



Programme

Chairman's Notes

Future Events

MSWA Meetings

May 1st
Hands-on and Open Day

June 5th
Margaret Garrard
Thin-walled turning with piercing and
colour decorations

Other Events

Club Competitions

May
Challenge
Laminated Bowl

June
Novice
Mushr
oom

July
Challenge
Finial Box.

Our next meeting is the first of this year's Open and Hands-on Evenings. These are predominantly social occasions but with opportunities to pick up those little tips on turning that make life so much more satisfying.

Paul Bellamy will be with us again to provide a clinic on tool sharpening. This is your chance to see the difficult techniques and tools available. It is not, as Paul emphasises, your annual opportunity to get your tools reground. Sharpening should be a regular practice within each turning session.

There will be activities and demonstrations on the club lathes to show you how, amongst other things, to turn mushrooms and similar items. If you want to see any tool or particular technique demonstrated, then give me a call or an e-mail and we will endeavour to oblige.

A slightly hasty note for this month as I am due to disappear for a few days to join the maintenance teams on the Lord Nelson but I look forward to seeing you all on 1st May.

Philip Watts



Editor's Scriblings

Mushroom for thought.

We used to ask the demonstrator to judge the monthly competition but this request was not always welcomed. The perils of acting as a judge is demonstrated by the story of the judge who commented adversely on the shape of a turned apple, only to be accosted by an irate competitor pulling out from his supermarket bag the real apple that he had used as his model.

The same applies to the turned mushrooms that we sell from our club stand on occasions. The classic shape is an Ogee curve with a rim of attached bark. Out of interest, I consulted a Nature Book and found the inevitable. None of the examples shown resembled our classic shape in any way. There are so many species however that it could be argued that any shape would turn out to be likely to exist.

This shouldn't stop you turning out mushrooms, or indeed anything else, for sale on the club stand in the following months.

Philip Watts

Competitions

This month's competition was for the Novices and two responded to the challenge of producing a honey dipper. Simon King collected the most votes with Peter Wood coming second.

A Snippet for the Newsletter

Ne pas pour les timides!

Une trembleur est un exemple de L'art de Tournerie qui est vraiment incroyable, seulement decoratif et par consequent totalment inutile.

Pour une exposition, visitez l'adressee suivant.

www.woodturningonline.com

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, I can accept photographs in both hard and soft copy, in many formats.



April Demonstration – Paul Bellamy – Laminated Bowls

Paul is a former member of the MSWA, very active whilst he was with us but even more active now both in his business activities and as Secretary to the Derwent Woodturners. He is always welcomed back to the club as a demonstrator and at the Hands-on and Open Evenings.

He and I share the common heritage of Editorship of this Newsletter and in the management of the club website. We also have a common interest in that we will never be the first to rush out and spend large amounts of hard earned money on the latest wood-turning gadget if we can perform the same thing by a simpler home-made (the Americans use the posher sounding term “shop-built”) device or technique. This night's demonstration was entirely in that vein. I bewail the fact that when I purchase a bowl blank from the likes of Craft Supplies, as they were, I do so in the knowledge that 80% of the wood purchased will find its way to the workshop floor in the form of shavings and thence to the wife's compost heap at best. So a more economical way of using wood will always be attractive.



There have been devices made to turn out bowls from within bowl blanks, one such device called a “bowl-saver” that have mimicked the pole lathe turner's technique of turning the centre of a blank as one piece in order to provide a blank for a smaller bowl. All that done by them with a ring tool and a lot of manual effort but also on greenwood. These manufactured devices have come with prices approaching three hundred pounds and, on the basis of the demonstration that I saw Phil Irons giving at one Daventry Show, requiring a sturdy lathe and one having what our American friends would call “plenty of grunt”. It would take a lot of bowl turning to recover the costs of that particular money-saving device. Paul brought one along to show for demonstration purposes only and emphasised that it one on loan from a friend. The other disadvantage of these devices is that they will only produce a range of hemispherical bowl shapes.

