



Future Events

May 6th
Clive Brooks
Demonstration by Sorby Tools

Saturday 7th May
Rugeley Lions Club Family Fun Day
at the Horns Inn, Slitting Mill.
Club Demonstration

Saturday 21st May
Arts Festival
St. Luke's Church
Cannock

Saturday 3rd July
CHADS Garden Party

Saturday 16th July
The Alrewas Show

Saturday 23rd July
The Kings Bromley Show

Club Competitions

May – Challenge Cup
An 8" minimum height tall Vase with
colouring

June – Novice
Candle holders

Chairman's Notes - The Chair's Cheerful Chat!

April is probably my favourite month of the year, though I'm not quite certain why. Maybe it's because I was born in April and therefore have fond childhood memories of birthday parties, Easter egg hunts and holidays, or maybe it's those first, tantalising, hints of the warm summer days to come – whatever the reasons I really love the arrival of spring blossom, the garden filling with bird song and the warm evenings that allow us all to be outside and enjoying the great outdoors for a change!

My hope is that this warm weather is encouraging you all to be busy in your workshops in anticipation of all the upcoming summer shows and fêtes. Our first event is fast approaching, being the Rugeley Lion's club Fun day on May 7th, at the Horns public house in Slitting Mill. This is swiftly followed by the St Luke's Church Arts Festival, Cannock, on May 21st. For both of these events the club has been invited to put on a display of our work, which I trust you will all support by making them a showcase of all your skills and through donating some pieces for our sales table – you are all invited to offer items for sale with a small donation of any proceeds (10%) going to charity or church funds. These are two new events for our club to support and I really hope we make a great impression on our hosts and this will be the beginning of a long and profitable relationship with these worthy organisations.

Please make sure you bring along any items you wish to sell to the May club meeting (Friday 6th) or else come on the day, sell your work and enjoy the show! How many twisted stem goblets will we see on our stands, I wonder? I know Paul Hannaby, on his first ever visit to our club, made everything look so easy and gave us so many hints and tips that he should have inspired you all to have a go; and I am anticipating a plethora of gorgeous goblets, a barrage of beautiful barley-twists and a fantastical display of charming chalices!

One final reminder for you all to check the Kings Bromley show website at www.kingsbromleyshow.co.uk and go to the "Competitions" pages if you fancy a chance of winning one of the many wonderful trophies that are up for grabs – modesty forbids me to mention "Best Exhibit in Woodwork Section" winner 2009, but everyone is encouraged to Geoff a run for his money this year!

See you all on the 6th of May!

Dawn



Editor's scribblings

Full of good intentions, your Editor has commenced work on this issue whilst sitting in the Lower Mess of a square rigged sailing ship, the Lord Nelson. One of two ships owned by the Jubilee Sailing Trust; these are the only two ships in the world equipped to permit people of all physical abilities to sail together. Chair lifts provide access between all decks, the heads (toilets to you landlubbers) are fully equipped for the disabled, and there is even an audio compass enabling blind helmsmen to steer an accurate course.

I will not be sailing anywhere on this occasion as the ship is in Southampton for a routine maintenance period. Almost 75% of the maintenance on the ships is carried out by volunteers, of whom I am one. I seem to have been co-opted by the Engineering Department and will presumably be occupied doing "techy" things. I can hear you thinking "Engineering on a sailing ship?". The reality is that there is a considerable amount. Two main engines for propulsion when the wind is non-existent or in totally the wrong direction, two generators for electrical power, main and emergency lighting systems, fresh water and sewerage systems, not to mention the dish washer, washing machine and tumble dryer, all very necessary on a ship design to accommodate up to 50 crew members.

These are no passenger ships. All sign on as crew. The Permanent Crew hold the Merchant Navy certification required by law and the Voyage Crew work under their supervision, standing watches, helming, setting sails, and all the activities normal to a ship at sea.

