



Future Events

Chairman's Annual Report for 2011

Next MSWA Meetings

February 3rd 2012

Demonstration by Ken Allen

March 2nd

Mark Hancock

Firstly I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to be your Chairman for the last twelve months. I have to admit that it has been a steep learning curve and a little nerve wracking at times, but I can honestly say that it has been both a huge honour and extremely rewarding. Your kind words of encouragement and support have certainly made the job seem even more worthwhile. With your permission, I am therefore more than happy to continue in the role, as planned, for a further two years.

The role of Chairman has actually been made easier by the ongoing support from a dedicated team of committee members who have done lots of the hard work in the background. On behalf of all club members, I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their wonderful commitment to the club and give them all a huge round of applause.

Other Events

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
25/26th February 2012

Volunteers and items for sale at MSWA
stand required

Names to Dawn

Will Rose has done a sterling job as our new club secretary this year, and has been a huge asset to the club. I am certainly very thankful that he volunteered to fill the empty post at last year's AGM as the club may have been forced to close had he not stepped forwards. Roy Fallows has now been looking after our finances for the last three years and helped to ensure that we have a healthy bank balance. Sadly Roy is now stepping down as our Treasurer, but thankfully Vance Lupton has already very kindly offered to step into his shoes and Roy is happy to continue as Assistant treasurer.

Club Competitions

February – Novice

Honey set for breakfast (Lid, stand and
dipper)

March – Challenge

Philip Watts has also proved to be a more than welcome addition to the committee. Not only has he taken on the development and maintenance of the club website, but he has also done a fantastic job as Newsletter Editor and Health and Safety Advisor. With these three hats on, Philip has contributed a huge amount of effort this year and should be applauded for giving up so much of his spare time.

Geoff Payne must also be thanked by us all for his dedication to the role of Events Secretary. Yet again, he has provided us with a fantastic selection of demonstrators and has certainly made it yet another successful year for the club. Geoff has now fulfilled this post for over six years and should be commended for his commitment to the club. However, it is now time to hand over the baton to someone else. Should no one step forwards, then Geoff has very kindly offered to continue in the role for the next twelve months. However, it would be nice if someone new could take up the challenge and give Geoff a very well earned rest.

I could, and should, go on and on to thank everyone individually but that would simply take far too long. However, I must thank you all as club members for continuing to pay your annual subscription and attend the monthly meetings. Without you there would not be a club in the first place and we definitely would not be able to afford the

Table Lamp (not less than 8 inches high)



professional demonstrators that come to visit. Sadly we have lost a few members this year through sickness and ill health and no doubt we all send them our sincere best wishes and kind thoughts for the future. Fortunately we have also gained a few new faces that have helped to keep the membership numbers to around 50. Hopefully we can attract some more new members at this year's events and forthcoming shows.

Talking of shows and events, I hope you are all looking forwards to the annual CHADS, Kings Bromley and Alrewas shows as much as I do. They are always one of the highlights of the year for me and offer us a wonderful stage where we can showcase our skills and attract new members. Support at these events was a little disappointing last year with not as many club members available to help out as usual. However, you did donate many items to sell for charity which certainly helped to make them a worthwhile venture. I hope you will all continue to support these events in any way that you feel able. We also had the welcome addition of two craft fairs to attend at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust HQ near Wolseley Bridge. This again has raised some much needed funds for a very worthwhile local charity.

Looking forwards to the year ahead, once again we have an exciting schedule of demonstrators and some very interesting challenges for the monthly competitions. Bob Neill, Mark Hancock and Richard Finley will be back by popular demand after giving very well received demonstrations in the past. We also have some new names to look forwards to such as Mark Sanger, Colin Fishwick and someone very local named Paul Bellamy. Projects for you to attempt also include music boxes, table lamps and even a small side table to put them all on. Hopefully you will all be tempted to have a go this year and enter the competitions.

Dawn Hopley

Editor's Scribblings

This Newsletter is compiled with the aid of a piece of open source software known as Open Office. Open source means that the application has been developed by many people in the Internet Community and is made freely available to all. The programme is fully compatible with other commercial packages which I will not name. If like me you have a dislike of contributing to the already over-flowing coffers of a near monopoly, then this programme is for you and can be easily downloaded from the Internet or from most of the CDs/DVDs given with computer magazines.

One of its attractions is that it has an automatic correction of text facility coupled with a useful dictionary to which one can add words and names that are not already within. You may remember the Eric Morecambe sketch with Andre Previn where Eric when challenged states "that he is playing all the correct notes, but not necessarily in the right order." Thus I can type a word and, provided I have most of the right letters there, the programme will highlight the error and suggest a range of words that I might have been intending to use. There are dangers to this process as the little poem on Page 8 shows and the end product does still require proof reading.

I once got into trouble with a Client in a Contract Meeting when I used a quotation from an American humourist (or should that be humorist) which went something like this " I know that you believe that you understand what I have just said, what you do not realise is that is not what I really meant!" So as this second year of my Editorship commences, I hope that your forbearance will continue and that the odd slip will be overlooked.

