



Forthcoming events

Club Meetings

April 1st

Steve Heeley

Something from his back catalogue

May 6th

Hands-on/open evening

Club Competitions

April

Novices :
Paper Knife

May

Challenge:
Long stem goblet
Min. 12" high

Other Events

Ten Turners Turning

Axminster Tools & Machinery,
Nuneaton

11th and 12th March

The Midlands Woodworking and Power Tool Show,

Newark Showground,
Nottingham

18th and 19th March

Chairman's Notes

The club had a stand at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust during its Spring Fair on 5th and 6th March. The usual stalwarts manned the stand over the two days and my thanks go to all of them.



This event is perhaps a little early in the year and is not as well attended as the Christmas Fair.

We attend these shows to publicise the club, hopefully to increase our membership, and to make a modest contribution to club funds.

Which brings me on to my topic for this month's notes. We need to do two things to build a club with a long term successful future. These were highlighted at the Annual General Meeting and I make no excuse about returning to the same subject.

We need to increase club membership. Publicity is one route and I will be trying to get some of that in the local papers for Rugeley and nearby areas. The other is a more direct route through the distribution of leaflets and posters. We will be looking for help in this from you, the club members. The objective is quite simple. If every member can recruit a new member, we will double the size of the club.

We also need to keep attendances high. The turnout for the March meeting was a little disappointing, principally as the demonstrator was our Dawn. She gave a lively demonstration that is reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

It was encouraging to see a wide spread of entries in the Challenge Competition. The latest edition of Revolutions, the AWGB magazine, includes the entry details for "Wizardry in Wood". Perhaps, there should be some entries from amongst our membership?

Philip Watts



Editors scribblings

A bumper 10 page issue this time as I had lots to include!

Unless I am inundated with copy I intend to include everything I have available each month. This means some Newsletters will be long, and some may be short.

There are a few changes to the “standard” content this month, so those of you who normally ignore the back pages because they are always the same should take a fresh look! Dawn has expanded the range of abrasives, etc., and also updated the list of DVDs which can be borrowed from the club for a modest charge. This is not a rental facility (that would infringe all sorts of copyright regulations); consider it as a donation to club funds! You will notice that 2 DVDs are missing. They were borrowed by someone called Pete Harland who I understand was a once only visitor a few years back. He has not been seen since so if anyone knows him, it might help us to get them returned. For this reason DVDs may now only be borrowed by “paid up” club members.

I mentioned in the February Newsletter that I had been commissioned to turn a large (for me, anyway!) bowl. This then became a requirement for two bowls (for two daughters). I obtained a piece of beech for the second bowl which turned out to be rather “wormy”, but with possibilities. I had a planned shape in mind which would reduce the impact of the worm holes. What really came as a surprise was finding a piece of metal well inside the wood to extent that it only shows on the inside of the 10mm thickness wood. I was aware of a fault in the timber while I was roughing it out, but I didn't expect the bit of shiny metal! I presume it's a bit of shrapnel that the tree had grown around. If I had chosen a slightly different shape the metal would have disappeared in the wood shavings!



March is quite a busy month for woodturning events. First we've had the Craft Fair at Wolseley Bridge, next there is the Ten Turners Turning event at Axminster Machinery, Nuneaton. This will be covered in a future Newsletter. The following weekend will be the annual Woodworking and Power Tool Show at the Newark Showground. This will be it's third year and is proving a very successful event, on a par, many say, with the Harrogate show and worth a visit. If anyone would like to volunteer to do a short write up on this event it would be appreciated.

There were a few items on the display table this month, but it would be nice to see more! This is your opportunity to bring in items you have made, not only turned things, but also tools and equipment. Examples of things that didn't go quite according to plan are also of interest! Why not let others learn from your mistakes? A few notes about the exhibit would be useful.

Finally, I will be trying to get the Newsletter by the Friday following the monthly meeting, so if you have anything you would like included, please try to get it to me by the Wednesday after a meeting.

Hugh Field

Presentation of Trophies

For various reasons it was not possible to present the Gordon Fradley Novice Trophy and the Challenge Trophy at the AGM, so this was done at the start of this months meeting.

These pictures show Simon King, who won the Novice Trophy in his first season of woodturning, and Vance Lupton who won the Challenge Trophy receiving their awards from our Chairman, Philip Watts.



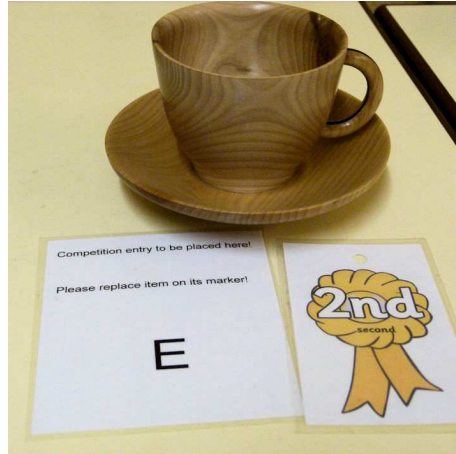


March Competition

This months competition was for a cup and saucer in the Challenge category. There were six entries:



Hugh Field



Jane Russell



Simon King



Philip Watts



Dawn Hopley



Ted Gill

Display table



Dawn's "upcycling experiment" using part of a scaffold board and newspaper. An interesting idea!



