



Future Events

MSWA February club meeting

Ken Allen - always an interesting demonstration from one of our founder members.

MSWA March club meeting

David Springett - a new name for the club. Watch out for some unusual shapes.



Club Competitions

February Novice Cup

A kitchen roll holder

March Challenge Cup

A mug tree

Premier Cup, January 2010

A piece of abstract art!!!!

STOP PRESS!!

Doug Birch MBE

Former club member awarded Queen's honour.



My thanks to the Express and Star for permission to use their picture



Notes from the Chairman

At the start of this new year may I wish all of our membership a happy, prosperous and in your turning, a productive and satisfying year.

Our AGM is now under our belt, but has given the committee quite a lot to get on with at their next meeting. In particular the larger screen project will take a fair bit of assessment as to what alternatives exist, their feasibility and not least, the anticipated cost. Similarly the proposal to consider having a library of special tools ie the ones that cost quite a bit but get used very infrequently by most of us, such as deep hollowing tools, texturing tools, chatter tools, captive ring tools etc. will involve quite a bit of work. Determining what and how many tools should be in the initial stock, what size of budget we can reasonably afford and reaching an agreement on a scale of charges for borrowing/hiring them, will take some time and effort to settle. So please be patient for a while and if your need for a deep hollowing tool is immediate, you had better rely on borrowing your mate's one for a little longer yet.

Relating to the AGM can I please express my thanks to all who turned up on the night and the positive nature of the meeting. It is, after all your club, not mine or the committee's and it is good to have this degree of support and involvement. Following the discussion on competitions, it is not for me to chide anyone on entering the competitions as I do not have a very good record of entering myself, but it is an incentive to improving one's quality of turning as you are attempting to achieve a standard set for you, rather than just something you fancy doing, knowing it is within the scope of your abilities. It has been noticeable in recent years that the silverware has not usually gone to the same person year after year, but new talents have come through and several of the members have shown a significant improvement over time. So if you can find the time to have a go, you may be surprised by what you achieve on a personal level even if it's not your name on the cup at the next AGM. After all, we all started as novices, none of us were born with a silver skew chisel in our hand! Could 2009 be your year to impress your fellow turners?

Finally I would like to thank the committee members who have stood again and we remain pretty well unchanged with the exception of a change of treasurer. Following his three year term of office, Maurice has now handed on the books to Roy, to whom we are grateful for taking on the position. So, lets see if we can't make the club in 2009 even better than it was in 2008

John



Wood 'n' things



Editor's scriblings

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year celebrations, with the bonus of Dawn's Xmas crossword. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and must admit one or two of the answers had my brain cell hard at work. Get your entries in to Dawn by the February meeting as she has offered a prize to the 'first one out of the hat' or the most complete entry.

New Years day had me out for a good walk, then I had to get the chainsaw out, after being given some ash logs. They are very green and I don't know how they will turn out but it will be fun to explore. Fingers crossed for some decent bowls!

I think my neighbour thought me a bit crazy wobbling around in all the protective gear but there is another advantage to wearing it, it keeps you nice and warm!

Looking to the future, Geoff Payne has spent some time organising this year's demonstrators and the committee has tried to come up with some new and challenging ideas for the competitions, so I think you have an interesting year to look forward to.

One request, as was raised at the AGM. If anyone would like to help out writing up a demonstration, please let me know and I can have a bit of a break! I am not looking for someone to take over completely, if you only do one, it will still be very much appreciated.

Here's to another year of woodturning for all of us!

Paul

What is it?

Can you identify the object in the picture?

Send your answers to me and the first person with the correct answer will have their name published in next month's newsletter. But I will have to guess as well, as this month's object was sent in by Philip Watts. Have you got anything to puzzle the readers? After reading Gordon's article I have visions of components for ornamental turning.



Last month's picture was a real mince pie. Well done to Gordon Fradley for being the first to recognise it. Still no answers to the previous two objects. I will leave them as mysteries until someone guesses what they are!

Winter driving tip

How can you tell if you are driving on a wet road or black ice?

If there is little road noise, you are on ice.

If you are on a wet road, the tyres pick up the water which makes a noise,
on ice there isn't any surface water so no tyre noise.

Drive carefully!!



Club information

Your club committee for 2009 comprises: -

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Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.



Next issue

Write up on Ken Allen's demo

Part 2 of Gordon Fradley's Holtzappfel experience.

Book review by Philip Watts.