Philip Watts



December Demonstration – Simon Hope (continued)

Simon finished his demonstration of pewter work on boxes a little earlier in the evening than he expected. Having previously been offered the chance of a tune on the bagpipes, the audience elected for a little more turning instead.

Simon selected for this part of the demonstration a small bowl blank of cherry about 8 inches in diameter. This blank had been prepared for mounting on a chuck by having a recess drilled with a Forstner type bit. Using a bowl gouge with a swept back grind and having the rest set a little below centre, he very quickly roughed out the outside of the bowl and formed a spigot on the base. Two ways of dealing with tears on the end grain. One used a tool developed by Tracy Owen which with a burr on the cutting edge produced a fine scraping action. Unlike traditional shear-scraping tools made of flat bar stock that require the user to counteract leverage created while cutting, Tracy Owen Fine Finishing Tools are machined from round bar stock which allows for easy side-to-side rotation and more importantly, the unique design keeps the contact point on the cutting edge vertically aligned with tool rest contact point on the underside of the tool at all times. This eliminates the leverage created when using standard common shear scrapers. This gives you more control with less effort and superior results every time. You can read more about these on the Henry Taylor wood turning tools site.

The second method was to use a skew chisel. The use of such a chisel on cross-grain turning is unusual and one guaranteed to give most turners an incipient heart attack. Simon presented the skew chisel at a 45 degree angle but with the line of the chisel at 90 degrees to the wood. The curve of the bowl was followed round maintaining this tool position. I, for one, will think very carefully before tackling this approach.

What not to do – another instalment

Over Christmas I was browsing through the South Auckland Woodturners website and the back numbers of their newsletter. This is not because that is where I get all my material but quite simply it is an excellent site with lots of project ideas and other information.

Two cautionary tales came to light from the newsletters. I do not wish to suggest that wood turning is an inherently dangerous pastime, but there some risks associated with rotating a piece of wood at a relatively high speed and then poking a sharp chisel at it that cannot be wholly ignored.

One story referred to an American lady turner working on a large bowl when it disintegrated, hitting her on the head. She died two weeks later without regaining consciousness.

The second related the tale of a New Zealand turner over anxious to try a new technique of carving or texturing a turned piece with a new tool which from the description sounded like a cross between an angle grinder and a miniature chain saw.. Tuition from a fellow member would have emphasised the need to have the item firmly held in a lathe, possibly chucked with support from the tailstock. The power tool would then have been held firmly in two hands before application to the wood.

The impatient member omitted all these steps. Holding his turned bowl in the left hand and the power tool on the other, he applied one to the other. The instantaneous reaction took him totally unprepared. The power tool first massacred some of the fingers holding the bowl before arcing upwards into his neck, narrowly missing a vital artery.

The doctors at the local A and E lost count of the stitches applied to his neck wound after the first 100, and continued stitching for another hour.

The full gory details, with photographs, can be seen in the September 2011 back number of the South Auckland newsletter to be found on www.sawg.org.nz .



A possible solution to dust

Dawn's comments in her December notes highlighted the perennial question of dust. I must confess to not being as punctilious as I perhaps should be in this area and my workshop requires a regular clean to remove the layers of sawdust that settle everywhere. Commercial dust extractors are available but are not cheap, with some prices almost equalling the basic cost of a lathe, so I was intrigued when I came across a suggestion by a contributor to a magazine suggesting that aquarium filter material and some redundant computer fans could be used to make a workshop dust extractor.

I did not have any computer fans that were not already usefully employed cooling computers but I did have an old fan heater that had lost a significant part of its heating capacity but had a centrifugal fan that was still operative. I mounted this in a wooden box with the inlet aperture on the vertical face and the outlet facing downwards. A wooden frame was constructed to trap a mat of aquarium filter material across the inlet. This material is a fine glass fibre mat and is easily available from any local aquarium shop.



I am aware from experience elsewhere that you can so restrict the airflow to a centrifugal fan that it consumes power whilst moving little air, operating in a stall mode. It may not be very scientific but I believe that you can detect if you are operating a fan in this way by listening to the noise as you play with the entry and exit apertures.

Does it work? As the photograph demonstrates, it certainly collects dust and I regularly vacuum clean the front of the filter mat. Taking the mat out of its frame and examining it more closely shows that the layer of dust is confined to the front layer and does not permeate through to the fan. It is obviously necessary as with the commercial dust extraction units to have the unit running throughout and to leave it so for a period after finishing work. I do supplement it when sanding with the use of an Axminster item described as a Vacuum Extractor coupled to a 100mm diameter hose which I attach to the lathe bed with shock cord. This unit can also be coupled to the band saw and belt/disc sander.

This may not rival one of Mr Dyson's products but it could well be better than nothing.

Philip Watts



January Competitions and Overall results for 2011

The Beginners/Novice Trophy

This annual award was won by Hugh Field with Brian Smith and David Neale following behind in second and third places.



