



*Mid-Staffs Woodturners
Association*

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

Volume 3
Issue No. 4

October
2022

Wood 'n' things
News Letter

Chair
Mike Taylor

Editor
Phil Williams



*Musical Boxes
such a great demonstration*

Editors Workbench

The club seems to have got back into full swing during September. Not only did we have a great demonstration from our very own Dawn Hopley, but also a visit to Shelmore Timber at Stafford, where members found very interesting in their wide range of UK hardwoods and softwoods as well as carefully selected West African timbers and American hardwoods.

Phil Williams

Meeting Calendar

November 2022

Fri 4th - Wolfgang Schulze-Zachau

Our next demonstrator will be Wolfgang Schulze-Zachau. This will be his first visit to MSWA, so we hope to make him feel very welcome. Wolfgang hails from the West Midlands and is a member of the Black Country Woodturners club who meet in Dudley. By day he is an IT Manager, but his passion is woodtuning. As well as producing some amazing work, he also demonstrates and teaches woodtuning in his spare time. It looks like he is also partial to the occasional drop of Sloe Gin!



We have set Wolfgang a Christmas theme for the night, so he will be demonstrating a couple of projects. The first will be a simple snowman with hat which is a lovely beginners project. He will then demonstrate “Hoop” or “Ring” turning, which is the traditional method for making multiple Christmas decorations in Germany.

At Our Last Meeting

Musical Boxes - Dawn Hopley

(September 2022)

Committee member Dawn gave a very interesting demonstration on the making of music boxes at the last meeting.

As always Dawn had researched the whole subject of music box mechanisms and gave us all a raft of information about different types, qualities and costs of the different types of mechanisms as it appears that they are not that readily available and the prices can be excessive.





Dawn went onto demonstrate how the mechanisms are “captured “ inside a turned box, She used ash for the demonstration which was taken from her own garden a few years ago.

Starting with shaping the inside of the lid then cutting the “tenon “for the lid lots of discussion was had to whether then “tenons” should be on the lid or on the body of the

box. As always put a group of turners in a room and come up with a massive amount of ways of doing things.

Sanding the inside of the lid Dawn used paste wax to cut down the dust problems and produce a silky smooth finish.

Onto the main body of the box cutting the mortice for the lid, replacing the lid to shape the outside before removing the bulk of the waste from body of the box. Various tools were demonstrated for the hollowing, gouges, box scrapers both round and flat were used.



Great care has to be shown in getting the depth correct to accept the mechanism before the body of the box was reversed onto a jam chuck to recess the bottom to allow room for the winding mechanism.

Perhaps the most important part of the whole process is ensuring the floor of the box is no more than 3mm thick, this allows the mechanism to resonate and increase the volume.

The final part of the process is the fixing of the mechanism into the box for which Dawn has a template to ensure the holes are accurate, the evolution of the making of the template was fascinating.

At the end of the turning Dawn showed us a number of music boxes and devices which she had acquired over the years and again she explained how they all worked . She also challenged us all to have a go at making one!

All in all a fascinating evening, full of tips advice and the usual good fun. Thanks Dawn!



Mike Taylor

Competition Results

Challenge Cup - A Decorated Item

(September 2022)

This month, we had two entries competing for the Challenge Cup. Each of the entries showed our members had decorated or painted details or both and the winner is.....

A



B



In 1st place was B (made by Vance Lupton) and in 2nd place was A (made by Dawn Hopley). Well done to all who took part in this competition.

Club Member's Showcase

The item below was made during one of our demonstrations. Due to time constraints, it was unable to be fully finished, but thanks to a member of the club, it was taken home and given the final touches it needed.



Not only does Dawn place a music box mechanism into the small box at the bottom of this page, but is considering whether or not it is possible to be fitted into an egg box!!



Forthcoming Competition

November

Challenge Cup – A Leaf Shaped Bowl

Our November competition will definitely be a challenge. It is for a Leaf Shaped Bowl and a few examples are below and may give you the inspiration to design and turn your own. Good luck to all.



MSWA Contacts

Chairman - Mike Taylor E-mail: chairman@mswa.co.uk Tel: 07860 501379	Vice Chair - Dawn Hopley E-mail: vicechair@mswa.co.uk Tel: 07860 501379
Secretary - Will Rose E-mail: secretary@mswa.co.uk Tel: 01543 490309	Treasurer - Phil Williams E-mail: treasurer@mswa.co.uk Tel: 07753 416955
Membership - Vance Lupton E-mail: membership@mswa.co.uk	Members Representative Brian Shaw

Come & Join Us

We usually meet on the first Friday of every month between 7:00pm and 10:00pm. Visit our website www.mswa.co.uk and click on the Meeting Calendar to confirm the dates.

We Meet at:-

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



Past Chairpersons

Ken Allen	1990-1997	Peter Worrall	1997-2005	John Smith	2005-2009
Dawn Hopley	2010-2012	John Smith	2012-2013	Philip Watts	2013-2016
Dawn Hopley	2017-2019				

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