



Future Events

August 31st. West Midlands Woodturners Open Day

Check their website for more details.

September 4th. - Club meeting

Tracy Owen will be demonstrating. This will be the first proper use of the club's new projector system.

New Midlands Axminster shop

Axminster will be opening a showroom at Nuneaton later this year. Not exactly on our doorstep but a lot closer than Yeovil or High Wycombe. An opportunity to see before you buy.



Club Competitions

September Challenge cup

An Auctioneer's Gavel and Block

October Novice cup

An egg stand

Premier Cup, January 2010

A piece of abstract art!!!



Notes from the Chairman

Following our editor's lightning strike disaster last month, there is a lot for me to mention as I try to cover what has occurred in the busiest two months of the year for our club.

Early July saw the CHADS garden party when we were able to present them with a cheque raised from our "Events Day", which when added to the amount raised on the day from our demonstration, was over £200. Following that our demo's at the Alrewas and Kings Bromley shows resulted in a significant sum being raised which will be going to the Stafford and District Multiple Sclerosis Society in due course. Can I stress that although I have an involvement with that society it was the choice and decision of your committee, not my decision, but I would like to thank them for supporting the M S Society. On that note, if any member has a strong reason for wanting to support a specific charity in the future, then please let a committee member know so that it might be considered. The support from club members at all three of the July events was considerable and I wish to pass on my thanks to everyone who turned up and helped out and without exception had a really good day into the bargain I believe. Ironically, although we are at these events to demonstrate and promote woodturning, they also turnout to be the times of best social contact and camaraderie and I have never attended any of these events that I have not thoroughly enjoyed. Something about getting back what you put in maybe?

Our club meetings over the last two months have featured firstly our old friend Graham Lovett who, as ever, came up with something interesting and which is not too demanding, such that we can make without the need of specialist tools or extreme skills. I always feel Graham's demo's are about fun turning rather than ultimate masterpieces and after all, isn't that what we aim to get from our woodturning? By contrast our August video evening was about achieving an exceptionally high standard even with a difficult piece of timber that many of us might have given up on. So the challenge is still there for us to achieve our full potential, but don't lose sight of the fact that nearly all of us take up this craft for pleasure and that for me is the most fulfilling part. The video evening was also the first time for our new video projector which will now be used and replace the monitor screens for future demonstrations. Happily, now that we have spent the money on it, the consensus of opinion appears to be that it is a considerable improvement. To me it doesn't seem long since the only aid to seeing the action was a mirror hung at 45 degrees over the demonstrators head. Health and safety had a lower profile then!

As I write this, Westonbirt is looming on the horizon and we have a full coach load, plus others going under their own steam, looking forward to a fascinating day out with almost too much to see if last year is anything to go by. All we need now is a dry day and for me to remember my camera this time!

John



Editor's scriblings

The good news is I have got a new PC and my backups have all been recovered following the lightning strike that wiped out my telephone line and damaged most of my electronic equipment. The bad news is it is running Windows Vista and I am having a lot of fun and games getting all my software to work. Good old Microsoft!! But it does mean I can start editing the newsletter again. However, please bear with me, both with the time getting it published and if I miss out anyone on the email lists. If you do hear of anyone who is missing a copy, please ask them to let me know.

And another apology to those of you who got a printed copy with the extra blank page in June. I set the printer running and came back to find it had decided to put a blank page in my document. Ok, it was MY mistake but it was early in the morning! Maybe I should have added that to Ron Dixon's 'Computer comments'.

My thanks, again, to Ted Webster for doing an excellent write up of Jim West's fruit demonstration. It meant I could 'publish' the June newsletter much quicker. Ted has also done the write up for July's demonstration by Graham Lovett.

The village shows have all been very successful, raising good amounts for charity but also as great social meetings for club members. Thanks to everyone who came along, and to those who didn't, we will be doing it all again next year so you have had plenty of warning!!

Finally, one thing I will pass on. My house insurance is/was with Barclays but I have discovered they pass on the claim's handling to another company called IVAL / Powerplay and they are proving to be atrocious. They will only communicate by telephone or email (tricky when you are claiming for your phones and PC) and I have had a host of other problems so I am still waiting for any offer of payment. The reason for mentioning this is not for sympathy but to let you know that other insurance companies use IVAL. I would recommend you check with your insurers how claims would be handled and if the name IVAL or Powerplay comes up, I would seriously consider changing insurer. I most certainly am, as soon as I get my current claim sorted!

At least the lightning didn't zap my lathe!!!

Paul

What is it?

Can you identify the object in the picture? Send your answer to me and the first person with the correct answer will have their name published in next month's newsletter.