That said, articles, pictures etc. from any other members will help keep the newsletter going. After all it is YOUR newsletter.

SHOP 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 T-shirts are ideal for the workshop at this time of year; nice and cool, but they are also smart enough to wear down the high street.

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 £2.10 for a set of 7 sheets - 120 -600 grit.



Newsletter Archive on CD

A CD is now available with all the newsletters for 2006, 2007 and 2008, together with images of the original newsletters from '94-'98. The cost is £2.50, which includes a contribution to club funds. If you would like one, please let me know. Paul



Books and DVDs

Just a reminder. The club has books and DVDs for hire. There is quite a selection and the fee helps support the club.



Wood 'n' things



January Premiere Cup competitions results

This was a pair of candlesticks, the second, a 2/3 scale copy of the first.



First place – Ted Webster



Second place – Albert Heath



Third place – Geoff Payne

Well done to Ted Webster who accepted the cup from our chairman, John Smith.





Wood 'n' things



The Challenge Cup This was a hollow form



First place – Ted Webster



Second place – Geoff Payne



Third place – Keith Lanchester

After totalling up the points won throughout the year, the Challenge Cup overall results were as follows:

1st = Ted Webster with 18 points
2nd = Geoff Payne with 13 points
3rd = Albert Heath with 12 points

Well done to Ted for winning two competitions. Sorry Ted, the photo of the second cup had an 'extra' so hope you will accept only one picture.

And finally ... the overall winners of the Novice/Beginners Cup: (I forgot to bring the cup, so we will now award this at the February meeting - Dawn)

1st = Brian Garratt with 12 points
2nd = Philip Watts with 11 points
3rd = Tom Young with 8 points

Well done to Brian but I think we need to watch out for Tom Young, our youngest member, in the future. That said, don't let him put you off entering your pieces, the competitions are there for EVERYONE.

And thanks to Dawn for keeping track of the entrants and their points throughout the year.



Wood 'n' things



Phil Irons - the big man from 'down under', well, Warwickshire.

from Dec 2008



Phil has been to the club before but tonight was to be a bit different. He started off with a brief review of his philosophy on woodturning. He likes to use bland woods, sycamore, maple, birch for example, for many of his hollow forms. The pieces are then decorated with textures and stains. Phil stressed that he would never decorate figured wood, "Let the wood speak for itself".

Phil didn't used to like colouring his pieces but when an ash burr failed to sell, he decorated it with some light coloured stains and all of a sudden it was sold. Just goes to show we all have different attitudes to appearance. One tip, when using stains is to cut a small V groove at the boundary of the area to be stained. This will stop the stain bleeding across the grain of the wood.

Tonight's demonstration started with a large piece of ash, recently cut and roughly sawn to the round, to get it better balanced. This was mounted on a four-prong centre and a live tailstock centre. Drive the four prongs into the wood with a mallet, then leaving it in place, offer the wood onto the headstock. Too many people remove the centre then have trouble getting the teeth lined up again.

Phil uses a long grind gouge held in a "light golfist grip". This means he has good control but his hand is still relaxed, to get a good feel for the cut. At this point he raised the subject of forged versus ground tools. Forged tools tend to be of softer metal so don't keep their edge so well as the high carbon steel ground tools but the edge will be sharper. Most modern tools are HSS (High Speed Steel) and will be ground but we can still choose the form of the grind. Phil likes the Ellsworth grind, which is a parabolic grind.



While on the subject of tools, Phil talked about chucks. The jaws should be appropriate for the job, as should the method of use. Generally, you should use compression mode as that prevents the wood being forced apart but it is still important to cut an accurate spigot. If you are mounting a piece on end grain, it may be better to use a faceplate and modern screws, which give a very secure hold.



To cut the chuck spigot, Phil used a 1/4" spindle gouge. This results in a nice sharp dovetail to match the chuck jaws. He also pointed out how useful it can be to turn with either hand. That can actually make it easier to cut some shapes, and just takes a bit of practise to build up confidence. One final tip to do with chucks, Phil advised against use of a washer when mounting chucks to avoid any misalignment. But it is important to tighten it before switching on the lathe or the 'snatch' will really lock the threads! (I know this from past experience - Ed!!!)

