



*Mid-Staffs Woodturners  
Association*

*Affiliated Branch of*  
**Association of  
Woodturners  
of Great Britain**

Volume 1  
Issue No. 10

December  
2018

**Wood 'n' things**  
*News Letter*

Chair  
*Dawn Hopley*

Editor  
*Phil Williams*



*Challenge Trophy Winner  
for a Christmas Lantern  
goes to.....*

# Editors Workbench

Most entertaining evening and how quickly time is going by. Here we are already in November and our program for next year is already in the newsletter.

The reposition of the display screen is proving to be very useful and our demonstrators seem to have a lot more room. From their new position in the centre of the room, it is easy for our members to see what's happening and to be able to refer to screen from time to time. Definitely a well worth while change.

As you have seen from our competition entries, Christmas is just around the corner.

I am delighted to report, that we had two new visitors who attended and our lucky raffle prize winner was John McElroy at our November meeting.

*Phil Williams*

## Meeting Calendar

### *January 2019*

#### **Fri 11<sup>th</sup> - Annual General Meeting & Presentation of Awards**

A new year starts and the election/re-election of officers of the club. We will be looking back on how the club has done during the last financial year and to the future. The Demonstration Calendar is filling up and the push to recruit more members continues.

Please do not forget, your annual subscriptions to MSWA and to the AWGB are now due.

We look forward to see you all at the meeting.

## February

### Fri 1<sup>st</sup> - Michael Taylor - Shrink Pots

Mike joined MSWA at the start of 2018 and has supported the club in many ways. At our meeting Mike will be demonstrating pole turning shrink pots (examples below) and should be a very interesting and entertaining demonstration.



## Forth Coming Competitions

### January

**Challenge Cup – An Apple Shaped Lidded Box**

**Premier Cup - A Reconstructed, Deconstructed Item**

Two competitions, that will be something to see, especially what you come up with for the Premier Cup. Maybe these two examples will spur you on.



### February

**Novice Cup – Bird Box**

Two competitions, that will be something to see, especially what you come up with for the Premier Cup. Below are a few examples to give you inspiration.



# At Our Last Meeting

## Robert Till - A Large Bird Box

(Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November)

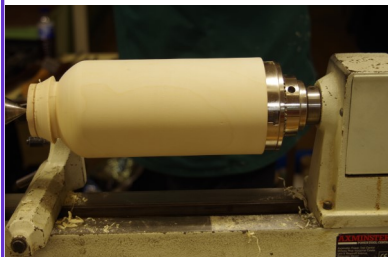


Our November demonstrator this month was Robert Till who began wood turning from the tender age of twelve years old., where he was taught by his favourite wood shop teacher Mr Champion.

The demonstration that Robert put together was to turn a bird box from a green piece of wood. Roberts finds this easier to work with as long as you finish the bird box is turned in one go. Make sure to keep the wall an even thickness to approximately ¼"/6mm to avoid the wood from splitting during the drying out process, if it is uneven or is any thinner the possibility of the wood splitting greatly increases.



Robert wraps his pieces of wood in cling film to keep the moisture in and ensure they do not dry out. He then began turning down to 9" long by 4¼" thick, making provisional cuts for the bottom finial then hollowing out the bird box. Once the box has been hollowed out, he then took the piece off the lathe and turned it around



placing it back over the chuck and using the chuck to grip the work from the inside by gradually opening the jaws. Note, care must be taken when opening the jaws not to exert too much pressure on the hollowed out box, as too much can very easily split the work.





With the work securely on the chuck, Roberts put the finishing cuts to the bottom finial. Don't forget to drill a small drain hole in the bottom of the box.

He then started turn the top by using a piece of wood circa 5" in diameter by 3½" long.

Thank you Robert for a most interesting and enjoyable demonstration.

