



## Future Events

### Chairman's Notes

#### MSWA Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> May

Hands on and Open Evening

Chris Eagles

A Master Class in Turning

#### Other Events

National Marquetry Exhibition

Gladstone Pottery Museum

25<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013

#### Club Competitions

May

Challenge

A Clock

June

Novice

An Apple or Pear

We were very fortunate for the last meeting that Paul Bellamy was able to step in and take over when Bob Chapman became ill and could not attend to demonstrate. We obviously wish Bob a speedy recovery, but it seems possible that might have missed a last chance to see him in action as he has announced his retirement from demonstrating wood turning.

Our next meeting at the beginning of May is to be a "Hands-on" session and this we have enlarged to be an "Open Night" when we hope to encourage visitors to attend and see what wood turning is about. The motive is obvious, to entice them into membership. The benefits of this are clear, and not just in a financial sense. We need to recruit on a continuous basis to maintain a healthy club. Otherwise, the club will quite literally die out.

We intend to have at least three lathes in operation, with the possibility for visitors to have a first hand experience. Paul Bellamy will be with us again to demonstrate tool-sharpening procedures and Ron Dixon will advise on the re-sharpening of hand saws. David Winter is to attend with his stock of wood, all at very reasonable prices. The Club DVD library will be on display. The kettle will be on the stove for most of the evening so that almost everything that you could desire will be available.

You may have problems with the use of a particular chisel, or may wish to know more about a particular technique. If so, contact me in the usual way and we will try and fulfil that particular need.

With visitors in mind, a good display table would be most desirable so bring along your best pieces. Entries from previous club competitions are an obvious choice. The May Challenge competition is for a clock. Which reminds me, I have some of the pieces for my entry already in the workshop. It just needs some fine turning and concentration on finish before the date. I foresee a last minute panic as is my usual wont.

Philip Watts



## Editor's Scribblings

I recently acquired a bound set of the Magazine Woodturning from the year 2002. Very interesting to read and see what was going on in the woodturning world at that time. Some things have changed; others remain the same.

Mark Baker, the Editor, reported in February of that year on a visit to a weekend event in Suffolk. He was particularly impressed in the use of technology to allow the audience to see what was happening. Cameras, television units and a screen projection unit all featured in his report.

I remember that when I first joined the MSWA the viewing aids comprised two television linked to the cameras. Later, the equipment was developed with the purchase of the projector that we use today. The problem is that technology moves on so fast and people's perceptions develop with it. Living rooms are often dominated by 50 inch screens showing high definition TV programmes. By comparison, the screen pictures at MSWA can appear grainy and badly lit.

The MSWA committee has recognised the problem and did investigate the possibility of following the route taken by the West Midlands Woodturners in their purchase of high-specification surveillance cameras, combined with an upgrade by the school that forms their meeting place of the ceiling-mounted video projector. The cost, by our standards, was considerable and more than we could afford. Indeed the WMWT only achieved their purchase through the medium of loans from the members.

We continue to investigate and have visited other clubs where alternative approaches including the use of relatively large flat screen television/monitors linked to proprietary video cameras. If there is any of our newer members with a hidden talent or access to this technology, then we would welcome their input.

I am now off for a week to a location near the workshops of the Mouseman, one Robert Thompson, the furniture maker from Kilburn. His nickname stemmed from the fact that he carved a mouse on his work after one of his employees was heard remarking that "We are all as poor as church mice". A sentiment with which most wood turners might agree

Philip Watts

## Newsletter

The Newsletter is for your and the club's benefit. If you have something to say then write it and send it to me for inclusion. I can accept text in almost any format, although simple text files are the best. Similarly, image files as .jpeg, .tiff or .bmp files. In the extreme, I can even scan or photograph prints or negatives.

I will be looking for volunteers to write up the Demonstration Reports so the budding journalists amongst you should sharpen your pencils and charge the batteries on your digital cameras.