The evening was turning (sorry!) into more of a tutorial than a practical demonstration but it was all good information. Phil went on to discuss how to grind tools, especially long grinds. He suggested grinding the top of the tool first to get a reference profile then use a grinding jig to support the tool as you use the grinder to put the cutting edge on your new profile. Different grinds lend themselves to different tasks. Most bowl gouges have a steep bevel but this can lead to rings in the sides of a bowl caused by the heel damaging the fibres. If that is happening, remove it so the heel can move more easily.

Going back to mounting pieces on the lathe Phil recommends a ring centre over a cone centre. The ring centre has a point for the initial location but then the ring cuts into the wood to provide the drive without any more pressure from the point. Consequently not so much pressure is needed to drive the work. This means there isn't any force to split the wood, as would be the case with a cone centre.

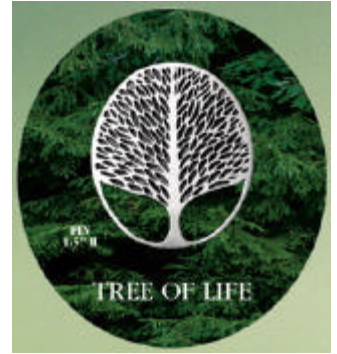
Getting back to the workpiece, Phil tidied up the developing shape using the bottom wing of his long grind gouge to shear cut the surface. This was followed by a pass with an RS200 scraper also in shear mode. This cut is useful as it is important to get rid of any torn fibres and compression rings where the grain of the wood leaves ridges on the surface due to the different texture between the summer and winter growth rings.



Wood 'n' things



Now Phil had got a good surface he could start to decorate the piece. He had come across a brochure, Lovelldesigns.com, with a picture of a tree and he wanted to use that as a base for his design. One difficulty when carving turned items is how to hold them. Phil has a neat solution to this with one of his 'toys', a rotatable bracket that fits in the lathe banjo and has a thread on which to mount the chuck. The work can be moved to any convenient working position to carry out the carving.



Using an Axminster carver at low speed he cut the tree into the wood. Phil was quite pleased with the effect achieved with only a few branches, so he stopped at that point and showed us the result - very effective.

The next stage was to hollow out the vessel, so the chuck was put back on the headstock. Then it was time for Phil to produce another new 'toy'. He was approached by a woodturner who came up with an idea to help turners cope with the stresses involved when deep hollowing. Instead of balancing the cutting force with your arm, the tool is clamped in a pivoting post that is mounted in the lathe banjo, in place of the toolrest. Now known as the 'Webby Captivgate' it allows the tool to move in and out of the turning and sideways but not up and down so once it is set at the correct height, all the strain is taken on the lathe, not the turners wrist or arms. A quick one-handed demonstration proved its ease of use and I am sure will be of interest to club members but don't use this to get round poor technique.



As Phil was running out of time to complete the piece, he chose to tell us how he gets the finish on his items. To colour his pieces he uses spirit wood stains applied with an airbrush. They are relatively easy to use but Phil recommended a dual action model, which allows independent control of the amount of air and stain. To protect areas that he wants to leave 'natural' Phil uses barrierseal to mask off those areas. When the colouring is completed, the seal is removed and the whole piece finished. Generally he starts with sanding sealer, then uses a lacquer, which is sprayed, not brushed on. After that he hand burnishes with a cream to polish the surface to the desired lustre. The lacquer is also more durable than many other finishes.

During the evening it became obvious that Phil had other things on his mind and all became clear as he recounted recent events involving his brother. Apparently his brother, also a woodturner, had a piece of timber he wanted to turn. He had noticed a small split but did not think it too serious so it was mounted between centres and the lathe was turned on. Unfortunately the lathe had previously been used to turn a much smaller piece and was set at high speed. And his brother forgot the advice to stand to one side when you first switch on in case the piece comes loose from the centres. That didn't happen but instead the split allowed the wood to disintegrate, sending shards all over the workshop, one of which hit him in the face. He managed to get to his wife who called the emergency services but they considered the injury so serious he was flown by helicopter to Glasgow. A piece of wood had embedded itself in his forehead, just missing his eye.

It is always easy to look back at our mistakes, and we all make them, but this was a very good reminder of some safety tips.

Check the wood thoroughly; start the lathe at low speed either by variable speed or by changing pulleys; stand to one side as you start the lathe and wear adequate protective clothing with appropriate EN ratings. I trust Phil's brother is making a good recovery

On a lighter note, Phil finished the evening with a mention of the Daniel collection. This is a collection of woodturned items purchased by the Daniel family, the only criteria being that both of them must like a piece. It does not matter who is the turner, famous or unknown, just its appeal. To see their collection visit: -

<http://www.thedanielcollection.com/index.php>

Thanks, Phil, for an interesting and varied evening.



