



Future Events

MSWA Meetings

August 2nd

Video Evening and a talk on wood carving by Steve White

August 16th

**Curt Theobald
American Woodturner
Segmented Turning**

Other Events

Alrewas Show

20th July 2013

Kings Bromley Show

27th July 2013

Club Competitions

August

Novice

**A matching pair of curtain
or
light pulls**

September

Challenge

Chairman's Notes

A significant number of the club members attended the funeral of John Smith. Something that was noticed, and appreciated by John's family. Donations were made by them and others from the club to the Stafford MS Society, a group close to John's heart.

It is show time! MSWA has already been to the Alrewas Show as Jane Russell's report on the next page shows. This coming weekend is the King's Bromley Show. Why not come and support the club?

Why do we attend these shows? It is part of the effort that we need to make to attract membership to the club. The more members that we have, the stronger the club becomes both in numbers and associated finances. This will enable us to continue to provide a wide and varied programme for you.

This is the lead into the extra meeting scheduled for August 16th when we will welcome Curt Theobald. See the flyer in this Newsletter. Circulate all your friends in the woodturning world and encourage them to turn up for what should be a most interesting evening.

Philip Watts

Chairman



Editor's Scribblings

There are many in the club like me who admit, or bemoan, the fact that whilst they might have some degree of technical capability, this is not matched by any artistic or creative talent. A recent visit to the woodcarving museum in Brienz, Switzerland brought this home to me. Photography was not permitted, unfortunately, otherwise a picture would now be inserted into this text. However, words will have to suffice instead.

Much of the carving was in a traditional style. It would be ungracious to describe it in cuckoo clock terms, but you will be familiar with what I mean. There were more modern pieces on display. The one that stood out for me was very distinctive. The theme was the Joker, the card in the pack. Carved in low relief on a square background, the Joker's face emerged as a mosaic of jigsaw pieces with the boundaries between them clearly defined. Then came the touch of genius. The final piece of the jigsaw was in the hand of the Joker, coming out of the carving and ready to make the final insertion.

Now, how many people would have thought of that touch?

Philip Watts

Alrewas Show 2013 – A report by Jane Russell

Four members attended the show, and occupied a spacious corner in the craft marquee, in pole position opposite the entrance. Thanks go to Dawn and her trusty Axminster lathe, which soldiered on very successfully despite having developed a fault deep in its inner parts causing a worrying wobble! Owing to the lathe's slight tremor, an inadvertently off-set-turned bottle-stopper was achieved, among other more successful turnings! Thanks also go to Vance and John who provided beautiful objects for sale – and to all others who contributed turnings.

Further entertainment was provided by the show-ground generator, which required to be refuelled at ridiculously frequent intervals, signalled by the slowing of the lathe and the flickering of the lamp.

On the plus side, we had a fair number of visitors, several of whom showed an interest in at least attending the club, possibly with a view to joining. We were able to furnish them with very informative leaflets and business cards, thanks to John's efforts.

The recent long hot spell was varied today by a refreshing cool breeze which made the atmosphere in the marquee quite pleasant, and altogether the day was very enjoyable.

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.



July Demonstration – Frans Brown



It is a few years now since a group of MSWA members made the trip to Westonbirt Arboretum and came across the work of Frans Brown. As a consequence, Frans was invited to the MSWA and this July 2013 visit was, therefore, a repeat one.

Frans chose to demonstrate two techniques. The first involved one of the more simple fixture that has been shown to us in recent months. A round disc of mdf with a softwood strip attached to its back formed the basis of an off-centre turning aid employed, on this occasion for the turning of flat wooden pendants. In its initial setting, the fixture is clamped in a central position between the jaws of a four jaw chuck, using the tail stock centre as a centralising aid. The scrap, being one of the many offcuts of wood that tend to litter the typical woodturner's workshops, is held on the face of the fixture with double-sided tape.

The first stage of turning was to bring down the blank to a circular disc. The fixture was then moved to an offset position to allow a hole to be drilled and then opened out with a gouge. Finishing and polishing then completed the item. This simple design could obviously be varied in many ways including laminating a blank from different woods and turning across the layers, to carving and embossing the face.

A more intricate fixture formed the basis of the second part of the demonstration. Frans has a reputation for deep hollowed bowls and vases and is well aware of the difficulties of holing a long blank with a dovetail tenon in a chuck. This is particularly true if the blank is of wet wood, that is wood retaining a high moisture content. It is difficult to re-centre a blank that has moved off-centre due to a catch with a tool.