During the summers, both ships are around the U.K. But come the winter both migrate to warmer climes. The Lord Nelson usually cruises around the Canaries, her sister ship, the Tenacious, carries on to Antigua in the Caribbean returning via Bermuda before crossing the Atlantic.

Whilst Lord Nelson was built in steel, Tenacious was built by the Trust themselves and is the largest square rigged sailing ship built entirely of wood.



If that captures your attention, then visit the JST website at www.jst.org.uk for details of the sailing programme.



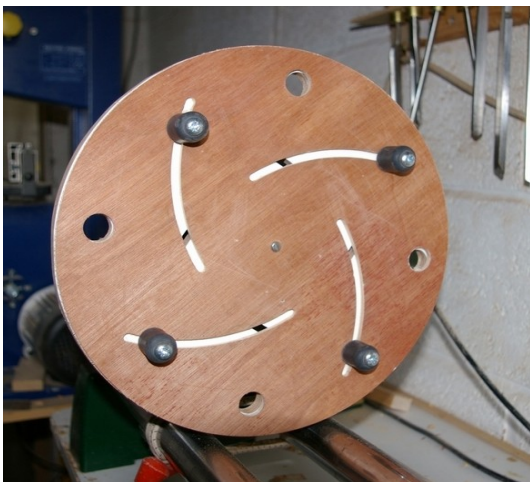
Does your work have nice smooth bottoms?

Those of you who have attended Chris Eagles' demonstrations and lectures over the last two years will remember the emphasis that he placed on finishing the bottoms of work to the same level of quality as the rest of the piece. To him, the practice of leaving a recess that had been turned into the bottom of a bowl for the purposes of holding it in a chuck was equivalent to leaving a large tool mark in the side of a piece of work. In short, lazy and unacceptable.

Those of you who have acquired modern devices such as vacuum chucks can finish reading here. This article is for lesser mortals.

The practical problem is how to hold the work on the lathe whilst completing the turning of the bottom. A common way is to take a piece of scrap wood and turn what is called a jam chuck, the work being held securely(?) by the shape of the jam chuck. This is relatively easy when something like a box is being finish turned but far more difficult with a bowl with sloping curved sides.

I have experimented with a Longworthy chuck. This is a design by an Australian turner and has been featured on a number of web pages and in magazine articles. It is comprised of a back plate of plywood secured to a standard lathe face plate. A similar piece of plywood is mounted on a central screw on the wooden back plate. During the manufacturing process, the two pieces of plywood are clamped together and a router used to cut a series of equally spaced spiral grooves radiating out from the centre. One piece of ply is then reversed with respect to the other. The spiral grooves now cross each other, the crossing points being equidistant from the centre of the back plate and at a diameter dependent upon the relative positions of the two pieces of plywood. Rotation of the front plate one way will reduce the diameter, rotation in the other direction will increase the diameter. Through bolts provide clamping points to trap a bowl to the face plate. See the illustration below left.



My experience is mixed and I cannot always ensure that the item to be finished is absolutely centred on the lathe. I have a suspicion that the material that I have used for the clamps is not ideal and that firmer stops such as the rubber bungs used in home brewing equipment might be more successful.

An alternative is simpler, and for me more successful. This comprises a single piece of plywood of sufficient diameter attached to a face plate. The work is centred on the wooden face plate using circles drawn on it as a guide line. Small wooden clamps shaped to trap the bowl are then screwed onto the faceplate. See the illustration above right.

Care is still required when turning, particularly with the Longworthy chuck. Too heavy a cut will result in the work leaving the lathe and describing a trajectory towards you or the workshop floor. You have been warned.