The Holtzapffel Experience - Gordon Fradley

Many of you will know of Gordon Fradley's interest in Ornamental turning but sometimes interest in a subject can lead us all over the place. Gordon has had a very interesting Christmas, when most of us were putting our feet up and has been good enough to document his experience for us all to share. I hope you enjoy the article as much as have I.

The Mid Staffs Woodturners Association has meant a lot to me since I joined, very soon after its inception, but nothing meant so much as my recent experience with Ornamental Turning, which really brought the origins home to me. I became a member of this club and so I was present on the evening that Alan Hewitt from the South Cheshire and Staffs Woodturners came to give us a demonstration of Ornamental Turning, cutting various shapes and patterns with rotating cutters driven from a small overhead mounted motor. I was fascinated.

This maybe had something to do with my engineering background, where during my apprenticeship years with the then English Electric Co, I joined their Meter and Instrument Division and became deeply involved in the making of instruments and prepayment meters. At that time the Division was still involved with the wartime design and modifications to aircraft instrumentation, such as turn and bank indicators, air-speed and altitude meters and the ubiquitous bombsights. Apart from the bench work involved with the Company's team of very skilled Model Makers, I was also given the responsibility for operating up to three new 'Pultra' watch-lathes making one hundred sets of shafts, pivots and gear trains for a consignment of newly developed pre-payment meters.

Inevitably then my interest in woodturning was to lead me on to additional areas and I joined the Society of Ornamental Turners in 1998. Very soon I was struggling, not only with the pronunciation but also the spelling of the name 'Holtzapffel'. Ornamental turning originated in Bavaria in the latter part of the 15th century. In the late 1700's, an Alsatian Mechanic, John Jacob Holtzapffel, came to London and quickly established his workshop here in the early 1800's. His descendants maintained the tradition and continued to make lathes until 1927 by which time they had produced 2,557, all serially marked.

During the years I have been a member of the SOT, I have graduated to making my own ornamental turning lathe, together with the necessary cutting frame, drill spindles, dome chucks etc. and I'm sure some of you will remember that I brought it all along to the club for an evening demonstration and also an all day Sunday demo.

But enough of the background let us get down to the core of this story.

9th December 2008 is a day I will always recall with great pleasure. On the evening of that day I received a phone call from a gentleman in Hednesford. His neighbour had recently bought a Myford ML7 engineering lathe and accompanying the lathe were several boxes. The vendor had included them in the sale as having "something to do with the lathe". My contact, Jim, had deduced however that the bits and pieces were worthy of further research and had persuaded his neighbour not to put hammer, saw and chisel to these pieces in order to sell the brass for scrap.

And that was the second stroke of luck. Jim surfed the net, found the Society of Ornamental Turner's web site, struggled with the name Holtzapffel and then rang the MSWA and spoke to Dawn, our extremely efficient secretary, to see if there was anyone in the club who knew anything about ornamental turning. Dawn promptly gave him my phone number and I was immediately in, feet first, up to my neck. The guy did not even give Dawn his name or address, even though amazingly they lived very near to each other. He rang me and we discussed the find. I was convinced that we had a tremendously important find especially when he told me that all the hand tools were stamped 'Holtzapffel and Co. London'. We arranged that I would visit them that coming week-end.

Sunday 14th December dawned and at 2.00pm I arrived at the homes of Jim and Steve to be greeted with various comments such as "be prepared to blow your mind". After handling a bench full of beautiful Holtzapffel hand tools, thread chasers, arm rests, thread taps (Whitworth was but a boy then and the British Standard Whitworth thread was not introduced until after 1901) 'D' bits and boring-tools, I was directed to another shed. Steve, who by this time was beginning to realise the intrinsic value and beauty of his treasure trove said "You ain't seen nothing yet" and "I'll catch you if you fall" And fall, I nearly did, for displayed before me was the most amazing collection of exquisitely manufactured items I had ever seen. Most were laid out on the work-bench and all had been successfully preserved with grease.

I took a dozen pictures of the whole collection and taking my leave of Steve and Jim, assured them I would email a number of members of the SOT with the pictures, which I thought would be the most positive way of proceeding. There really is no better organisation to deal with such treasure and if the equipment could be linked to any existing Holtzapffel lathe, this would be in the best interests of all concerned.

