



Programme

Chairman's Notes

Future Events

MSWA Meetings

July 3rd

Steve Heeley

Something Different

Not one that we have seen before

August 7th

Sreve White

Back by popular request
Carving on a turned vessel

Other Events

July 18th

Alrewas Show

July 25th

Kings Bromley

Club Competitions

July

Challenge
Finial Box.

August
Novice

Whistle or Flute

I make a practice before going away on holiday to investigate the wood turning activities in the area to be visited, be they local clubs, turners, shops, etc.. This is usually done by using the inevitable source known as th'Internet. I had not done this before a recent visit to Lymington in the New Forest and a haven for many "Yachties" but a perusal of the local free newspaper advertised the presence of a local wood turning and carving club with meetings taking place every week and thus also during our short stay.

Note that. Meetings in the plural. I received permission from my wife for a short absence one evening and accordingly made my way to the Lymington Community Centre, less than a five minute walk from the centre of the town and our hotel.

The Centre is indeed a centre for many activities with meeting rooms, a cinema, cafe and, in an outbuilding, a workshop. The history behind its presence seemed unclear although it had been used by a local school in the past. Given its existence, a group of people now meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening for two hours and also on Wednesday mornings.

The workshop contains a number of workbenches and machinery in a screened off area. Three lathes are available as well as a band saw and other equipment.

Some half dozen people were present when I arrived and this apparently is typical. I explained who I was and received a warm welcome. We shared experiences and club practices. Most of the members present were carvers but there were turners present and the workshop was also used by local members making essential repairs to such as furniture.

The active turners were also members of one of the local wood turning clubs so also had access to a club programme of demonstrations, hands-on days and competitions.

So they had, in many ways, the best of both worlds with frequent access to both local facilities and to a well established club.

Philip Watts



Wood 'n' things



Editor's Scribblings

I detected a trend in the entries for this month's Novice Competition. There appeared to be a view that to succeed it was not just a case of demonstrating good turning skills but also producing an entry that would stand out in its originality. Thus, we had mushrooms in clumps on logs and presented in supermarket baskets.

I do not think that we have to take the competitions seriously to the nth degree but the purists might have objected that the competition brief was for a "Mushroom". One in the singular not in the plural. (I must confess that I had considered sliding a copy of an old-fashioned darning mushroom into the mix to see what the reaction to that might be.)

Next month's Challenge Competition is for a finial box. According to the Oxford Compact English Dictionary, a finial is

"a distinctive section or ornament at the highest point of a roof, pinnacle, or similar structure, or an ornament at the top end, or corner of an object."

Many common or garden items boasted finials. The prime purpose after all was to protect the end grain of a wooden pole from water ingress but many became ornamental items in their own right. For those seeking inspiration, I could have directed you to learned treatises on the different designs of finials used by the many railway companies in the U.K. that existed before amalgamation into the four big companies and later nationalisation but instead I will highlight a different application. I may have included this photograph before in the Newsletter but I have always admired the carved finials found on the flagstaves of Dutch barge yachts.



More seriously, the American Turner Cindy Drozda has published articles on the design aspects. See Page 22 of the present edition of the AWGB magazine *Revolutions* for details.

Philip Watts



Wood 'n' things



June Demonstration – Margaret Garrard

Margaret Garrard has established a reputation for herself in the field of wood turning with particular emphasis on the turning, colouring and piercing of thin walled bowls. It was few years since she had visited the MSWA, research into past Newsletters showing this to have been in October 2008, and this visit proved to be a welcomed return appreciated by all who attended.



Margaret commenced by attaching a chuck type faceplate to a sycamore blank. This is the wood that she uses most, although she has also worked in oak and ash. The blank was trued up on the lathe with a cut being made with a parting tool on the headstock side of the blank to establish a true edge for later reference. A spigot was turned on the base with care being taken to ensure that this was true and that a landing was retained around the spigot to act as face against which the chuck jaws would locate when the blank was reversed. Accuracy here is essential as a small offset that might not be noticeable in a thicker walled bowl would certainly be so in a bowl turned down to a thickness of 2mm.

The base of the bowl was shaped using a bowl gouge and a pull cut with the chisel flute facing toward the turner. A swept back ground gouge was used to shave off any high points before sanding with a 120 grit and higher grade abrasives. A final tidy up around the base of the spigot and a concave face turned on the end completed the turning except for the addition of a small bead to the base. This would provide a location for a final turning of the bowl base at a later stage.

The bowl was now reversed in the chuck and the benefit of having the turned edge previously turned on the edge of the blank closest to the headstock was now evident in the manner in which it could be used to check the alignment of the blank. The faceplate was only removed after this alignment check. Important, recognising the aim of turning the bowl down to a thickness of the order of 2mm. Using a bowl gouge, Margaret now commenced hollowing out the blank. The technique of turning thin walled bowls is to leave some of the “meat” in the centre of the blank to assist in keeping the wood stable. Turning of the walls to the final thickness is then undertaken from the rib inwards, working in sections and taking each section down to the desired thickness before moving on to the next. Margaret constantly checked progress with a pair of callipers and also demonstrated how support with a finger could assist in steady cuts. Nevertheless, there was evidence of the wood moving even in the short time that this part of the demonstration took rendering it impossible to go back to take further cuts. Sanding with 120 and 180 grits completed this part of the exercise.