Philip Watts



Demonstration Report – April Meeting

Paul Hannaby

Paul is a full time wood turner from the Forest of Dean. His chosen demonstration covered the turning of goblets in wood. Paul initially talked about the finishes that he normally uses. He preferred a wax finish on decorative goblets with a combination of sanding sealer followed by wax. For goblets that required a waterproof coating, he would use a plastic coating by Rustins. (Editor's note. The Rustins material is used by many marquetarians although some have detected a deterioration in that material over time and have tried a Dulux Diamond finish instead) A sheet of different goblet designs was passed around and also the smallest goblet made by Paul in response to an Internet challenge. This was 5mm high and 2mm in diameter. For the first part of the demonstration, Paul turned a goblet in yew. This was from a piece of branch-wood about 7-8 inches long with the pith off-centre. This was beneficial because the stem of the goblet would be turned in a stronger part of the wood. The centre-line of the goblet also lay totally on one side of the pith, without crossing through the area that would form the stem. The branch was first placed between centres in order for it to be turned to a rough cylinder and a spigot formed at one end with the correct diameter for mounting in a chuck. Care was taken to form a shoulder at the base of the spigot as this would assist in registration in the chuck. On a safety note, Paul would normally complete this part of the operation wearing a full-face mask because of the possibility of bark inclusions being thrown out from the blank.



The face of the branch was squared off with a ½ inch spindle gouge. A finger nail ground gouge was used to bore a central hole of the correct depth in the centre of the goblet cup. An alternative tool had been manufactured by Paul from a round bar ground down to half its diameter and then ground as a round nose scraper. Hollowing then commenced with a gouge turned almost upside down and being presented to the wood between twelve and two-o'clock, with the cut being from inside to outside of the bore. Paul also demonstrated the use of a ring tool. This is normally regarded as a difficult tool but Paul showed how effective it could be in experienced hands. For this tool, the cutting point is between six and nine-o'clock. Quite aggressive cuts could be made but a change of angle could produce a shearing cut.

It is important in goblet work to finish each stage in turn. Having turned the inside of the cup area, Paul sanded it with conventional abrasives, working down through the grits to a 540 grit. A maximum of 50% change in grit size was allowed between each change. Sanding sealer was applied then cleaned back with a fine grade of wire wool. A final finish of wax was used. Paul recommended a brand called Renaissance being one developed in the museum industry to provide a long lasting finish even when handled.

Work then commenced on the outside of the goblet, with a pull cut being employed working towards the headstock. The curve is defined by rolling the tool. A feature is incorporated at the junction of the cup and stem. At this point, Paul brought up the tailstock to provide support using a polystyrene ball between the cup interior and a shaped head in the revolving centre. Previous use of a rubber ball had shown that the greater mass combined with a degree of out of balance had been sufficient to create problems in turning small diameter stems. A detail at the bottom of the stem echoed that at the top.



After the tea interval and the judging of the monthly competition, Paul resumed his demonstration by turning a goblet with a twisted stem. The first stages were a repeat of the first half, with the stem being left at a greater diameter to allow for the twist. Stuart Mortimer's book details the general principles of marking out for twists but Paul has found that for this scale of turning it is adequate to work by eye. The first spiral was worked in using a round file laid on the work at 45 degrees to the longitudinal axis. The second was worked in by eye midway between consecutive turns. A second file was employed at right angles to the stem to take off the corners of the spirals and a fine file at half the angle to continue the rounding off of the spiral edges. Alternative tools included micro planes. These could be quite aggressive and were not suitable for all woods. Sanding then worked through the grits in the normal manner. A dowel of a suitable diameter was used as a former. Paul showed that it was possible to complete the work of sanding with the lathe rotating slowly.

Recommended woods for goblets of this type were fruit woods such as apple, walnut, etc. Oak was not recommended because of a propensity to chip. An alternative design could have been created by drilling longitudinally through the stem, inserting a length of contrasting wood and then cutting a spiral deep enough to show the underlying wood.



Straight Stem Goblet



Twisted Stem Goblet

Paul Hannaby has an excellent website worth visiting at www.hannaby.com and his gallery may be seen at www.creative-woodturning.com.

His site also has a number of tips on wood turning safety issues. A topic always worth reading. Go to www.hannaby.com/woodturning-safety.html.



