



Chairman's Notes

Future Events

February 26th

Craft Fayre at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – Wolseley Bridge

MSWA will be demonstrating and selling items

March 4th

MSWA Meeting – Demonstration by David Springett



Club Competitions

March – Challenge Cup – A Biscuit Barrel

April – Beginners/Novice Cup – A Small Lidded Box

Things can only get better!

February is almost at an end and at long last the early evenings are starting to stretch out and gift us all with a few more minutes of daylight every day. For those of you whose lathes are housed in garden sheds, no doubt you will also be welcoming the warmer temperatures that will soon allow you to venture back into your workshops. It's not much fun out there when icy cold tools turn your fingers blue and some of your finishing products are frozen solid in their pots. I have a thermometer in my shed, and just before Christmas it recorded minus twelve!

February brought a rather inauspicious start to my reign as Chair. Poor Ken Allen was not well and unable to give his planned demonstration, so we had to resort to Plan B and show a DVD by Cindy Drozda. This should have resolved the situation, but the sound system decided to throw yet another spanner in the works, which nearly ended the whole evening. It was all rather embarrassing to say the least, especially when we had so many new members in the audience who must have been quite bemused by our antics. As one of you pointed out on the night, at least things can only get better. Fingers crossed that March proves this to be right!

Hopefully you will have all received your March edition of the "Revolutions" magazine from the AWGB. If yes, then you should have spotted the article submitted by Gordon Fradley regarding the Ingestre Church Yew Tree, and featuring a photograph of the competition entries from last year. It was a lovely surprise and nice to see the club getting a mention. Well done Gordon! If you have not yet received your copy, then please ensure that you have paid your annual subs and that you have provided your correct address to Roy Fallows.

I would just like to remind people about the new competition voting system that we agreed to try at the AGM. When you pay your door entry fee, you will be issued with a token. During the tea break, you will then use this token to vote for your favourite competition entry. The item that gets the most votes will then win. We tried the new system in February and it seemed to work quite well. However, there were only two entries which did make life rather easy. I therefore hope that next month I can encourage more people to enter the competitions so we can really put the new system to the test.

I would also like to encourage more people to bring items along to put on the display table. This could be anything woodturning related. Maybe a shop-bought item that has inspired you, work in progress or even something that went wrong and is destined for the log burner. Anything at all that may spark a conversation or inspire others to have a go at something new.

Until next time then, Happy Turning!

Dawn



Editor's scribblings

The first edition of the Newsletter under its new editor was a bit of a scramble whilst I worked out how the previous editor had formatted previous Newsletters, and then to establish how the e-mail distribution was managed. The latter depended upon an up to date e-mail address list from all members of the MSWA so if you did not get a notification of the new issue but merely picked it up from the website or by being told at the meeting, I apologise, but please ensure that the Secretary has your up-to-date details.

One challenge that presents the Editor in producing a Newsletter that can be printed out on paper as well as on the screen is the the first format drives you to an issue with pages in multiple of four. Thus, the step from an eight page issue to a twelve page one requires four extra pages of copy to be generated. It follows that there is plenty of room for articles from members. It has been said before and will, no doubt, be said again that it is your Newsletter. The Editor is only the facilitator. So, I await many articles on all topics even remotely connected with wood turning.

Notes from the Secretary....

The first meeting of the new committee took place on Tuesday 22nd February. Matters discussed were:-

- To continue the trial of members voting in the Monthly Competition.
- The lathe lighting has been resolved and a new camera purchased.
- Free AWGB Demonstrator day to be held at CHADS.
- A H & S risk assessment to be carried out and the First Aid kit brought up to date.
- The importance of welcoming visitors and new members was recognised. Greeter Mike Gadsby assisted by Margaret Hill & Brian Garratt.
- Chairperson & Secretary to be added to list of account signatories.
- 2010 accounts audited & found satisfactory.
- Commercial organisations will be charged for advertising links on Club website.
- John agreed to act as Custodian of DVD library and source new titles, as appropriate, which will be financed from general funds. Agreed to purchase Chris Stott DVD(s). Suggestions for future titles to John please.

Forthcoming events which it is hoped to support:-

Staffs Wildlife Trust Craft Fair Saturday 26th February, 10 till 4pm.

CHADS Annual Garden Party on Saturday July 9th, 2 – 4.30pm.

St. Luke's Church, Cannock are holding a Craft Fair & Arts Exhibition on Saturday 21st May, 10 – 4pm.

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

If you have any concerns or suggestions you would like raised in committee please let me know.

Will Rose



Rabbits and the Golden Ratio

Your new Chairman, Dawn, confesses to having other interests apart from wood turning, namely search and rescue dogs and fostering rabbits. So how can we tie some of these interests together? It is easier than you think. The idea came to me during the showing of the video of the work of Cindy Drozda at the last meeting.

In 1220 Leonardo of Pisa set himself the numerological challenge of determining how a rabbit population might grow, starting with a single pair of rabbits. The answer lay in a series of numbers that later gained the name Fibonacci. The series is quite simple. Start with two numbers 1 and 1. Add them together to get 2. Repeat the process with the last two numbers, namely 1 and 2 to get 3. Repeat the process again, and again to get the following series:

1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, etc.....

These numbers do not only have just a mathematical significance. They can be found appearing in Nature, in the sequence of petals on a flower, for example.

