



Wood 'n' things



Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue – June 2014

Editor: Philip Watts

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Future Events

MSWA Meetings

July 4th

Sue Harker

Deconstruction and offset turning
A Wall Plaque

August 1st

Dawn Hopley

Other Events

June 28th

CHADS Garden Party

July 19th

Alrewas Show

July 26th

Kings Bromley Show

Club Competitions

July

Challenge

Pagoda Style or Stacking Boxes
Minimum of 3

August

Novice

A Cup and Ball Toy

Chairman's Notes

Your committee met recently for one of its bi-monthly meetings. What did we discuss? Certainly not the event presently taking place in Brazil. Most of those present professed total ignorance of the subject.

We obviously monitor attendance levels and the financial health of the club. Both would benefit from an increase.

Ted Gill, as Events Secretary, has already identified the majority of the potential demonstrators for next year and will shortly be beginning to confirm their bookings. We can look forward to another excellent programme with some old favourites as well as new faces.

It is our intention to repeat the pattern of having two Open cum Hands-on Evenings within the year. Having been advised that this year is the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the MSA, we are considering how we should celebrate this as part of our November meeting. Your suggestions would be most welcome.

Dawn will be representing the club at the CHADS Garden Party, a local charity that we have supported over the last few years. The club will also be appearing at the Alrewas and Kings Bromley Shows. The dates are shown on the left. Come along and join in the fun. We intend to operate a rota system to even out the workload and ensure an even representation on the stands at all times. Let me know if you can assist and the times that you will be available. You do not have to demonstrate, just be ready to chat about your pastime and encourage visitors to either buy from the stand or, even better, join the club. These events help to bring revenue to the club.

We have been discussing the possibility of increasing the storage available to us at the Village Hall. This would permit us to look at purchasing a second smaller lathe for the club that we could take to shows and the possibility of replacing the present camera/projector system with new cameras and a large flat screen monitor.

Philip Watts



Editor's Scriblings

I have a collection of books printed by the Guild of Master Craftsman Publications containing a series of Tips for Woodturners and Carvers. All had previously been submitted to and published in the magazines Woodturning and Woodcarving. As the Introduction to the first of the series says "Some of the tips are as old as woodturning itself, but perhaps with a new twist. Some are sparkingly original and ingenious. But all will give someone, somewhere just the answer they need to that thorny problem."

There have been times when I have devised a way to tackle a problem, thinking it to be an original thought on my part, only to find that somebody had suggested the same approach many years before. Some of the ideas in the books are simple. Some are of the variety only achievable by those with access to a comprehensive scrap bin, "I took this piece of 1 ½ inch thick aluminium that I happened to have lying around", and who had a similar access to an equally comprehensive array of workshop facilities.

I obviously cannot just cut and paste these tips into this newsletter for you delectation and delight. There is something known as copyright! However, all of you must have a favourite tip or way of doing something that you could share with fellow club members. Just jot a few notes down, with photos if appropriate and send them in my direction. I will do the rest.

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, I can accept photographs in both hard and soft copy, in many formats.

Club Competitions

The Novice competition was contested solely by Jane Russell who collected maximum points in this series. Where are all the other potential entrants in this class. Stop hiding your lights under a bushel and compete in the next competition in August when the challenge that has been set is for a cup and ball toy.





June Demonstration – Martin Lawrence

A demonstrator new to the MSWA, Martin Lawrence is an ex-West Midlands Police Officer who took up wood turning after retirement, inspired by his father who worked in wood and particularly as a carver. Martin quickly became active in his local wood turning club and is now equally involved in the AWGB.

His project choice was a “sunset” bowl based on a design by Mick Agar and involved the use of texturing, colouring, and a novel application of aluminium. The basis was a blank of sycamore mounted to be turned “cross-grained” on the lathe, using a bowl gouge with a long grind. I do not intend to dwell on this aspect of the project as the principles are well known and have been demonstrated to us on many occasions.