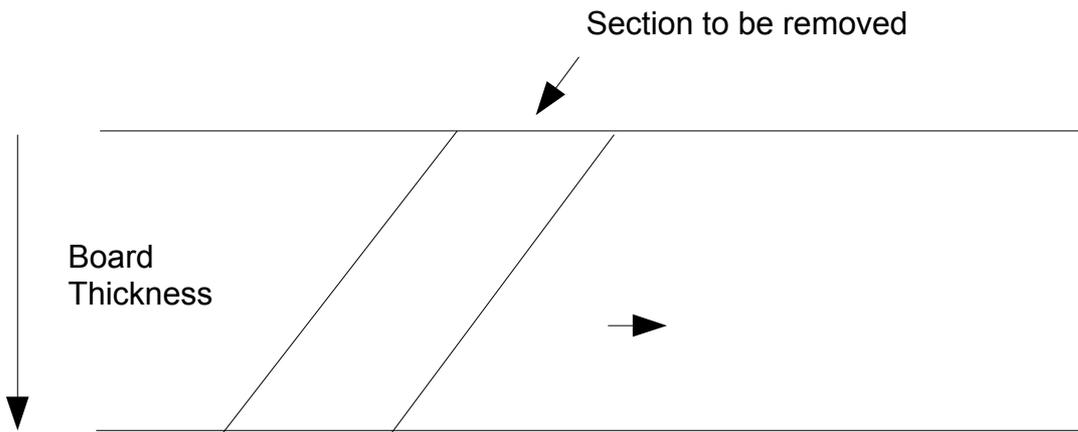
Craft Supplies had at one time supplied an alternative tool rest manufactured with a series of grooves intended to act as location points for a conventional parting tool and angled to produce a series of rings from a one-inch thick plank. Marketed as the Marrison System it was useful but very inflexible as it could not be used on wood of different thicknesses.

Paul's demonstration was designed to show that the same technique could be performed freehand without the use of the manufactured toolrest and guide, and could therefore be adapted to a range of board thicknesses. The first step was to mount his piece of board on the lathe using a simple screw chuck. The parallel screw employed provided sufficient strength even though the depth of thread was a little over 6mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch) The angle of cut was marked out on a piece of paper, making allowance for the depth of the wood and the thickness of the parting tool to be used.

The face of the blank was marked out to show the cut-lines for each ring. Cutting commenced from the front face with a standard 3mm parting tool and continued until the first signs of breakthrough could be felt on the back of the blank. Using that point as the guide, Paul now completed the cut from that side, having brought the tool rest round to a suitable position. The parted off ring is released towards the tailstock end of the lathe requiring skilful fielding by the turner.



Wood 'n' things



Note – Overlap of top and bottom

Repetition of this process produced the required number of rings. The last piece on the lathe obviously formed the base of the bowl. Paul's preference would have been to turn a tenon or spigot on this for mounting in a conventional chuck. However, a design preference with laminated bowls is for the top and bottom layers to be equal in height. For this reason, Paul turned a recess into this last piece and applied finish before removal from the screw chuck. An alternative approach would have been to glue a waster piece on the base.

The cut rings were then stacked in reverse order in order to be glued together using Paul's preferred adhesive, Titebond No 1, making sure that the faces to be glued were clean and free from any breakout. Rather than clamping, a preferred method is to place a board and weights on top. Although there are those who would turn such a combination within 30 minutes of gluing, most of us would prefer to leave the assembly overnight in order to ensure that the glued joints have fully set.

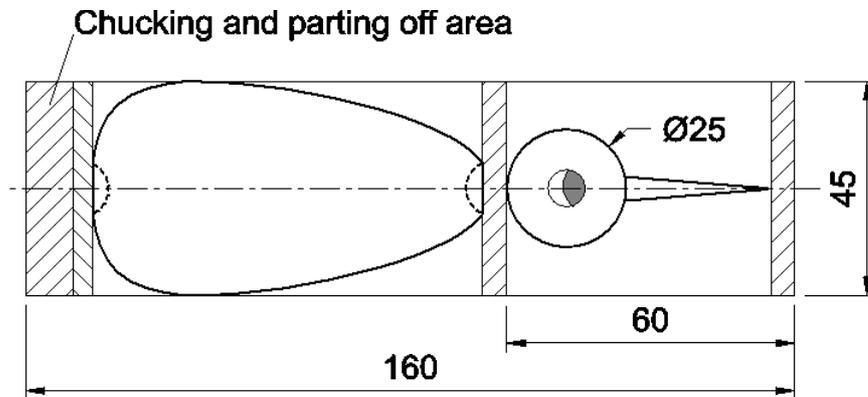


The glued assembly was remounted on the lathe using the same screw chuck and hole that had been employed in the initial turning of the rings. This hole was on what had now become the upper face of the base ring and the bowl was therefore mounted with its open face towards the headstock, in the correct position for the outside of it to be turned and finished.