Now take each number and divide by the preceding number. If we do this, we obtain the following:

$$1/1 = 1.000$$

$$2/1 = 2.000$$

$$3/2 = 1.500$$

$$5/3 = 1.666$$

$$8/5 = 1.600$$

$$13/8 = 1.625$$

$$21/13 = 1.615$$

$$34/21 = 1.619$$

$$55/34 = 1.617$$

There is a progression towards the same value. A large number of iterations will produce the ratio 1.618. This you may recognise as the "Golden Ratio" often cited by turners as the basis of good design and proportions in bowls, boxes and finials.

So there you have it, from the growth of rabbits to wood turning design in two calculations. "Simple", as the meerkat says.

If you want to know more about Fibonacci and his series, I would suggest that you obtain a copy of "The Magical Maze" by Ian Stewart.

Philip Watts



Finial Star Bowls by Cindy Drozda

Ken Allen, the scheduled demonstrator, was unfortunately indisposed on the day of the meeting. Geoff Payne, The Events Secretary tried valiantly to locate an alternative speaker at short notice but was unsuccessful.

A DVD evening became the alternative and Cindy Drozda's ideas and methods for shaped and coloured final bowls became the subject for the evening.

I have to declare a conflict of interest here. I am married to a marquetarian. The purists of that art or craft are not in favour of the use of dyes on woods. They prefer to select a veneer that speaks for itself. Skies are represented by a single piece of veneer that gives an impression of a clouded sky rather than by piecing together different veneers for sky and clouds. Dying a veneer blue would be regarded as being beyond the pale. Furthermore, my greatest critic also regards tall thin finials as merely indicative of some form of macho turning exercise on the part of wood turners "Mine is thinner than yours!"

Cindy is an American wood turner with a wide range of other interests including hand gliding and trail running. Trained in a piano factory, she worked in a wide range of wood working shops before becoming a full time turner. An example of her work is shown below.



Other examples may be seen on her website.

The DVD is well lit and filmed and illustrated with good close-ups of the tool/wood interface. The use of a short piece of wood blue-tacked to a gouge to highlight the tool angle was a particularly neat solution. The wood used in the demonstration piece was kiln dried maple.

The first section of the DVD covered aspects of the design of finials. The need for the elements of the finial to lie within a cone and the use of the Golden Ratio to determine the proportions were covered with the aid of sketches. The finial itself was rough turned to a cone shape and the detail then worked in from the tip downwards. This gives the maximum support to a piece held only at the lower end in a chuck.



During turning, Cindy sands down each section, working through 400,600,1000,2000, and 3000 grade abrasives. The finished finial was then ebonised using nothing more than a Black Marking pen sold for labelling CDs and DVDs.

The bowl and lid were then turned separately. Key items of interest were the use of formers and the way in which each item was hollowed out first before the outside shape was turned. This appeared to many to be the reverse of a normal practice and involved the use of formers and jam chucks to hold the items in the lathe.

Finishing the bowl and lid employed penetrating dyes and a technique of letting the different colours penetrate to different levels, and then cutting back to produce a graduation in the colours across the piece. An interesting DVD that could be watched again by those interested in the techniques involved.

Report by Philip Watts

Mystery Object - What was the answer to the question?

The question asked in last month's issue was about the function of a device being produced by REMAP for a lady with severe joint problems. So what was it?

The problem presented was how to make the control for a gas fire more accessible to the lady. The control of the fire is a knob low down on one side of the fire that required a push and turn motion in order to ignite the pilot light and to control the heat level. The solution being developed was to employ a right angle attachment for a power drill (obtained on offer from a well known German supermarket chain) mounted in a cradle. The cradle drops into an open box structure fixed to the hearth alongside the fire. A wooden bush held in the chuck of the drive has a slotted face intended to interface with the control of the knob. Pushing the wooden knob at the top of the cradle away from the fire has the effect of pushing the gas fire control knob in, turning the knob at the top of the cradle then rotates the gas fire control knob. Development is still under way to get the device to work as easily as is required for ease of operation by the client.

This month's question is another problem of the same kind.



An electric shower unit is mounted high above a bath. Too high in fact for the potential user to reach. How would you modify the controls to bring them down to waist level?

Movement of the unit is not regarded as possible. The unit has two knobs. One knob controls temperature, the other flow. The knobs are detachable from the splined shafts of the valves that they control.



January Competition

The competition for January was for the Novice section and a bud vase was the required object. Two entries only were received and judging was by voting by the members present. Brian Smith received the popular acclaim. David Neil came in second.



Members are encouraged to enter for these competitions and we have had greater numbers of entries before. It would be great to see a resurgence of interest in April for the next Novice competition which will be for a small lidded box. While you are at it, try making boxes that fit inside boxes that fit inside boxes, etc....



Display Table Reminder

The club has a display table at each meeting where anyone can bring in items of work, be they 'in progress' or finished, for other members to see. It is not a competition, just an opportunity for wood turners to show what they are doing in their workshops, sheds, kitchens or even bedrooms! Items of interest can include special tools, jigs or fixtures as well as the resultant piece of turned work.



Club information

Your club committee for 2011 is:-

Chairman - Dawn Hopley

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Treasurer - Roy Fallows

Tel. 01543 491826

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

Tel.

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Tel:

Email:

Albert Heath

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! Involuted Turning – Sue Harker

Wood Turning with Steve Heeley – Steve Heeley



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

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.freemove.co.uk

Questions and answers

This section is an opportunity for members to ask questions for other members to answer, primarily about woodturning 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