



Future Events

MSWA Meetings

September 7th

Gerry Marlow

Other Events

August

Woodfest - Loughborough

Club Competitions

September – Challenge

Cabriole Leg

October – Novice

Pot-pourri Bowl with piercing

With or without lid

November – Challenge

Decorated Acorn Box

Minimum 2 ½ inches diameter

The Wonders of T'internet

Isn't it amazing what you can find out on the Internet these days. Isn't it also amazing how much time you can waste surfing the very many sites without realising it.

I have been busy this month fitting kitchens and redecorating my Mum's kitchen for her. It is only a small galley kitchen, so I thought it would be a relatively simple job for a novice like me. Assembling the new cupboards was a nice easy task that kept me happy for a few hours, but then it came to start cutting and fitting the worktops. Various words of advice had come from differing directions, including what tools to use, what methods, which jigs etc. etc. All seemed to conflict and leave me more confused than when I started, so I decided to consult the wonderful world of Google.

Two hours later and I am now an expert in fitting kitchen worktops! I know which tools to use, what jigs to use, how to stop the edges chipping, how to mitre the joints and even how to rout biscuit joints and fixing bolt holes. All this is readily available on YouTube, with full videos to watch at your leisure. Trend had some of the best on offer, demonstrating their cutting jigs and tools of course, with direct links to then go and purchase them online.

So then, armed with my new-found knowledge and full of confidence I set out to tackle the task in hand. I arrived at my Mum's house with all of the correct tools in hand and keen to get going, only to discover that the job had already been done in my absence. In less than the time that it had taken me to sit and watch the videos on YouTube, it had all been done by hand using a simple roll of tape and a hand saw. A perfect cut, with no chipping at the edges, and done in less than 30 minutes!

So the moral of this tale? The Internet is a great place to lose a few hours of your day, but it can never replace the years of knowledge and experience of those that have done the job before and have learned all of the short-cuts the hard way. If only I had asked them in the first place!

Dawn Hopley



Editor's Scriblings

This issue could not be complete without some references to the Olympics. My ears didn't deceive me when I heard that the Games used to include events for artistic activities as well as the more athletic. Britain's John Copley, the winner of a silver medal in the 1948 engravings and etchings competition, was 73 years of age, making him the oldest Olympic medallist in history.

So could wood turning figure in the same games as Synchronised Swimming? A fascinating thought.

There are already competitions in the wood turning world. Visitors to events such as Woodfest, to be held near Loughborough later this month, will see the pole lathe turners competing to see who can turn two chair legs of the same design in the shortest time. They start with a plain billet of wood, cleave it into smaller diameter pieces, round it roughly with a spokeshave, and finish turn it on the pole lathe. All within times well under twenty minutes. This surely is an event that has an athletic element as well as the practical and aesthetic one of the chair legs themselves.



There are other accounts of wood-turning competitions to turn an egg cup with a captive ring around the stem, again in times of under five minutes.

The craziest competition must surely be that of the club that challenged members to peel a real apple held between centres on a lathe. I do not know which turning tool is best for that operation, skew or gouge. Any suggestions?

I am booked to sail later this month with a crew comprised of German paralympic athletes hopeful of competing in the next Paralympics. They have chosen to come over to England towards the end of this year's Paralympics by chartering the Jubilee Sailing Trust ship "Tenacious". We will sail from Emden, a port in Northern Germany, across the North Sea and up the Thames to the West India Dock in the shadow of Canary Wharf. As a preparation, I have been compiling a glossary of English/German Tall Ship sailing terms. Remember that some of these terms are not in common usage amongst even "yachties". You won't find clew-lines and a bunt-lines on your standard cruiser. Some care has to be taken in this exercise, otherwise one is likely to fall into the same trap as an engineer working in South America. He required a spirit level for some operation and, having consulted his Spanish dictionary, toured the local shops meeting only total incomprehension on the part of the shopkeepers. It eventually transpired that he had in fact been asking for a "horizontal ghost".

What has this to do with wood turning? Not a lot really, but it is intriguing that the approach in the German books on sailing in my possession seem to assume that you have to know some of the science of sailing before you set forth in a boat, whereas the English approach is the reverse. Our way is to teach somebody the mechanics of sailing first on the water and then introduce the science as a way of improving their newly acquired skills. It would be interesting to know if the Germans would take the same approach to wood turning. Would they expect you to know the difference between a positive rake and a negative rake parting tool before being allowed to take a chisel to a piece of wood? Do you know? Do you even care?



More on Spoon Making

No demonstration report because the August meeting is traditionally a video evening. This almost did not happen due to some of the audio leads going missing but some inspired improvisation involving the use of a test lead from the Editor's car tool kit saved the day.

The first video from Bob Cheltenham covered an aspect of bowl turning with a split bowl being reassembled as a seed pod. The second video showed Jimmy Clewes making a Norwegian style spoon.