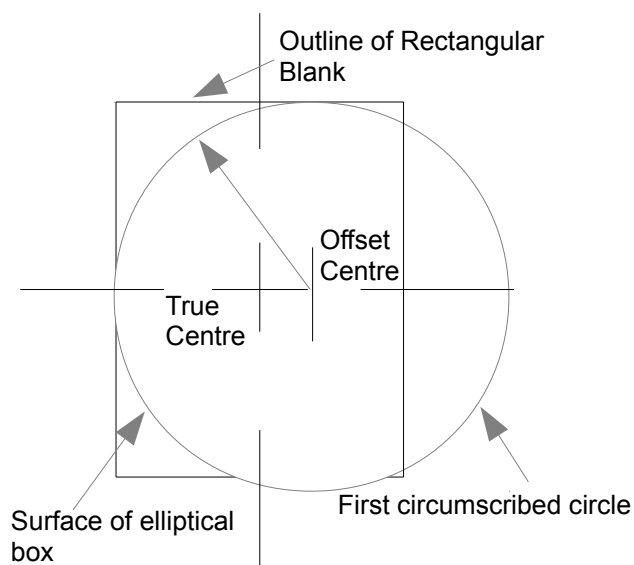
## April Demonstration by Paul Bellamy

Paul stood in at almost the last minute when Bob Chapman, the scheduled demonstrator, was taken ill. Such short notice gave Paul little chance to prepare and it is to his credit that he was able to give such a professional demonstration.

His chosen project for the evening was an elliptical box. Paul made reference to a David Springett demonstration that involved the use of a special chuck that had been devised and manufactured by David, and which produced a true elliptical shape, albeit in a very noisy manner. Paul offered a technique that would produce a close imitation of an ellipse using standard wood turning techniques.



Selecting a wood blank that was rectangular in cross-section, Paul marked out the centre lines through the intersection of diagonals from each corner. It is hoped that the diagram below will make this clear. A useful aid consisting of a clear acrylic sheet on which a number of concentric circles had been inscribed was employed to select and mark out two offset centre positions that would be employed in the initial turning phase of the project. The semi-circles projected from these centres touched the outside of the wood blank on one centreline and intersected at the extremities of the other centreline.



Note: This operation is repeated to give mirror image offset centre on the opposite side of the blank

The initial turning was undertaken with the blank mounted on the true centres between a Steb centre at the headstock end and a live centre at the tail-stock. Spigots were turned at each end of the correct size for the chuck mounted on the lathe. A short section at each end of the central length of the blank was also turned down to a diameter equal to the shorter cross section dimension to provide a sighting aid for the next phase of the project. A parting tool was used for both of these operations.

Mounting the blank between a pair of the off-set centres, Paul now used a roughing gouge to turn one side of the blank to a semi circular profile. He then demonstrated how a finer finish could be employed by using the same tool at an angle, thus simulating the action of a skew chisel but then improved the finish further with a skew chisel, the wood blank selected at random from his workshop not proving to be the most responsive. After turning, this side of the blank was sanded down, Paul likes to use Abranet, cleaning the wood with a microfibre duster as an alternative to a tack-rag, before an application of



Melamine lacquer thinned 50/50 with cellulose thinners. A final sheen was achieved with the aid of a small piece of 0000 steel wool.

The blank was now remounted on the opposite pair of offset centres and the turning and finishing operations repeated to produce the second side of the elliptical shape. The intersection lines between the two symmetrical semi-circular surfaces were removed by sanding to soften the shape and complete the illusion of an ellipse. The final action at this stage of the project was to part the box into its component base and top using a thin parting tool manufactured from an old industrial sized hacksaw blade. A brief discussion took place at this time on the significance of the “golden mean” in selecting the point at which to cut the blank. A piece of wood turning wisdom proposes that the ratio of the lid to the bottom should be 1:1.618. Recent readers who wish to know more about the derivation of this and its linkage to the breeding habits of rabbits are referred back to the MSWA Newsletter of February 2011.