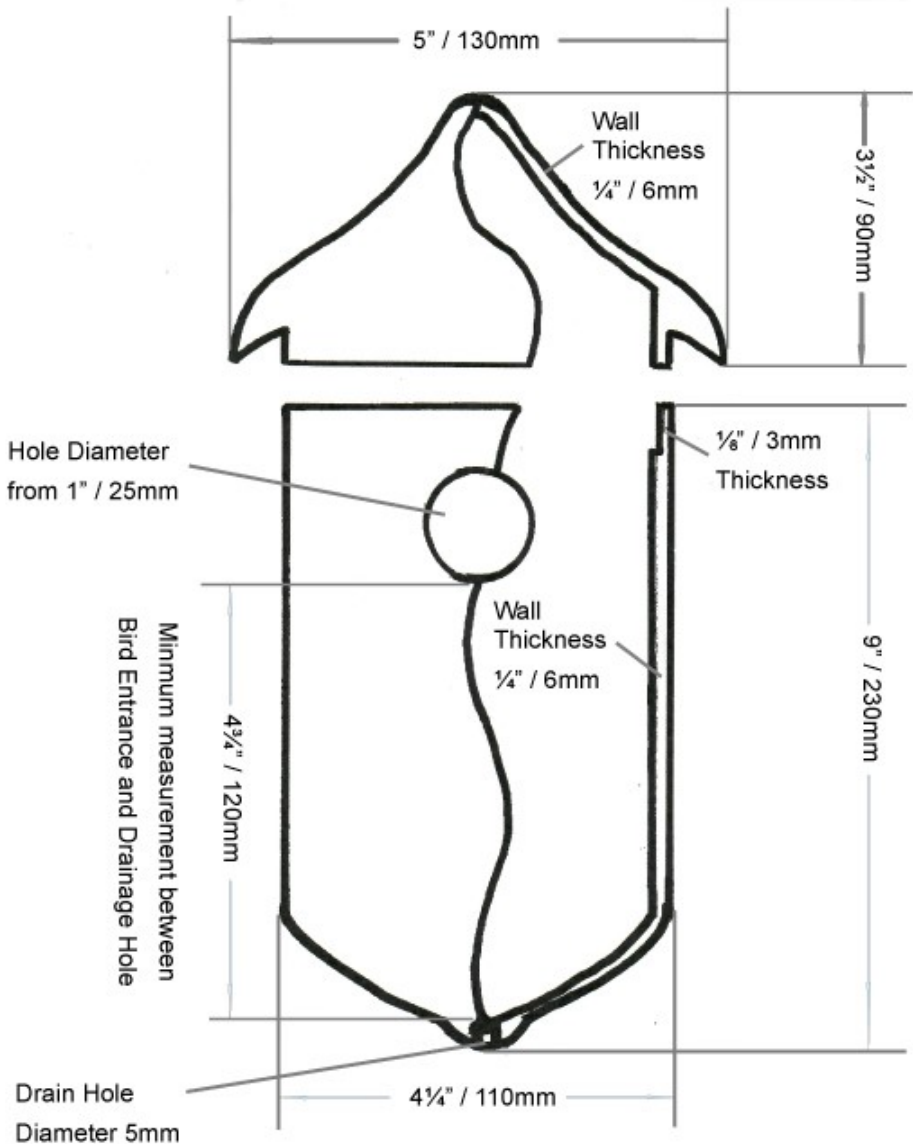


Please turn to the following page where we have the line drawing of the large Bird Box, courtesy of Mr Robert Till.

*Phil Williams*

Here is the drawing, as per our demonstration.

## Bird Box



## Competition Results

### Challenge Trophy - A Christmas Lantern

*(November Challenge)*

This month's challenge was for the Challenge Trophy and competitors have excelled themselves with two wonderful lanterns. Below our results were as follows:-

In 2<sup>nd</sup> place was A, by Philip Watts and in 1<sup>st</sup> place is C by Hugh Field.

Congratulations to those who took part and to our winner Hugh.

**A**



**C**



*Phil Williams*

## MSWA Contacts

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### Come & Join Us

We usually meeting on the first Friday of the month between 7:00pm and 10:00pm. Visit our website [www.mswa.co.uk](http://www.mswa.co.uk) and click on the Meeting Calendar to confirm the dates.

### We Meet At:-

Etchinghill Village Hall  
East Butts Road  
Etching Hill  
Rugeley  
WS15 2LU

### How to Join

MSWA encourage new members to develop their skills of wood turning. To obtain a Membership Application Form, visit our website and click on the Contact Us in the menu bar and download an application form.

### Advertisement



Mike Taylor likes working with Alder Wood. If you would like to try this hardwood or have tuition on Pole Lathe Turning then contact Mike on 07871 994959 and mention MSWA.

### Past Chairpersons

Ken Allen	1990-1997	Peter Worrall	1997-2005	John Smith	2005-2010
Dawn Hopley	2010-2012	John Smith	2012-2013	Philip Watts	2013-2016

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