From this point on, the turning became a largely conventional operation, only having regard with the thickness of the turned item driven by the overlap that had been achieved with the glued rings.



Making the 'Kiwi' Birds. (Designed by Danish architect Kristian Vedel in 1959.)

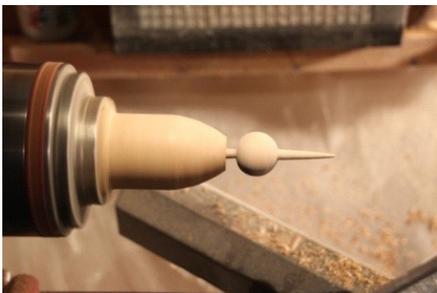


All sizes are approximate and can be adjusted to make birds of different proportions – but here are the main stages of how I made mine.

Cut a length of 45mm square oak to 160mm in length and mount either directly in a four jaw chuck or between centres - in which case a chucking spigot will need to be formed.



Reduce the square stock to a cylinder and mark off 60mm from the tailstock end to define the head and beak. Part in to the left of this line to a diameter of approx 20mm.



Reduce the end nearest the tailstock to 25mm diameter and then measure 35mm back from the tailstock end to define the beak (which should leave 25mm remaining for the head). Reduce this end



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section to 5mm diameter and then taper the 'beak'. Some preliminary shaping of the body can be done at this stage.



Begin to round over the 'head' section of the bird with gauge or skew (!) also reducing the area between body and head a little more but leaving enough strength in the wood for the next stage.

Next it is time to drill the holes for the eyes, which I did off the lathe, though they could possibly be done in situ. I used an 8mm dia forstner bit which had a matching plug cutter.



Making the eyes.

These could simply be dowel rod stained and inserted into the holes but for authenticity I decided to have a go at making them as they seem to be on the original design.

Cut two thin (5mm) lengths of contrasting woods - I chose sycamore and walnut.



Put one piece on top of the other and secure them both together so that they won't move. (I used double sided adhesive tape) and cut a wavy line along the length through both pieces. A scroll saw is ideal but a fret saw or coping saw will do the task as well. Mix the resulting pieces to give a combined piece of wood and glue together. Once dry use a matching plug cutter to the forstner bit used earlier (8mm) and cut through the combined wood to give an 'eye' equally formed of half walnut and half sycamore.



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Glue the eyes in place and allow to dry before remounting the oak in the lathe.

Carefully turn away the protruding parts to the eye and then sand smooth. Gradually reduce the area at the back of the head and finally part off the head from the body.

The body.



Hollow the end of the body so that the head can sit comfortably in the recess.



Part into the wood close to the chuck and turn the remaining wood to form an 'egg' shape where the widest portion is about 1/3rd of the length.



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Part-off the body and insert into a 'home made' collet type chuck which I made from a piece of Pine with a Jubilee clip to tighten the splines onto the body. Carefully hollow out the base end so that the head sits into the recess.



Sand, seal and finish.



Vance Lupton



Wood 'n' things



Club information

Your club committee for 2015 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

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Secretary – Dawn Hopley

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

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Abrasives -

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

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Committee Members

Health and Safety Advisor

Hugh Field

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.

Merchandise



Abrasives

If you need that finishing touch, the club has packs of Abranet, recommended by demonstrators and other club members, at £1.40 for a set of 5 sheets-120 -400 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

Dawn Hopley has taken over the responsibility for these items and may be seen at Club Meetings



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.

Recommendation from Vance Lupton

Great Barr Sawmills (1139-1141 Aldridge Road, Birmingham, West Midlands B44 8PD) to anyone that doesn't already know of it and can get to it.

They have a good supply of mainly homegrown softwood and hardwoods like Ash, Oak, Chestnut, Walnut, Beech etc but also Sapele mahogany in various widths, thicknesses (but not often more than 2-1/2" thick) and squares of up to 3" thick. *The BIG plus is that machining costs are INCLUDED in the prices which are very reasonable anyway.*

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

Axminster Jet Bench Top Circular Saw JTS-10
Assembled and complete with stand
Little used and taking up room £150

Record CL3 Lathe with Bowl Turning Attachment
£350 or nearest reasonable offer
Stand for CL3 Lathe £100 ono

Ring Philip 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