The solution used by Frans is to form the outside shape of the bowl or vase with the blank held between centres. A dovetail is turned to provide a holding point in a chuck but this method of holding is reinforced by the use of a Steady Rest. This was comprised of a circular steel ring mounted on the lathe bed at a short distance from the chuck. Three rotating wheels are attached to this ring, adjustable such that they can be brought to bear on the work-piece. The wheels on this particular fixture had been sourced from a charity shop in the form of roller blades, from which the wheels and bearings could be extracted for a price considerably less than sourcing new items from the Internet. Although the demonstration fixture had been made from steel, Frans believed that the device could be replicated in wood. One additional tip given was not to space the support wheels at the obvious 1/3rd angular positions around the fixture but to offset one of them; this avoided any resonance that might be set up by a knot or hard point passing under the wheels at constant time intervals.

A supplementary tool used in combination with this rest was an articulated tool arm. Pivoting on the banjo normally used to locate the tool rest, this device carried a hardened carbide tipped tool held at the correct height with respect to the work. Manipulation of this arm allowed the hollowing of the work without the stress and strain of a more normal hollowing tool.

Some suggestions for finishing a hollowed vessel followed. Cutting off the end of a vessel at an angle was one example. Tracing a pattern onto the vase using mediums such as carbon paper provided the foundation for carving using rotary burs in a high speed drill. Final finishing would be achieved using abrasive paper to soften the detail.



Wood 'n' things



Frans preferred to work with wet wood, both for the ease and pleasure of turning such material. Much of the wood generally available is likely to be in this form rather than that which has been seasoned over a long period, or kiln dried. He maintains the wetness of the wood during turning by the use of a water spray, this has the added advantage of reducing the amount of dust generated in the turning process. Wet, in this context can mean as much as 36% when measured with one of the moisture meters readily available in the market place. Finished work is reduced to the dried or seasoned state by placing it in a plastic bag packed with shavings from the work, sealing the bag and then puncturing it with about twenty small holes. Placing it in a draught free dark location then inhibited a too fast drying out process. Frans would aim for about a 1% decrease in moisture content per week, additional holes being made in the bag as the drying process continued. The shavings could be changed out to modify the drying rate if it is too great or small.

Final sanding would only take place when the piece achieved the correct level of moisture content, taking into account the intended environment for display.



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.



July Competition

The challenge for the more experienced this month was to turn a pair of chess pieces, a King and Queen. Four entries were the result and these are illustrated below.

An elegant pair from Ted Gill showed skills in turning and carving with a pair of medieval inset figures with expressions that can only be described as lugubrious.



Geoff Payne took second place.



And Hugh Field and Philip Powell tied for third place.





An Affiliated Branch of
**The Association of Woodturners
of Great Britain**



**MSWA
PRESENTS
AN EXTRA MEETING
ON
FRIDAY 16TH AUGUST
2013**

FEATURING

CURT THEOBALD

**AMERICAN
SEGMENTED TURNER**

<http://www.curttheobald.com>

Following his appearance at the AWGB seminar at Loughborough, Curt Theobald has agreed to visit us at Rugeley to share his insights into the world of segmented turning.

Internationally-known segmenter Curt Theobald is both artist and instructor, exhibiting in some of the largest and most prestigious galleries, as well as teaching segmented turning workshops in which he demonstrates the processes that he uses to create his amazing pieces.



INVITATION

You are invited to join us on the evening of Friday 16th August 2013 at 7.00pm.

Members £5.00 Non members £6.00

Etching Hill Village Hall,
East Butts Road,
Etching Hill,
Rugeley.
WS15 2LU

Contact: events@mswa.co.uk



Club information

Your club committee for 2013 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

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Secretary – John McElroy

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

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Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

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Abrasives -

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

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Webmanager – Philip Watts

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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

John Smith has been responsible for the DVDs. We will advise you when we have made new arrangements.



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

Lathe and Tools

Record DML36SH with bowl turning attachment and rests. £175.00

Record Power chuck RP3000 £50.00

Robert Sorby Thread cutters £20.00

Robert Sorby Sandmaster £20.00

Henry Taylor Roughing Gouge £15.00

Contact: Ken on 0121 378 0448 – Sutton Coldfield or speak to Phil 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