entry (left). I would have chosen the well turned and beautifully decorated hollow form (right)! For photos of all of the entries see:

www.ukiws.co.uk/category/competition/



I'm not sure who turned this bowl from crayons and with a resin rim (left). An interesting idea!

Other trade stands were for “Yorkshire grit”, an abrasive paste developed for woodturners and Howard Products (right) who produce a huge range of oil and wax type products. Taylors Mirfield had a good range of pen



blanks and kits, and other items such as “steb” type centres (theirs are called Crown centres) at very reasonable prices.

Charnwood, Trend and Axminster Machinery also had stands, amongst others.

Finally there was a raffle with some very useful prizes, the top one being a Trend powered respirator (won by Alan Smith, Chairman of Derwent woodturners). Other prizes included Axminster vouchers, tools, segmented bowl kits from Leon Britten, Yorkshire Grit, Hampshire Sheen, selections of hardwood from Dallmann UK (I won one of those!), and many others.

For those of you who missed this event the website www.ukiws.co.uk/ is worth looking at.

I've put a list of useful suppliers at the end of the Newsletter for your future reference.

All in all a great weekend and roll on next year. I just wonder how long it took to get the wood chips and sawdust out of the expensive looking carpet and curtains.....

Hugh Field



Hints and tips

This section is for any tips or advice you would like to pass on to other members. If you have discovered something you found useful, that you think may benefit others, please pass it on.

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Custom Toolrests – David Fields

David is an ex member of MSWA and his 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@pnbellamy.co.uk

[David and Paul are members of Derwent Woodturning Club, as am I, so I could act as "go between" on these if required - Hugh Field]



Abrasives and other items

Mirka Abranet 70 x 125mm Sheets:

5 x Mixed Grit Pack (120, 180, 240, 400 and 500) = £2.00 per pack

Mirka Abranet 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £1.50 per pack

Rhinogrip 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £0.90 per pack

Flexipad Sanding Pads (for above discs):

50mm Velcro Conical Spindle Pad with 6mm shaft = £8.82 each

J-Flex Sanding Paper:

5 x 1m lengths mixed grits 120, 180, 240, 320 & 400 = £9.50 per pack

Screwdrivers:

Various sizes donated to club = £1 each

BondFix Superglue:

50g Bottle of Medium Viscosity = £3 per bottle

Donated Items:

Various Books and Magazines = 50p to £2 each



DVDs

I haven't published the list of DVDs this month, please refer to a previous issue.

If any members have DVDs which are not on the list, but which they would like to donate to the Club, they would be most welcome.



Club information

Your club committee for 2016 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – John McElroy secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Events Secretary – Ted Gill events@mswa.co.uk

Newsletter editor – Hugh Field editor@mswa.co.uk

Tel: 0121 329 2911

Webmanager – Philip Watts webman@mswa.co.uk

**Health and Safety Advisor -
Hugh Field**

health.safety@mswa.co.uk

and **Dawn Hopley**

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.



Hampshire Sheen (Finishing paste)
Hampshire Sheen Ltd
Garthowen
Alton Lane
Four Marks
Hampshire GU34 5AJ

☎ 07713 349883

www.hampshiresheen.com/

Yorkshire Grit (Abrasive paste)
online orders only

www.yorkshire-grit.com/

Howard Products (various oil and wax type finishes).
22 Barnwell Workshops,
Barnwell Estates, Nr. Oundle,
Peterborough PE8 5PL.

☎ 01832 274330
Freephone: 0800 0467481
E-mail: info@justpuddingbasins.co.uk

www.justpuddingbasins.co.uk/

Martin Pidgen (Wood supplier)

24 Harneis Crescent
Laceby
Nr Grimsby
N E Lincs
DN37 7BA

☎ 01472 873342
Mobile: 07850 782707 & 07947 700814
E-mail: mpidgen@aol.com

Olivers Woodturning
Unit 5 Bearstead Green Business Centre
Bearstead
Maidstone
Kent ME14 4DF

☎ 01622 370280
E-mail: sales@oliverswoodturning.co.uk

www.oliverswoodturning.co.uk/

Dalmann UK (hardwoods from Mozambique)
2 The Pentlands
Kintbury
RG17 9XB

dalmannuk@gmail.com

Taylors Mirfield (pen kits and other items)

E-mail: shop@taylorsmirfield.co.uk

www.taylorsmirfield.co.uk/