



## Forthcoming events

### Club Meetings

**2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
**Mark Hancock,**  
with something interesting!

**January 2017**(date TBA)  
**A G M**, including presentation  
of competition Trophies

### Club Competitions

**December**  
**Novice**  
Bowl

**January**  
**Challenge**  
6 Coasters and stand

**Premier**  
Necklace or bracelet

### Other Events

18th-20th November

**The North of England**  
**Woodworking & Power**  
**Tool Show**  
Great Yorkshire Showground  
Harrogate HG2 8QZ

19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November  
**Staffordshire Wildlife Craft**  
**Fair**  
The Wolseley Centre,  
Stafford ST17 0WT

## Chairman's Notes

I am not only the Chairman but also act as the Webmaster for the MSWA website. An Internet presence is necessary these days but I try not to worry too much about how many or few people access it these days.

It is therefore nice when an e-mail pops up from a school teacher in the States saying that his pupils have been looking at our site and finding it useful in their project on woodturning. I thank them for that vote of confidence and hope that they continue with their interest.

The power of the Internet came home when I had the need to check the electrical requirements for table lamps. Without thinking too much, I fired up the computer and asked it the question only to be directed to the MSWA website and Hugh Field's report of Richard Findlay's demonstration earlier this year. So now you know where to go with your woodturning questions.

The West Midlands Newsletter for this month reports a death, that of "Somebody Else", as in "Somebody else will do it". At the risk of repeating myself, I will pick up on that theme and remind you that the January meeting is our A.G.M. There are a number of people on the present committee, including myself, who are intending to retire from their roles so it is time for "Somebody Else" to undergo a miraculous reincarnation and step forward.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> November we will be at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Christmas Fair. We already have a number of volunteers but would welcome any who can drop in and support the club at an event that is our opportunity to publicise the club and make a bit of money for club funds at the same time. See you there.

Finally, I would like to record that we send our best wishes to Ted Gill, our Events Secretary, who fell whilst out walking on the Chase and fractured both bones in his ankle. We trust that he will soon be on the mend and gracing us with his presence at our meetings.

## **Philip Watts**

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## Editors Scribblings

Should woodturning blanks carry a health warning??!

Those who read the Newsletter will know that I won a bag of Dalmann hardwoods from Mozambique at the Coventry Symposium earlier in the year. Looking for a piece of wood for a project the other day I thought I would try a piece from the bag, so selecting a nice looking piece of "Tamboti", an unfamiliar wood to me, I decided I should just look it up in my copy of the book "Wood, identification and use", written by Terry Porter. Well, this is what it says about "Possible health risks":-

*"The sawdust can be harmful to the eyes and may cause blindness. Meat cooked over a fire made from tamboti causes severe diarrhoea with risk to life."*

I decided not to use it for the moment! Considering the pointless warnings given with many everyday items I am surprised that the suppliers of wood don't warn us of such danger. A bit of sneezing is one thing, but possible blindness is another matter. Fortunately I don't often have a barbecue in my workshop so the second part of the warning is not too much of a problem; however, be warned!

Attendance at the November meeting was 19 plus one visitor. Quite low from a membership of 34. The committee is wondering what needs to be done to encourage more members to attend each month.

Unfortunately we suffered a problem with one of the CCTV system cameras in that its zoom feature would not work. More unfortunate is that technology has moved on in the last couple of years and the model of camera we have is no longer manufactured. We hope to have it repaired, or replaced, ready for the December meeting.

**Hugh Field**

## Members, it's time to renew your annual AWGB and MSWA Club Membership!

The committee have decided to make no change to the coming years subscriptions and so subscriptions are as detailed below:

- Individual AWGB and MSWA combined membership remains at £33
- Family AWGB and MSWA combined membership remains at £53
- MSWA membership only remains at £15. (This is available only to those who are members of the AWGB either as an individual or as a member of another affiliated club.)
- Juniors - if under 19 on 1st January - are free.

**Please note that your renewal fees are now due and should be paid to the treasurer at your next visit which will hopefully be the December club meeting. No new 'forms' are required to be completed unless you have changed your contact details since you last renewed. Cheques (made payable to 'Mid. Staffs Woodturners Association') or cash please.**

The monthly meeting subscriptions are also unchanged remaining at £5 (for most meetings) which includes entry to the £10 raffle. For those who choose to have a printed copy of the Newsletter there is an additional charge of £4 per year to cover printing costs, payable directly to the Newsletter Editor.