Vance's hollow vessels in sycamore and ash.



A close up of the decoration on the sycamore one.



Demonstration by Dawn Hopley

Not a lot of Bottle!

Turning a branch into a small perfume bottle.

Dawn very kindly submitted her own instructions for this demonstration which has made the Editors life easy! I will just add a photo of Dawn "in action" and some notes based on her commentary and suggestions from the audience.

Suitable bottles can be sourced from <http://ampulla.co.uk/>

As expected following Dawn's previous appearance in August 2014, where she showed us how to make a flute and a whistle, this demonstration was very well presented. I'm sure we all look forward to future demonstrations by this talented young lady!



1. Mount a 6 - 7" (150 - 175mm) long branch or blank between centres and roughly turn it into the round.

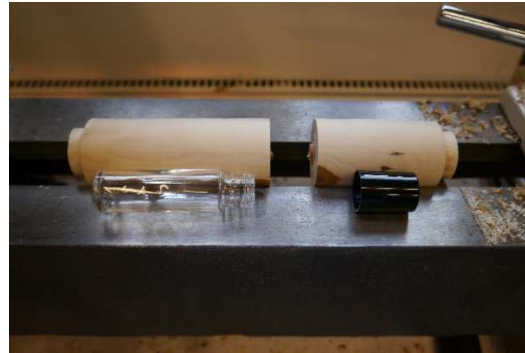


2. Turn a mounting spigot at both ends to suit your chuck or preferred mounting method.





3. Part the branch into 2 sections (base and lid) approximately 1 x 4" (100mm) and 1 x 3" (75mm) long.



Mount the longest section in your chuck (base section) and drill out a hole to house the bottle. Make sure you don't go too deep! Leave the shoulder of the bottle sitting proud and don't make it too tight as movement of the wood may cause problems later! [Dawn used a standard 19mm drill bit for this, held in her keyless chuck, available for around £22 from

<http://www.chronos.ltd.uk/>, or alternatively

<http://www.rdgtools.co.uk/>], which was slightly too

small for the bottle she was using so the hole had to be opened up after drilling using a box scraper and then sanded using abrasive wrapped round a dowel. Dawn has a selection of grades already attached to dowels, wrapped so the rotation of the workpiece doesn't unwrap it. It was suggested that a lip & spur bit would be preferable; I would probably use a forstner or saw tooth bit as I have many sizes of those!- Ed]



4. Shape and finish the neck and body of the base to your own design and preferences. Time to play with designs and practice your spindle turning! [but beware the hole down the middle! - Ed]

5. Part off and finish the base by hand, or using a simple jam chuck, reverse the bottle and finish the foot/base on the lathe.

6. When happy, glue the glass vial into the wooden jacket.

7. Now to make the lid! Mount the short section into your chuck and drill out a hole to suit the plastic cap diameter. Take care to get the correct depth using the finished base to check for a good fit. [Note that the cap may be slightly tapered, being injection moulded plastic. - Ed]



8. Shape and finish the neck and body. Another chance to play with various designs and shapes!

9. Part off and finish by hand or reverse the lid on a jam chuck to finish the top and add a finial or other decoration.

10. Glue the plastic cap into the lid and finish off. [Dawn suggested screwing the cap onto the bottle and then unscrewing it by ¼ turn before gluing the cap to the lid, this ensures that it closes tightly. Consider the grain matching at this point. - Ed]



A selection of finished designs.

Some notes on gluing.

The type of glue used for securing the bottle may need a bit of experimentation. Dawn has found that epoxy resin is the most successful (applied just to the bottom of the bottle, but has also used silicone sealer/adhesive which allows for the wood to move; or hot glue (soft/flexible stick). For fixing the cap into the top there is less of a problem, so CA adhesive ("superglue") may be suitable. [Ed.]



Dawn had also brought along a larger item (the contents smelled suspiciously like whisky, amazingly it was not empty after being passed round the audience!) and a rather larger one (right) which someone had discarded as rubbish.

Thank you, Dawn, for an interesting demonstration.

These would make ideal items to sell at our Craft Fair attendances.



Our camera operator for the evening was Simon King. We need a volunteer for the April meeting, either to operate the cameras or to write up the demonstration.

Hugh Field



A Welsh Windfall

People often ask “Where do you get your wood?”



Sometimes it is just a matter of being in the right place at the right time. Take the last month. Whilst your Editor was busy scouring the country and cyberspace for a blank for a project, my wife and I went over to Anglesey for a short holiday. We stay near Beaumaris, in a group of apartments and cottages surrounded by an eighteen hole golf course (we do not play golf, but the views over the gold course are superb) and by mature woodlands.