Coincidentally, last month this newsletter included an article by Hugh Field on how he had made the spoon that formed part of his entry in the club Challenge competition. Your Editor had also provided an entry, the bowl being much less distinguished, but the spoon did attract some favourable comment. The techniques that I used in its manufacture were as described in a book by Phil Irons. He cannot claim copyright to the technique because an earlier book by Peter Childs includes an illustration of a jig virtually identical to that employed by Phil Irons. Jimmy Clewes chose to make his spoon in a much more complicated manner and it seemed appropriate, therefore, to fill these pages with a description of the simpler method, with a few tweaks that I made to the process.

We start with a simple piece of spindle turning, the blank being held between centres in an entirely conventional manner. Visualising the shape to be turned is probably the most difficult part. Perhaps the easiest way is to consider what the spoon will look like from underneath and turn the blank to match the silhouette. The bowl end of the spoon has to be spherical so that the wall thickness will be constant when the bowl itself is turned out. Sand and apply whatever finish is your favourite and which is suitable for the intended purpose of the spoon. Jimmy Clewes recommended a food-safe product by Chestnut.



Part off the blank after both ends have been turned down as far as you find practicable. Clean off the small stubs that remain.

It is now necessary to split the turned blank into two parts by cutting down the centreline. This could be done with a hand saw but a band-saw or scroll saw obviously makes the job easier. The safest way to do this is to make a vee-shaped block to hold the blank and to cut through both items together. You can do it without the holding block if you wish to live more dangerously but take care to keep fingers well away from the saw blade. Phil Irons suggests that you shape the upper side of the spoon at this stage. I preferred to split it down the centreline leaving a flat surface that could be used for registration purposes.

A number of techniques have been described by various writers to hold the spoon whilst the bowl is hollowed out. Jimmy Clewes seemed to make life difficult by holding the spoon on a screw chuck, turning a small groove on the base of the bowl in order to hold the spoon in a chuck for the hollowing operation and then being required to hold return the base of the bowl to remove the chucking groove. Other people hold the spoon in a variety of jam chucks, purpose built wooden chucks or simple wooden jigs. This is what I chose to do and the photograph shows a softwood blank mounted on a face plate. The centre of the blank is turned out to receive the semi-turned spoon with a cut-out to one side to accept the handle. A simple clamping plate holds the spoon in place. This is obviously easier than relying on making a tight jam fit alone.





Turning out the bowl out is a simple and quick process using a bowl or spindle gouge making sure that a uniform wall thickness is achieved throughout. Sanding and finishing is a repeat of that from the first stage.

The handle of the spoon needs to be thinned down with each side echoing the curve of the other. Whereas the Phil Irons' approach had been to do this when first cutting the turned spindle in two, I left this stage until later and found that it was quite easy to clamp the part-finished spoon to a square piece of wood before passing it partly through the band saw. I still felt that the resultant handle looked too thick and heavy and used rasps and files to hollow out the upper side of the handle to obtain a uniform thickness.



Philip Watts

August Competition

There were sadly no entries for the Novice competition at the August meeting. John Smith produced his entry of a Cabriolet leg for the September competition, and then sneaked it back into his car when he realised that he was a month early.

The real challenge had been to produce a cup and saucer. The shortage of entries was perhaps due to a combination of the difficulty and the holiday season together.

Hugh Field produced an item for the display table, being a cup turned as one piece complete with handle. An article on this has been prepared and will feature in a future newsletter.

Newsletter Material

If this issue appears to be a little sparse, then the solution is in your own hands. Submit material to me in any form, written or in digital, photographs in print or digital, and I will do the rest.



Wood 'n' things





Club information

Your club committee for 2012 is:-

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Position vacant protom

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Jane Russell

Terry Gray

Albert Heath

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.

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 amongst others 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! Involuted Turning – Sue Harker

Wood Turning with Steve Heeley – Steve Heeley

Wet turning with a difference – Stuart Mortimer

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.

Timber Supplier - Capricorn Eco Timber
Unit D
Ladfordfields Industrial Estate
Seighford
Stafford St18 9QE

Website www.capricornecotimber.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

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 at the club meetings.

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, see him at the club meetings.

For Sale: Clarke CDS300 - 300mm Disc Sander

Lightly used, in excellent working order - and with spare sanding disc.

- 305mm dia. backing plate for 300mm abrasive discs
- 750 Watt (1hp), 230v motor
- 1420rpm no load disc speed
- 400x133mm sanding table tilts from 0 to 45°
- Table mounted 120° mitre guide fitted as standard
- 52mm (2") dia. dust port.

Currently on sale at Machine Mart (see advert in June edition of Woodturning) for £143.98.

FOR SALE AT £100 ono

Interested?

Contact VANCE LUPTON on 01922 457159 or 07941069444 or email

vancelupton@hotmail.com