After this, events accelerated and here's the record of how it all unfolded, in the form of my own notes.



Wood 'n' things



Monday 15 December 2008.

What a week-end I've had. I didn't sleep very well last night with all the excitement but I must e-mail the officers and certain friends at the Society of Ornamental Turners to let them know what I've found. I will attach a few pictures too, just to give them the flavour of this treasure trove, and I will await their replies with great interest.

Many of the items re-displayed on the truck.

Tuesday 16 December 2008.

A.M. This is the day that I expect replies to my e-mails to fly in. Later. I am not disappointed. Three replies have come in so far and John Edwards replies that the pictures I sent of the O.T. Aladdin's cave show that the find is a major part of a very well-equipped outfit and it would be great if we could find the lathe it belonged to. John tells me that recently he discovered a superb Holtz. lathe which would have been similarly well equipped. It had been re-built and fitted out by Holtzapffels in 1897 and re-sold for over £700 then! But now, sadly only the heads and frame exist. Wouldn't it be a marvellous thing, asks John, if this is the one? John also wants me to check with Jim and Steve to see if the chucks shown in the photographs carry the number of the lathe from which the chucks originated. This is a good idea so will e-mail Jim today. Oh, I nearly forgot. Paul Coker rang back to say what a find. 'As many other Ornamental Turners', he said, 'we all go through life, hoping and wishing that one day we might find some hidden Holtzapffel treasures'. For me that dream was realised on Sunday last.

Jim has just phoned and says that all the chucks are stamped with the same number, '2410'. I am quickly sending off an e-mail to the Society members simply quoting this, and I have naively asked if this number is of any value in tracing the original owner.

To be continued next month.

I have had to move the pictures around from Gordon's original article but you can still see the quantity, and quality of the equipment. It makes our modern kit look rather boring, doesn't it!!

And a timely reminder from Gordon, remember you can zoom in on the pictures when using Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the newsletter. That applies to all of the newsletter and not just for the images.

Paul - Editor





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.

Loose pulleys - Paul Bellamy

One of our members had a problem with their lathe when the pulley was slipping on the shaft. Tightening the grub screw improved the situation but a few days later the pulley was again slipping. The cause is that some lathes use TWO grub screws; the top one is a 'locknut' for the lower one. If you ever have this problem, try removing the grub screw and checking if there is another one underneath. Tighten that one on to the shaft, then the top one to lock it in place. Simple when you know what to look for.

The lathe in question was a Record DML but Myford use the same method and there will no doubt be others.

Liability Insurance - Paul Bellamy

If anyone is looking for insurance to cover demonstrating or teaching woodturning, I discovered this company, G. M. Imber. Have a look at their Craft Insure packages. If you do contact them, please mention my name.

<http://www.gmisl.co.uk/Home.html>



Useful websites

There is an awful lot of information available on the internet but some is better than others. If you come across any good or useful sites, please let me know and I will publish them in the newsletter.

The following are worth a look: -

An interesting site found by Geoff Payne,

<http://www.ronkent.com/techniques.php>

And one to think about and appreciate trees even more

<http://www.greenbeltmovement.org/>



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.

Ron Dixon - handsaw sharpening

As Ron mentioned it at the AGM, if anyone needs a saw sharpening, he 'has the knowledge and the tools' to show you how. Have a chat with him at any club meeting.

Ron Dixon - large planer thicknesser

Ron also mentioned he has a large Record Planer thicknesser (10" x 6") and has offered to plane timber for members. But be reasonable - don't turn up with a whole tree, and talk to Ron before knocking on his door!!!

Ash Boards - Paul Bellamy

I am trying to find a source of ash boards, about 1/2" thick and 6" wide. Can anyone recommend a supplier in our area? Please call if you can, 01543 472669



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

Poolewood 28-40 lathe - Paul Bellamy

A friend has asked if anyone would be interested in this lathe. I believe they are looking to sell for around £300. The money is going to the hospice that looked after their uncle.

Tel. Paul, 01543 472669

Clarke CBS355 Bandsaw and Sander - David Fields

Little used, 3-wheel bandsaw with integral sanding disk. Cost £270. Selling for £150. Tel. 01283 229072

Screwfix (?) table saw - David Fields

Selling due to upgrade. As with the bandsaw, has had little use. Cost over £100, selling for £50.

For more details tel. 01283 229072

WANTED