Last month's picture was a bandsaw table insert. Once again, Derek Pyatt got there first, but as he does talks on bandsaws maybe I shouldn't have been surprised. And I just found out that John Smith recognised the spade bit from May's newsletter but thought everyone else would have guessed it. So a belated well done to John for that one, and a reminder to everyone, if you think you know what the object is, send in an answer - you might be the only one who does!



Club information

Your club committee for 2009 comprises:-

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Next issue

Report on Tracy Owen's demo. and hopefully pictures and a write up of the club trip to Westonbirt – Hint!!!

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



July competitions results

This month was an involuted turning.



First place – Albert Heath



Second place – Geoff Payne



Third place – David Dawes

August novice competition - an egg stand

And as I am on the competition's page, I must apologise for not having any pictures of the August competition entries. Getting all the kit ready for the DVD evening, I managed to forget my camera and nobody else had one at the meeting.

The competition was for an egg stand and was judged by Gordon Fradley who did a good critique of each of the entries. That always helps so you know what judges will look for.

The winner was David Neale , second was Tom Young and third was David Dawes. I think we've got a woodturning 'hotspot' at Barton under Needwood!

I will have my camera next month so everything should be back to normal.

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, "WOW! What A RIDE!!" ... Unknown



Graham Lovett does a rattling good demo

write up by Ted Webster.

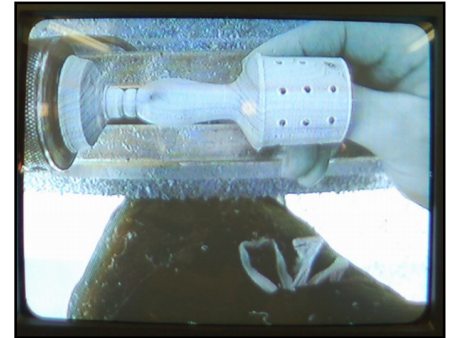
On Friday 4th July we welcomed Graham Lovett, and as expected he demonstrated some useful methods and tools, starting off with a child's rattle.

A maple blank was roughed out using a left handed roughing gouge, whose left hand side was ground back. The maple blank was turned to fit the scroll chuck. The body of the rattle was measured out, leaving enough to form the end piece for the rattle. Design was as for a box, the rattling end was the box and the remainder at the headstock end would be turned to form the handle. A series of parallel lines at the rattle end was measured and drawn onto the surface. A series of holes was drilled along these lines to allow the sound to escape the finished piece.



Hollowing out followed as for a box, the depth being the line of the last ring of holes. There are plenty of standard tools available for box hollowing: Graham mentioned Ray Key's box maker's scraper which resembled the Robert Sorby tool – these are made from a 5/16 inch bar cut down the middle or near that line. The cutting edge starts at the flat at the end of the cut bar and is at an angle to enable the cut to be made close to the inside edge of the box. Using box making methods the recess for the lid was formed after completion of hollowing. Next he formed the handle and parted it off, leaving the blank from which to form the lid. Taking the internal diameter of the lid recess; from the box, the lid was turned, forming the recess to fit the top of the "box." Decoration of the lid was done prior to

parting off. Graham's suggestion was to form a large sphere between the two ends of the lid. The rattle beads were placed inside the piece, prior to gluing on the lid, using child-safe adhesive.



Next came a paper knife, for which a tang end, a handle and the blade were made and fitted together. To turn the tang end, the required piece was held in a Morse taper in the headstock. To complete the handle, an axial hole was drilled down the centre. Sycamore was used to form the blade. The assembled piece was finished to 400 grit and sprayed with melamine.

A tin lidded glass jar was made to look quite presentable by fitting it with a wooden top. A suitable blank was fitted to a screw chuck and turned to fit the tin lid. When hollowed out to the required dimensions, the wooden lid was fitted to the tin lid. Suitable adhesives included cyanoacrylate "superglue" or "Cascomite" or its recent replacements.

Graham, as usual, gave us an interesting demo including some useful tips about tools and their use; also the obligatory "Elf an' Safety" advice flowed freely.





Wood 'n' things



CHADS Summer Garden Party

The club has been involved with CHADS for several years, doing demonstrations of woodturning at their Summer Garden party, selling items to raise funds for CHADS and this year, turning the tables by using CHADS to host our Special Events day.

As a vote of thanks to the club, Angela Peskett asked our chairman, John Smith, to open this year's event. I know John was quite nervous about this but he carried it off in his usual professional style. One job was to present a cheque to CHADS for the money we have raised for them this year. He was then involved in a presentation to one of the CHADS members whose expertise in hedge laying led to an award. The trophy was made by, you guessed, John.