Two spigots were turned at the beginning of the project and one of these was now employed to hold the lid in the chuck whilst the centre was hollowed out with a spindle gouge. Finishing of the interior employed the same practices as for the exterior with the addition of a few light strokes with a stick of Carnauba wax. The elliptical shape of the box dictates that the mating surfaces of the box and lid have to be square if a gap is to be avoided. This process was repeated to hollow out the box base with the mating spigot being cut with a parting tool.

Finally, the lid was mounted on the base to allow the top of the lid and a knob to be turned. (Editor's note: The ultimate finish would have been for the knob to be elliptical as well!!) A scrap piece of wood turned down to fit formed a jam chuck to permit the same operation to be performed on the base.



Side View of finished box



Plan View of finished box



## **Summer Visits**

The first signs of spring are, perhaps, appearing and this may be the time to remind you of a couple of places with a wood turning flavour that you might like to visit during the next few months.

### **Stott Mill**

I featured the English Heritage owned Stott Mill, a Bobbin Mill in the Southern Lake District in the Club Newsletter of August 2011. To most people the Lake District is a place for tourism, recreation and the like. Kendal Mint Cake is the most well known product and the nearest thing to industry that might otherwise come to mind is slate mining or the pencil makers of the Northern Lake District. The bobbin or spool makers were located more at the southern end of the Lakes. These mills made use of two elements that were freely available, wood and water. The main output was wooden bobbins and spools for the wool and cotton industries of Lancashire, Yorkshire and elsewhere. As demand for these fell off in later years with the demise of those industries, some diversification occurred with tool handles, rungs for rope ladders and other items being made.

Turning to shape was a semi-mechanised process using tooling ground to the external shape required and hand-driven into the wood. The final diameter was determined by the use of stops limiting the movement of the tools. This tooling was manufactured in house with the material coming from whatever source might be available, such as old cart springs, forged and ground in a workshop adjacent to the mill.

Power for the mills came from the local streams and rivers by which they were built, fed by the rain that falls by reputation in the Lake District. The water wheel drove shafting, with the power being fed to individual machines by flat belting. The slap of the belt joints over the pulleys would have been a source of constant noise within the mill.

Details of the location and opening times are available on their website.

- [www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/stott-park-bobbin-mill/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/stott-park-bobbin-mill/)
- 

### **Gayle Mill – Wensleydale**

Gayle Mill was erected in 1784-5 as a cotton mill and based on designs by Arkwright. Having moved from cotton to flax and finally, wool production, the mill closed and was re-opened in 1878 as a sawmill employing what the friends of Gayle Mill are pleased to call “the latest in cutting-edge technology”. The Mill still contains all the woodworking machinery dating from that time and powered by the earliest water turbine still in its original position and doing its original job.

A second turbine was installed in 1925 and was used to generate electricity for the mill and nearby buildings. This turbine, together with a brand new one will be used to power the mill and provide surplus renewable electricity to the National Grid.

The Gayle Mill won third place in the 2004 final of the BBC Television's programme “Restoration” and, following substantial restoration works is now open to the public. It also produces high quality wood products and provides an educational resource.

A fuller description and pictures formed part of the MSWA Newsletter in September 2011. More information including opening times, admission charges, and how to get there can be found on the Gayle Mill website at [www.gaylemill.org.uk](http://www.gaylemill.org.uk)





## Competition

Only two entries were received for the Easter themed monthly competition, an egg and egg cup. Which is a shame. We would encourage the newer members to enter and take up the future challenges.

John McElroy followed the brief the most closely. David Neale had some lateral thoughts and provided an egg with a resident chicken.



The May Challenge Competition is for a clock. Just in case you are still looking for ideas, here is an example from Jersey!