Two approaches to texturing were demonstrated, however. The first, and simplest, involved the use of punches and screwdriver heads to make indentations on the surface of the bowl. Martin used the dividing head on the lathe to mark out quadrants around the periphery of the bowl before lightly tapping different screwdriver heads, ranging from standard flat blade through a range of Philips and Pozidrive bits. A visit to one of the cheap stores can often provide a source of many including start-shaped ones.

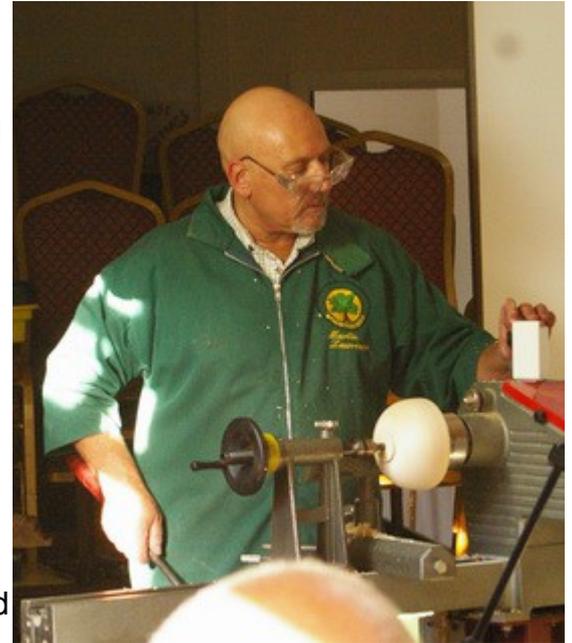
A more sophisticated approach employed the specialised tools available in the wood-turning market place. Three examples are:

Henry Taylor – mini elf available for about £45

Crown – small texturing tool for about the same price

Sorby – a much larger tool costing up to 3130 if you acquire all the accessories.

Martin demonstrated the use of all three types with the lathe running about 800rpm. Bands of different textures applied around the outside of the bowl. The importance of cleaning out the textured area with such as a hogs hair brush was emphasised. A method of highlighting the texture used an airbrush and a Chestnut spirit stain diluted a part stain to 9 parts thinners to cover the textured area in black. The advent of a tea break allowed this to dry before a very light application of a silver gilt (shades of Chelsea Flower Show here) created the final effect. No further finish is required.





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A feature of the project design was the incorporation of aluminium rings in the base foot and also inside the bowl. The source for these large diameter rings turned out to be aluminium scaffolding tube polished up with a fine grade wire wool and polishing mop to achieve a finish looking like a polished stainless steel or pewter. An application of a microcrystalline wax such as Renaissance completed the finish.

The inside of the bowl could be textured but this design featured rings of red at the outer rim fading into an orange with an overlay of yellow spirit stain bringing out the colours.



A selection of work by Martin Lawrence including a completed example of a sunset bowl in the centre.



Club information

Your club committee for 2014 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – John McElroy

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Abrasives -

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

Email: editor@mswa.co.uk

Webmanager – Philip Watts

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Committee Members

Dawn Hopley

Health and Safety Advisor

Hugh Field

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.

Merchandise



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

Dawn Hopley has taken over the responsibility for these items and may be seen at Club Meetings



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.

A tree surgeon near Stafford has several tonnes of small diameter yew logs for sale.

Rob Keyzor Tree Surgeons can be contacted at 01785 284088 (Ask for Jack) or through the website

www.robkeyzor.co.uk.

Steve is a member of Coombe Abbey Turners and has a massive stock of timber which he is happy to sell to turners and woodworkers. The timber consists mostly of locally sourced native hardwoods, planked and kiln dried, and is available at great prices; some really lovely stuff. Steve lives in Sapcote in Leicestershire, not too far away, and close enough to Axminster in Nuneaton for a joint visit! Steve can be contacted on 01455 273894, and his website is www.woodcharm.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

Axminster Jet Bench Top Circular Saw JTS-10

Assembled and complete with stand

Little used and taking up room £150

Ring Philip 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