Reversal of the bowl on the lathe in order to provide a final finish to the base and to remove any marks left on the spigot by the lathe chuck was achieved by trapping the bowl between a mushroom shaped wooden insert held in the chuck and a live centre over which a turned metal block had been placed, the face of this block being shaped to match the small bead on the base of the bowl. This ensured that the bowl was centralised on the lathe. This completed the turning phase, just in time for the tea break.

The demonstration continued with the bowl on a small work table placed on the lathe. The inner surface of the bowl had been sprayed with water to raise the grain and cutback with 400 and 600 grade abrasive to provide a fine surface on which a design could be drawn. Margaret explained how she took her inspiration from a wide variety of sources, from birthday cards to the internet. Ultramask, a clear adhesive film is placed over the surface. This can be easily cut through with a craft knife to allow selected portions of the design to be coloured. Acrylic paint thinned for use in an airbrush was used, the transparent colours allowing the deeper colours to be over-sprayed with a lighter colour. Lots of thin coats of paint produce a better finish than one thick coat.



Wood 'n' things



For those not presently equipped with an air brush, Margaret demonstrated a technique of using a “puffer” and an acrylic pen. With these pens, a coat of sanding sealer is best as the acrylic is spirit based.

The final phase of the demonstration covered the piercing work that is a feature of Margaret's designs. For this she uses a high speed Dentist's drill driven by an air turbine at over 100,000 rpm. The areas to be pierced are marked out in pencil and then a very steady hand does the rest.

Final finish is with an acrylic sealer and finish from Chestnut.



The part completed project with some piercing but more to be incorporated.

An excellent demonstration appreciated by all who were there. Margaret also provided details of the suppliers that she uses and these details in the information section at the back of this Newsletter.



More examples of her work:



Wood 'n' things



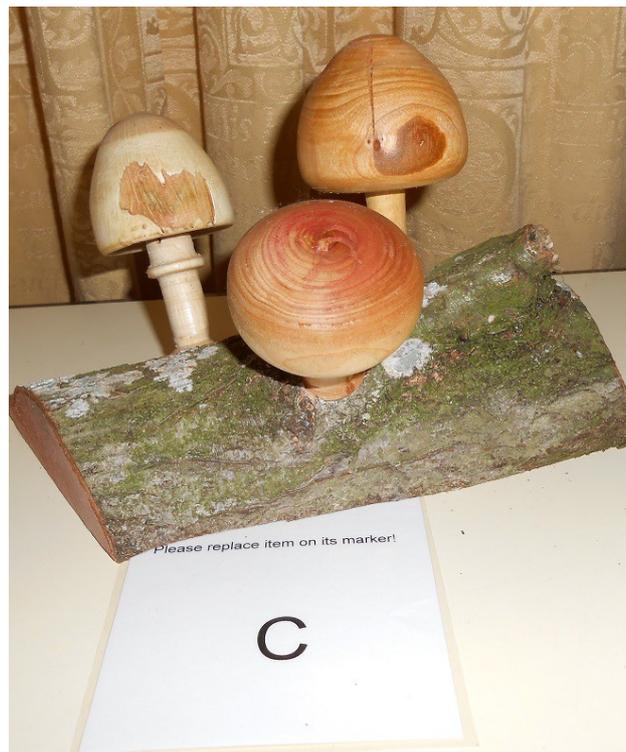
June Competition

This Novice Challenge called for a “mushroom” Four entries were received and the results were as follows:

First place: David Neale



Second: Tony Tripp





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Third: Phil Williams Entry B on the right and Fourth: Simon King Entry A on the left of the photo.



Newsletter

The Newsletter is for your and the club's benefit. If you have something to say then write it down 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.



Wood 'n' things



Club information

Your club committee for 2015 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – Dawn Hopley

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

Email: webman@mswa.co.uk

Committee Members

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 £1.40 for a set of 5 sheets-120 -400 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.

Suppliers used by Margaret Garrard

NSK Presto 11 Hand Piece
Website NSK England
Phone Alex or Tony 01438 310670

Cutting Burrs 1.6 size for NSK
Dental Sky
Phone 0800 2944700

Artool Ultra Mask
Graphic Air
Phone 01423 522836

Golden Airbrush Paints
Copic Pens and Airbrush System
Graphic Direct
Phone Paul 01423 359730

Compressor
Machine Mart
But do look around for other suppliers.

Micro Machine and Cutters
Woodart Products
John 07770226640

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 CL3 Lathe with Bowl Turning Attachment
£300 or nearest reasonable offer
Stand for CL3 Lathe £100 ono

This lathe and stand is being sold on behalf of the club.

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