These are an excellent place to take the dogs that inevitably accompany us on these occasions. Thus, on the first afternoon of our arrival, my wife disappeared for such an outing to return with a report of a felled tree up in the woods. A joint inspection next morning

revealed a beech tree approximately two feet in diameter that had been partially cut into pieces, more to facilitate removal than for any particular purpose. The size of the slices appear to have been determined by the size of the chainsaw available to the woodsmen. There was evidence of some spalting, certain of the pieces were too far gone for turning but many of them were sound with a nice variation in colour.

Mindful of Hugh's need for a blank, I did consult with the authorities as to whether we could get a suitably sized piece cut for him. We decided against this for practical reasons. Instead, we selected two pieces that we considered could be fitted into our medium sized car. We had not gone prepared. We had not fitted our roof box so space was limited. The boot was the province of the dog, although shared with a chilly bin. Our other luggage occupied the back seat.

My quick assessment of the size of our selection proved to be accurate as they fitted neatly into the footwells in front of each of the rear seats. Each was a quadrant about two feet across and one foot deep by about eight inches in thickness. They each weighed about 50 lbs.

The chainsaw came out on our return home and reference made to appropriate books on the correct cuts to be made. The result! A selection of nine bowl blanks ranging in thickness from two to four inches and sufficient for an eight inch turning. Unseasoned, the ends have been coated with PVA glue but my intention, when time permits, is to rough turn and put them by to dry out in preparation for final turning in about six months time.



So where do you get your wood from?

Philip Watts



Club information

Your club committee for 2016 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

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

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Newsletter editor – Hugh Field

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Webmanager – Hugh Field

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Health and Safety Advisor - Hugh Field

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Dawn Hopley

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.

Merchandise



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

Note about Gorilla Superglue.

Dawn noticed that her stock of this had all solidified and it will have to be discarded. On querying this with the supplier she was advised that this is likely to happen if the product is not stored in a cool dark place. If any members who purchased this product from Dawn have had this problem then she will exchange it, free of charge, for a bottle of BondFix (see above). The best place to store superglue is in the refrigerator (but out of reach of children).



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.

Items for sale or wanted

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

Items will be advertised for 3 issues unless otherwise requested.

Items can also be brought to club evenings when donated to raise money for club funds. Please advise the Treasurer if you wish to do this.

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, Editor]



DVDs

The club has a selection of Woodturning DVD's that are for hire by registered club members use only. You can borrow them for just £2 per month (some are free)!

Current List of DVD's available:

Club Ref.	Description		Cost per month
MSD1	AWGB Instant Gallery 1991 to 2003		Free
MSD2	Sharpening Woodturning & Carving Tools	The Guild of Master Craftsmen	£2
MSD3	Turning Projects with Richard Raffan	Selecting wood and various projects	£2
MSD4	Turning Wood with Alan Holthm	Project No.3 A Table Lamp	£2
MSD5	Colouring Wood with Jan Sanders	The secrets behind various wood finishes inc. liming and gilding	£2
MSD6	The Trent Bosch 3 disc collection	Vessels of Illusion, Decorative Bowls & Sculpting Wood	£2
MSD7	Bowls for Beginners with Ray Jones		£2
MSD8	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Pete Harland	
MSD9	Making & Decorating Platters	Mick Hanbury DVD	£2
MSD10	Making & Decorating Boxes	Mick Hanbury DVD	£2
MSD11	Jimmy Clews "Turn it On" vol. 1	A footless bowl, and oriental style box and tool sharpening	£2
MSD12	Jimmy Clews "Turn it On" vol. 2	A Ziracote Bowl with Brass Inlay, A long stem Goblet and preparing a fallen tree for turning	£2
MSD13	Jimmy Clews "Turn it On" vol. 3	A Lidded Box, Footless Bowl with Silver Highlights with ~The use of CAD to design projects	£2
MSD14	All Glued Up with Sue Harker	A study in Open Segmented turning	£2
MSD15	Turned Out Nice Again with Sue Harker	A study in Involute Turning	£2
MSD16	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Pete Harland	£2
MSD17	Woodcut Turning Tools promotional DVD	The Woodcut Bowlsaver and Pro-Forme hollowing tool	Free
MSD18	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Pete Harland	
MSD19	Inlaid & Novelty Boxes with Chris Stott	Box making and decorating techniques	£2
MSD20	An Introduction to Fine Woodturning with Simon Hope	"Hope For Us All" vol.1 with Simon Hope	£2
MSD21	A Burr Hollow Form with Pewter Finial	"Hope For Us All" vol.2 with Simon Hope	£2
MSD22	Wet Turning with a Difference with Stuart Mortimer	Wet wood turning with a difference!	£2
MSD23	The AWGB Seminar 2011	Images and Gallery from the 2011 convention	Free
MSD24	Turning Green Wood with Mick O'Donnell	Thin wall turning of green of fresh timber. DVD also includes Tool Sharpening techniques	£2
MSD25	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Anne Hopkinson	£2
MSD26	Turning a Half Sized Hat with Andrew Hall	Live demonstration of hat turning	£2
MSD27	Turning a Small Corinthian Helmy and Stand with Andrew Hall	Another live demonstration by "The Hat Man".	£2

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