*Your committee reserves the right to review and adjust the membership and meeting fees should circumstances dictate.*

**Vance Lupton - Treasurer**



**October Competition (Challenge)**

This was for an item assembled from at least three turned components. It attracted four entries which were placed as follows:



Vance Lupton's specimen vase



Hugh Field's suspended bowl



Philip Watts' "Beagle 3 has landed"



Jane Russell's timer

**2017 Competition**

The committee is in the process of establishing the list of projects for the 2017 competitions, Novice, Challenge, and Premier. We are particularly keen to encourage more members, particularly the novices, to enter items in these competitions. Currently, less than a third of the membership take part. So, if there are things you would like to see on the list then please contact a member of the committee. Remember that, from a competition rules point of view, you are still a "novice" if you have not won the Novice Trophy (or come first 4 times in any Novice series) regardless of your turning experience. The Challenge and Premier competitions are open to all paid up members.



**Vance Lupton's "Conversion Challenge".**

"Thank you" to all members who have contributed a varied selection of items to sell at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Christmas Fair to be held at Wolseley Bridge on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November. Please come along and support us if you can.

**November display table.**

Vance had these items on display:



Bowl with texturing, colouring and gilt cream decoration, inspired by YouTube video by Martin Saban-Smith.



Offset turned candlestick, inspired by Simon Hope demonstration.



"Autumn Fall", hollow vessel, carved, coloured and pyrographed.

It would be nice to see more items on the display table. They can include "work in progress", disasters, special tools or jigs you have made. Or even turned items that you are pleased with!

**November demonstration - David Winter showed us how to turn a "Star Bowl"**





This month we welcomed back David Winter from Derwent Woodturners who showed us how he makes his "Star" bowls. David also brought along part of his vast stock of timber including pre-shaped blanks, in a range of sizes and different timbers, for those members who might choose not to carry out the preliminary shaping of the blank. The range of sizes in which he produces these bowls ranges from about 5" (approx. 125mm) to 9" (approx 175mm) in diameter, with thickness from about 1¾" (approx. 45mm) to 3" (approx. 75mm). He has found that having an odd number of scallops looks best and usually this ranges from 7 up to 15 depending on the size of the bowl.



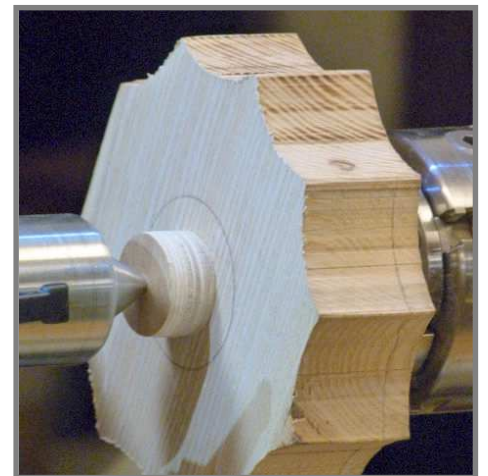
After his customary recommendations regarding Health and Safety David commenced his demonstration by explaining how he marks out the blank. For a "one off" the marking out can be done by means of a pair of compasses or dividers and a protractor (or by trial and error by "walking" a pair of dividers round the circumference until the correct division is achieved). David makes a lot of these bowls so produces templates in cardboard, plywood or Formica in various sizes which can be just laid on the blank so that the "points" can be marked with a pencil. Small saw slots in the plywood or Formica ones assist when marking. These "points" are then joined to the centre using a straightedge. The next stage is to decide on a radius for the scallops

and David has a selection of disks cut from aluminium so he can experiment to find a suitable size (some of these have holes around the edge for marking out and drilling things such as ring stands).

He then draws round the disk to mark out all the scallops prior to band-sawing the shape. If the blank is too thick for the capacity of his band-saw he initially turns away part of the blank (see picture, left) to produce a thin flange to make band-sawing easier (making sure he supports the flange adequately during the process).



With the ash blank marked out and an appropriate centre hole drilled, David used a screw chuck (with a spacer to reduce the effective protrusion of the screw) to mount the piece. The diameter for a recess to suit the chuck was marked in pencil prior to applying tailstock support via a birch ply pad. The thickness for the flange was marked as shown in the photograph (right).



The top shape of the flange can be varied, and can be flat, concave or convex, so allow for this at this stage.



Using arcing cuts from the centre outwards, a bowl gouge was used to form the outside shape of the bowl. It is important to make the base sufficiently large that it has adequate strength when the bowl is reversed, and mounted using the chuck in expansion mode, for turning the top and inside.

Using a parting tool, the recess, 3 - 4mm deep, was formed next.

David uses a specially ground scraper to form a dovetail shape and to "flatten" the recess, and has turned a plug gauge to match his chuck jaws to speed up the sizing of this type of recess. The intention was that the bowl would have a separate base so no further work was carried out on the recess. If this were not the case then appropriate finishing and decoration would have been carried out at this stage.

After a final finishing cut, using a small bowl gouge, sanding was next, working through the grits 180 - 240 - 320 (ash does not always benefit from finer sanding, other woods might). Care has to be taken when working near the "points" when sanding, they can bite!