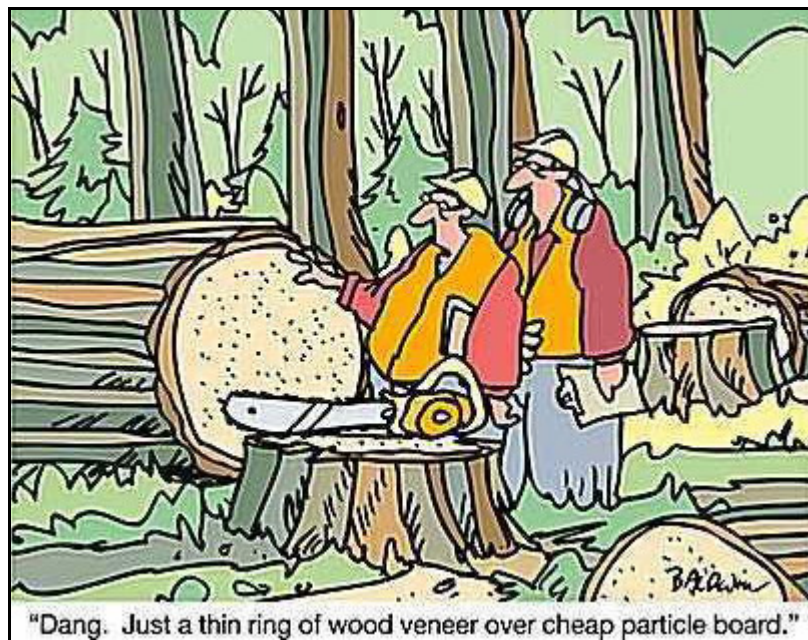
I don't know how much was raised but several club members turned up on the day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Presentation of MSAW cheque.



Hedge laying presentation





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 :-

The new Axminster store 'to be'. Thanks to Keith Lanchester for sending this one,
<http://www.axminster.co.uk/article-Our-Stores-shops.htm>

Local interest – Rosliston Forestry Centre
<http://www.roslistonforestrycentre.co.uk/>

And Staffordshire Wildlife Trust with places to visit,
<http://www.staffordshirewildlife.org.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

Record Power DML24 lathe - Paul Bellamy

This was my second lathe but since getting a larger one it has had little use, mainly for club shows. It is three speed and, as with all Record Power lathes, it is MT1 and has 3/4" x 16TPI headstock. Any questions, please ask. For sale at £95. I can deliver and help set up if you want but it should fit in just about any vehicle.

WANTED



Member Services

A request was made at the AGM for a list of club member's 'expertise' and interests. This would be difficult to administer for various reasons but the committee suggested having a section where members could offer their abilities to other members, so here it is. I hope it will grow as more of you are prepared to offer help or advice to other members.

I have not given telephone numbers or email addresses here as the newsletter is open to anyone on the 'net. I suggest you make contact at the club meetings or via a member of the committee

Ron Dixon Ron has many years experience in woodworking and can show you how to sharpen traditional hand saws He also owns a larger planer/ thicknesser and is happy to let members use it on their own timber. Editor's note: If you take up Ron's offer to use his planer, please make sure there are no foreign objects in your wood!

Derek Pyatt Derek has run his own tool supply business for many years but has now retired. However, he still has some spare parts for machinery e.g. drive belts. He is also able to supply spares and attachments for the obsolete Coronet brand. If you are looking for something, it would be worth having a chat with him. Unfortunately he can no longer supply bandsaw blades.

Paul Bellamy I have built up a lot of experience using eBay for buying and selling. It can be a great way to add to your tools but there are a few points to watch out for. If you need any help, please get in touch. My first tip is "just because it's on ebay, doesn't guarantee it's the best price".

Ron Dixon find some details about Swine Flu

I called the Swine Flu hotline ... all I got was crackling

I heard that the first symptom is that you come out in rashes.

Another is that you get the trots.

But, I woke up with pig tails this morning ... Should I be worried?

The doctor asked me how long I'd had the symptoms of Swine Flu. I said it must have been about a Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeek!

Apparently my mate's got Swine Flu, I think he's just telling porkies, though.

The only known cure for Swine Flu in humans has been found to be the liberal application of oinkment.

I hear there's now a sine flu as well. Someone on the news was going off on a tangent about it.

This little piggy went to market,
This little piggy stayed at home,
This little piggy had roast beef,
This little piggy had none.
And this little piggy had influenza A virus subtype hemagglutinin protein 1 neuraminidase protein 1

Swine flu, however, is not a problem for the pigs because they're all going to be cured anyway.

News Flash this just in. The world's religious leaders have issued a joint declaration that the Swine Flu pandemic is the start of the aporkalypse.

Swine flu has now mixed with bird flu. Scientists say they will find a cure when pigs fly.

I just heard on the news that, "Swine Flu could potentially be a threat to every single person in the world". Well it's a good thing I'm married then, isn't it?

This is not a time for panic. It is no pig deal. It is a mild hamademic, don't believe the spam you're getting.