



Wood 'n' things



Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue – August 2013

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Future Events

MSWA Meetings

August 16th

Curt Theobald
American Woodturner
Segmented Turning

September 6th

Peter Wood
Greenwood Days
Pole Lathe Turning

Other Events

August 26th

Woodfest
Beacon Hill Park Loughborough

Club Competitions

September

Challenge

An item turned on two axes

October

Novice

A lidded box with a square or
rectangular profile

November

Challenge

A piece of involuted turning

Chairman's Notes

It is now about halfway through a Chairman's Year and time to review progress. One of the things that most concerned me at the beginning of the year was the apparent decline in membership. I did not set a numerical target for an increase, although a 10-20% increase would have been welcome.

There have been new members, and they are particularly welcomed, but there have been losses also through the activities of Father Time.

I remain concerned, therefore, and would urge all members once again to take every opportunity to publicise the activities of the club and encourage visitors to our meetings. We have a number of high profile demonstrators in the remaining meetings of the year and Ted Gill is working on a programme of similar quality for next year so a continued level of support and attendance at meetings is essential.

Philip Watts

Chairman



Editor's Scribblings

Watching two members packing the club's video equipment away after Stephen White's demonstration reminded me of one of life's frustrations. At the risk of sounding like one of the old grumpy men, an ever present danger according to my wife, I struggle on occasions when packing away certain power tools into their purpose made moulded cases. No doubt packed in seconds by a deft fingered operative in some Chinese factory, the items never seem to fit as neatly when I try it. Perhaps, the only way would be to photograph each tool immediately on opening the case. That way, I could replicate the precise way that the power cord has been wrapped around to allow the lid to be closed without stress.

Philip Watts

Kings Bromley Show 27th July 2013 – A report by Jane Russell

Another fine Saturday saw five MSWA members spreading their wares enticingly across three tables, and turning a number of items. Among the smaller turnings was Ted's Whirling Dervish spinning top, while Vance turned a nifty cheese board to go with the cover he'd brought along. Thanks go to Ted, Vance, Geoff and to other members whose donated items were once again offered for sale.

We were in the same position on the field as last year, next to the craft tent, but rather tucked away out of line of sight from the main path. Although the crowds were fairly big, we had the impression that we had been more successful at Alrewas. Perhaps the two shows are too close in time to each other, but shows do tend to be unpredictable.

Fortunately the weather proved unpredictable too, as the threatened rain held off till the last cars were leaving the field. Thanks are due to Dawn, who was heavily involved with the Search and Rescue stall but made time to come over and help us pack up before the first fat drops began to fall!

The woodworking competition was a great success, in as much as it was entirely a MSWA affair! Four members entered, with absolutely no competition from anyone else in the area. While Geoff and Ted were pleased to win their trophies, Geoff for the most points, Ted for best in show, it would have been more challenging to have other entries to compete with.

As always, it was a fun day out with club colleagues and an opportunity to spread the word.

The full results are on page six with photographs on page five.

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.

Programme for 2014

Ted Gill is already working on this. Any suggestions that you might have, or recommendations about demonstrators that you have seen elsewhere will be welcomed. The success of the Open and Hands-on Evening will probably lead to a repetition next year. Watch this space.



August Demonstration- Steve White

The format for the August meeting often presents the opportunity for a subject related to wood turning but out of the ordinary to be introduced. This was certainly true of this meeting when Steven White, a woodcarver based in Lichfield, talked about his craft. Steve had tackled wood turning before taking up carving so had a good knowledge of our interest. He had consequently structured his talk to concentrate on “turning in the round” and had come with three examples of turnings embellished with carved detail.

Starting from the premise that the audience had little knowledge of his subject, a safe assumption in most cases, Steven spent the time before the tea-break talking about the range of wood carving tools available and how they were classified. The full range is extensive. Some of the terms are common such as gouges and skewers. (Editor's Note: Anybody interested would be best advised to get hold of an Ashley Iles catalogue in order to get a full appreciation of just how extensive the range of tools really is.) However, just as with wood turning, it was emphasised that 85% of carving could be achieved with a basic set of about half a dozen tools.