Several coats of friction polish were next applied, working well in to fill the grain. This was then burnished with the lathe running and the carnauba wax applied and the part finally burnished to build up a high sheen.

After the tea/coffee break, David reversed the piece on the chuck for turning the top and inside.

The diameter of the inside of the bowl was marked out, allowing for an appropriate wall thickness and hollowing commenced using a small bowl gouge. The depth of the bowl was regularly checked using two straightedges and the wall thickness was checked using "finger" callipers!





David chose to leave the top of the flange flat, but this would be the time to add any shaping. With the intention of fitting a lid to this bowl later, David added a recess, using a parting tool, and a decorative groove (with a “vee” shaped scraper, although a 3-point tool would also be suitable). Sanding came next, grits 180 - 240 - 320, taking care not to round over the edges. If the top has been turned convex then sanding will be easier using abrasive fixed to a piece of plywood, as indicated below (centre).



The same finishing technique was used for the inside and top, several coats of friction polish followed by carnauba wax and burnishing.

The scallops were sanded using a sanding drum which David had made by wrapping abrasive round a drum which was mounted in the lathe. The piece is moved from side to side and care taken to avoid scorching the wood. He has a range of different sizes of drum, some with just one grit, others with three different grits. He was selling built-up blanks for making these, which can be turned to a diameter to suit. A strip of plywood, with a tapered section is used to lock the abrasive in place.





Finally, the edges were hand sanded using 320 grit to break the sharp edges. Friction polish was used to finish the edges.

A smaller piece of ash was next mounted on the screw chuck for making a lid. This was trued up on the diameter using a bowl gouge to slightly oversize compared to the recess in the bowl.

The approximate thickness required to suit the recess was marked and shaping of the top carried out using a bowl gouge. A decorative ring was added and a line burnt in using a shaped piece of Formica. Followed by sanding, as before.

No finishing was to be carried out due to lack of time so the lid was reversed on the screw chuck but using a birch ply spacer which had a recess to engage with the spacer which had been fitted. This would ensure that the relatively thin lid would be supported when shaping the underside of the piece.



thin lid would be supported when shaping the underside of the piece.



The diameter was then turned down to suit the recess in the bowl, allowing for sanding of the edge later.



Next the underside of the lid was hollowed to produce a rim thickness to suit the recess in the bowl. When doing this the turner is working "blind" as far as wall thickness is concerned, but if necessary the lid can be removed from the screw chuck to check.







The protrusion of the screw prevented final finishing towards the centre so for the finish cuts the ring spacer was removed and replaced with a solid disk.

After finish turning, the piece was sanded as before.



Unfortunately the clock caught up with us and there was not time left for David to turn the finial or contrasting base.

The audience appeared to enjoy seeing something which was a bit different and I am certainly now inspired to do something with the blank that I purchased from David some years ago and which has been languishing on my wood shelf for too long!

**Hugh Field**

## **Toolpost Open Weekend - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

I met a few people I know at this event which I attended on the Saturday. The Toolpost hold two of these events each year and I try to attend both. Peter Hemsley, the proprietor always puts on a good show, with top class demonstrators, and this time was no exception. We had Irish turners Seamus Cassidy and Robert O'Connor, amateur (his description!) turner Chris West, who seems to specialise in salt and pepper grinders and demonstrates all over the country, and Martin Adomat from Germany. They were using a selection of lathes from Wivamac, ONEWAY, Killinger and Steinert.

There were also demonstrations of woodcarving, pyrography, finishing, and tool sharpening using the Robert Sorby ProEdge and Tormek systems.

Although it is quite a distance to travel, it makes a good day out. It's all free including refreshments (donation to charity requested) and is a good excuse to peruse the Toolpost's fine selection of tools, finishes, timber; and indeed anything for us woodturners. <http://www.toolpost.co.uk/>



There was a lot going on during the day, with all demonstrators working continuously, apart from refreshment breaks!



Chris West (left)

<http://www.westwoodturnery.co.uk/>

Robert O'Connor (right)

<http://www.thewoodturningstudio.ie/>



Seamus Cassidy (left)

<http://seamuscassidy.ie/>

Martin Adomat (below)

<http://www.drechlerei-adomat.de/>

This "bowl in a bowl" (below), turned by Martin, intrigued me. I missed actually seeing how he turned it, but I think I've worked it out!

It looks like two bowls but is in fact one piece, cunningly turned.





## 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](mailto: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;**

Tel. 0121 308 7838

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

**Secretary – John McElroy**

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

**Treasurer – Vance Lupton:**

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**Events Secretary – Ted Gill**

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Tel: 0121 329 2911

**Webmanager – Philip Watts**

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**Health and Safety Advisor -**

**Hugh Field**

[health.safety@mswa.co.uk](mailto:health.safety@mswa.co.uk)

and Dawn Hopley

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.



## DVDs

The club has a selection of Woodturning DVD's for use 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 Helemy 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