April Competition

The April competition was a Novice one and called for a small lidded box. Three entries were received. Hugh Field received the greatest number of votes with a striking design of box. The outside was pierced to reveal an internal lining of a contrasting wood. Simple turning but well executed and scoring highly on the design aspect.



David Neil came second with a flying saucer shaped box. Brian Smith came third with possibly the most complicated design, inspired I would suggest by last year's demonstration by David Springett. The pierced lid was evidently the third attempt with the previous ones self-destructing the final turning.



This was the third time that the new system of voting was used. Members are reminded that it is essential that you wait for the tea break before casting your votes as it is only then that you can be sure that all the entries are on display.



Club information

Your club committee for 2011 is:-

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Assistant treasurer – We urgently need someone to take this on, ready to take over next year!

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Events secretary - Geoff Payne

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Tel:

Email:

Brian Garratt

Tel:

Email:

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.

Merchandise



Clothing

The club has a selection of items for sale, all featuring the club name on a blue background.

Sweatshirts (dark blue)	£12.00
T-shirts (light blue)	£7.00
Baseball caps	£6.00

The sweatshirts are ideal for the workshop at this time of year; nice and warm, but they are also smart enough to wear down the high street, to woodturning shows, and to AWGB seminars.

See John Smith at the club meetings if you would like to purchase any item of club clothing.



Abrasives

If you need that finishing touch, Terry Gray has packs of Abranet, recommended by demonstrators and other club members, at £2.20 for a set of 7 sheets - 120 -600 grit.



Books and DVDs

The club has the following DVDs for hire.

AWGB Instant Gallery -1991 to 2003

Sharpening - GMC

Turning Projects with Richard Raffan

Turning Wood with Alan Holtham – Table Lamp

Colouring Wood – Jan Sanders

The Skew Chisel – Alan Batty

Bowls for Beginners – Ray Jones

Course on Spindle Turning – Ray Jones

Making and Decorating Platters – Mick Hanbury

Making and Decorating Boxes - Mick Hanbury

Turn it On – Volume 1 – Jimmy Clewes

Turn it On – Volume 2 – Jimmy Clewes

Turn it On – Volume 3 – Jimmy Clewes

All Glued Up! Open Segment Turning – Sue Harker

Turned Out Nice Again! Involuting Turning – Sue Harker

Wood Turning with Steve Heeley – Steve Heeley

See John Smith at any club meeting if you want to borrow one of these.



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.



Useful websites

There is a lot of information available on the internet but some is better than others. If you come across any useful sites, please let me know and I will publish them here.

The following are worth a look :-

Boiling wood

Some information on this alternative wood treatment.
<http://www.woodturningvideosplus.com/boiling-green-wood.html>
www.woodturners.org/tech_tips/misc-pages/boiling.pdf

General

www.turningwood.com/artists.htm

There is an entry on this site for Darrel Feltmate with lots of useful information.

Ideas for ornaments can be found on
<http://woodcentral.com/newforum/ornaments>

Marquetry

It is well worthwhile looking at the website for the Staffordshire Marquetry Society. There is an excellent gallery of work by members.

www.staffsmarq.freeserve.co.uk

Questions and answers

This section is an opportunity for members to ask questions for other members to answer, primarily about wood turning but I see no reason why this couldn't be extended further. There is a lot of knowledge in the club on many subjects and this should be an easy way to get answers.



Items for sale or wanted

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

For Sale

For Sale Black & Decker DN66 Plunge Router. Virtually new. In box. Ideal to modify for use for fluting etc. on lathe. £20.

Contact Will Rose 01543 490424 or
secretary@MSWA.co.uk

Brand new Supernova chuck insert Type 3 for sale £15
Thread size M20x1.5 RH (Metric) to fit Electra Beckum / Multico, Sumaro and other metric threaded lathes.

Contact Paul Bellamy 01543 472669
paul.bellamy@mswa.co.uk