# Wood 'n' things



## Club information

Your club committee for 2013 is:-

**Chairman - Philip Watts**

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

Tel. 0121 308 7838

**Secretary – John McElroy**

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

**Treasurer – Vance Lupton**

Email: [treasurer@mswa.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@mswa.co.uk)

**Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field**

**Events Secretary – Ted Gill**

Email: [events@mswa.co.uk](mailto:events@mswa.co.uk)

**Abrasives -**

**Newsletter editor – Philip Watts**

Email: [editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:editor@mswa.co.uk)

**Webmanager – Philip Watts**

Email: [webman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:webman@mswa.co.uk)

**Committee Members**

John Smith

Tel. 01889 577380

Mob. 07976 913811

Albert Heath

Geoff Payne

Peter Worrall

**Health and Safety Advisor**

Hugh Field

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.

<b>Sweatshirts (dark blue)</b>	<b>£12.00</b>
<b>T-shirts (light blue)</b>	<b>£7.00</b>
<b>Baseball caps</b>	<b>£6.00</b>

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, the club 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 amongst others for hire.

### **MSWA DVD List**

- 1 AWGB Instant Gallery 1991-2003
- 2 Sharpening GMC
- 3 Turning Projects with Richard Raffan
- 4 Turning Wood with Alan Holtham – Table lamp
- 5 Colouring wood – Jan Sanders
- 6 3 Disc collection – Trent Bosch
- 7 Bowls for Beginners – Ray Jones
- 8 Course on Spindle Turning – Ray Jones
- 9 Making and Decorating Platters – Mick Hanbury
- 10 Making and Decorating Boxes – Mick Hanbury
- 11 Turn It On – Vol 1 – Jimmy Clewes
- 12 Turn It On – Vol 2 – Jimmy Clewes
- 13 Turn It On – Vol 3 – Jimmy Clewes
- 14 All Glued Up No1 – Sue Harker
- 15 Turned Out Nice Again – Sue Harker
- 16 Wood Turning with Steve Heeley – Steve Heeley
- 17 Woodcut Turning Tools
- 18 Robert Sorby Specialist Tools
- 19 Inlaid and Novelty Boxes – Chris Stott
- 20 Hope for us all – Simon Hope
- 21 Hope for us all – Vol2 – Simon Hope
- 22 Wet Turning With a Difference – Stuart Mortimer
- 23 AWGB Seminar 2011
- 24 Turning Green Wood – Michael O'Donnell
- 25 Woodturning, a craftsman's guide. - Mark Baker

**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 and suppliers

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.

## 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

### Machinery and Equipment list (Ex Terry Gray)

Delta - bandsaw K9334 28-180

Power craft - Router table and router

Power craft - Reciprocating saw

Jet - Woodlathe JWL 1220VS

Axminster - K10 chuck with spare O'Donnell jaws, spare "C" jaws and spare button jaws (to fit Jet wood lathe JWL 1220VS)

Chuck - 4 jaw with spare set of extending jaws (no makers name but manual with it)

Erbauer - 8" thickness planer RO9W44

Turning tools - Approx 2 dozen assorted

Hilka - 6" bench grinder with one white and one pink wheel

Red Eye - Circular saw with 185mm blade diameter

Power Craft - cordless power drill, 24 volt, with 13mm chuck and battery charger

Delta - Scroll saw

Black and Decker - 240 volt router

Black and Decker - 240 volt variable speed drill with 13mm chuck

Dremel - "300" hand router

Record - "5 1/2" Jack plane

Bosch - PBS75 Belt sander

**If you are interested in any item please contact Mrs M Gray on Tel 01889 576921 Rugeley(Staffs)**

### Lathe and Tools

Record DML36SH with bowl turning attachment and rests. £175.00

Record Power chuck RP3000 £50.00

Robert Sorby Thread cutters £20.00

Robert Sorby Sandmaster £20.00

Henry Taylor Roughing Gouge £15.00

**Contact: Ken on 0121 378 0448 – Sutton Coldfield or speak to Phil Watts on 0121 308 7838**

### Custom Toolrests – David Fields

David's 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.bellamy@mswa.co.uk](mailto:paul.bellamy@mswa.co.uk)