High receiving the Gordon Fradley Trophy from Chairman Dawn.

Challenge Cup

It is regrettable that only two entries were on display for the January competition. Ted Gill's entry of a Christmas Lantern rounded off a year that saw him take the overall trophy. Hugh Field, another regular contributor took the second place.





Wood 'n' things



The overall results for the Challenge Cup for the year saw the same sequence with Ted Gill snatching the prize from Hugh.



Premier Cup



The Premier Cup brief for January 2012 was for a goblet with a barley twist stem. Six members responded and the entry that received the most votes was that from Hugh Field, a goblet second from left in the picture below with a twist starting in the bowl of the goblet and becoming an open twist in the stem region. Hugh's entry won him the Premier Cup.



Wood 'n' things



Having whetted your appetite with the results for the last year, here are the challenges for 2012,

BEGINNERS/NOVICE CUP: *(Open to beginners and less experienced turners only)*

Feb: Honey set for breakfast table (Lid, stand & dipper)
Suggestion at www.teknatool.com/projects/project5.pdf

April: Paper Weight

June: Jewellery – pendant necklace

Aug: Cup & Saucer

Oct: Potpourri bowl with piercing (with or without lid)

Dec: Decorated Platter (min. 8 inches diameter)



CHALLENGE CUP: *(Open to all club members)*

March: Table Lamp (min. 8 inches high)

May: Musical box with movement
www.shop4musicboxes.co.uk

July: Sugar Bowl & Scoop

Sept: One Cabriole Leg

Nov: Decorated Acorn Box (min. 2 ½ inches diameter)

Jan 2013: Small Side Table (Full size)



PREMIER CUP: *(Open to all club members and Judged at the in January 2013)*

Jan 2013: Vase with three wooden turned stems of Flowers

AGM



Skewed Bowls – a further instalment

Following on from the article in last month's newsletter, I came across a description of a jig developed by a New Zealand wood turner who felt that the principle of using cut wedges to offset the blank being turned was too slow and inflexible.

He designed and built a jig comprising two pieces of mdf connected by a ball and socket joint. One piece of the mdf is mounted on a face plate, the other is the carrier for the bowl blank. The ball and socket head obviously allows the angle between the two pieces of mdf to be adjusted. Rather strangely, the builder then found it necessary to place pillars of wood between the front and back plates, not relying on the integrity of the ball and socket joint. This was probably very wise but seemed to defeat the objective of a simple continuous method of adjustment..

So impressed were his fellow club members that they awarded him a prize at the Annual General Meeting for "the most dangerous jig of the year". I think that I will stick to the method that I described of using cut wedges as a glue chuck.

The MSWA Website Gallery

The website gallery is woefully understocked at the moment. I could add to it by posting pictures of the competition winners but the photographs snatched during the normal MSWA meeting do not always do justice to the pieces. I have received some pictures and these will be uploaded to the website shortly but more will be welcome.

So my request is the one that I have made before. Please send pictures to me by e-mail to the Editor@mswa.co.uk or give them to me on a CD at the meeting, or failing that give me good prints that I can photograph or rescan. I reserve the right to crop and adjust resolutions to suit the requirements of the website. Give me also a title and a brief description of the piece and any notes that you want to attach.

The website is a showcase for the MSWA. So here is your opportunity to assist in the presentation.

Pea Sea

Eye have a spelling Chequer,
It came with my pea sea.
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss takes eye can knot sea.

Eye strike the quays and type a
Word and weight four it two say,
Weather I am rite oar wrong, it
Shows me strait aweigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid it
Nose bee four too long
And eye can put the error rite -
It's rare lea ever wrong.

I've run this poem threw it,
Eye am shore yore pleas two no,
It's letter perfect in its weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

Anon



Club information

Your club committee for 2012 is:-

Chairman - Dawn Hopley

Tel. 01543 878714 Mob. 07860 501379

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Secretary - Will Rose

Tel 01543 490424

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Tel 01922 457159

Assistant treasurer – Roy Fallows

Tel. 01543 491826

Email:

Events secretary - Geoff Payne

Tel. 01543 480744 Mob. 07775 518769

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Abrasives - Terry Gray

Tel. 01889 576921

Email: tgray268@gmail.com

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

Email: editor@mswa.co.uk

Webmanager – Philip Watts

Email: webman@mswa.co.uk

Member's representatives

John Smith

Tel. 01889 577380 Mob. 07976 913811

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 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

Spirals – 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.

Teknatool Nova 3000 lathe, upgraded to 1Hp full electronic speed control, with remote and reversing switches, complete with stand, outboard bowl turning attachment and Supernova chuck - Paul Bellamy

This lathe is the same as the club lathe but was upgraded for a customer who has since pulled out of the purchase. It is an excellent lathe and I am only selling it as I now have a Nova DVR. The lathe also has the outboard turning attachment allowing you to turn bowls up to 29" diameter – big stuff! If you want more information, or want to see the lathe, please get in touch. I can also deliver and help set it up for you, as it is a bit big to go in a car.