It is the intent of wood carvers that the finished work comes straight from the chisel without sanding as that operation is likely to remove any fine detail and sharp edges. The emphasis is on extremely sharp tools and this is a major difference between the two crafts. What we call sharp is only the starting point for the wood carvers. More on that later.

Safe practices in the holding of chisels and the use of mallets followed with considerable emphasis on the need to secure the work to a solid foundation such as a traditional work bench. Two simple ways of securing spindle and face plate work were demonstrated. Steven is not enamoured of some of the devices available in the market place. Movement of the chisel in such a way as to produce a slicing action through the fibres of the wood improves the finish of the item.

After the tea-break, we moved onto a practical demonstration of sharpening a chisel. The classic approach is to hand sharpen on a coarse carborundum stone with the stone placed on a piece of router mat to avoid it slipping along the bench. WD40 provides the lubricant. The chisel is moved from side to side along the length of the stone rather than from end to end as when sharpening a conventional chisel. The aim is to achieve a dull matt grey finish across the bevel. This process raises a burr within the gouge so a slip stone is used to remove it. The next part of the process is to strop the gouge bevel on a piece of leather loaded with a metal polish containing a mild abrasive such as Solvol. Final polishing may be done on a polishing mop in a drill or grinder.

Common woods for carving include some that do not normally figure in turning such as lime. The lack of a clearly defined grain and the relatively softness of the wood eases the problems of carving. The harder fruit woods such as cherry are used and Steve recounted how he was taught to carve on offcuts of oak and ash. Finally, we saw some actual wood carving with a short demonstration of lettering.

A most interesting evening with requests from members to invite Stephen back to take us further into the subject.





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Examples of Stephen White's work



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MSWA has been out and about this summer

First at Alrewas – picture by Vance Lupton



And then at Kings Bromley – picture by the Editor





August Competition

The challenge for the less experienced this month was to turn a pair of matching light pulls.

Philip Powell was the only entrant but one worthy of a first place, even had there been competition.

Kings Bromley results

MWSA provided the entries for the wood turning classes in the competition tent. Almost inevitably, this became a rerun of previous club competitions with favourite pieces being entered for the different classes.

Geoff Payne took the prize for the most points overall. Results for the individual classes were:



Class 95 – Decorated Top

1. Geoff Payne
2. Vance Lupton
3. Ted Gill

Class 97 – Under 7” in diameter

1. Geoff Payne – Vase and Flowers
2. Ted Gill – Sugar Bowl
3. Vance Lupton – Bowl

Class 98 – Over 7” in diameter

1. Ted Gill – Cake Stand
2. Vance Lupton – Clock
3. Geoff Payne – Clock

Class 99 – Candlestick

1. Vance Lupton
2. Geoff Payne
3. Jane Russell



Club information

Your club committee for 2013 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – John McElroy

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Abrasives -

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

Email: editor@mswa.co.uk

Webmanager – Philip Watts

Email: webman@mswa.co.uk

Committee Members

Albert Heath
Dawn Hopley
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.

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.



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

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.

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

All ex. Brian Garratt

1 Perform Woodturning lathe Variomatic 600-2000 rpm complete with 4-jaw chuck, revolving centres, face plate and other extras, £120

1 Camvac CGV286 36lt capacity £90

1 Woodcut TruGrind Sharpening jig including instruction disc. £70

1 Belt and Disc Sander £50

Ring Albert Heath on 01785 661851

For Sale

1 Glue Pot Cast Interior and Exterior £15.00
1 Draw Knife £15.00
2 12" Record G Clamps £30.00

Ring Albert Heath on 01785 661851

For Sale

Axminster Jet Bench Top Circular Saw JTS-10

Assembled and complete with stand

Little used and taking up room £150

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