



Future Events

April 3rd - MSWA meeting

Mike Hanbury

April 17/ 18th - Record Power Spring promotions show.

Unit 8 Adelphi Way, Ireland Ind. Est., Chesterfield, S43 3LS
10:00 -16:00 Free entry.
Spring promotions

April 24-26th - Spring Woodex

Warwickshire Exhibition Centre
Tickets £2.50 No advance booking. Free parking

May 1st - MSWA meeting

Gordon Fradley

May 17th - MSWA events day

CHADS, Armitage
All day, hands on, club demonstrations, tool trials, Bandsaw, grinding and saw sharpening workshops. Big prize raffle. Tea & cakes!!
Come and support your club



Club Competitions

April Novice cup

Any piece of fruit

May Challenge cup

A set 6 coasters complete with holde

Premier Cup, January 2010

A piece of abstract art!!!

NEWS ! NEWS !

Skills and services page

New section. on offer from other club members. Do you have something to offer?



Notes from the Chairman

What a good night we had with David Springett, the best attendance this year so far, the best number of entries for the competition for a long time and a really fascinating demonstration. David's enthusiasm for his turning and his skill in putting it over was a joy to behold. I got the feeling at the finish of his demonstration that no-one wanted it to end and the good news is we have already booked him in for 2010.

David's approach to his turning had that aspect of the enquiring child who wants to know what happens if I try something else and from this you start to understand what took him along the path which makes him pretty well unique in the woodturning field. You feel every advance he has made has been a wonderful discovery and that in turn has caused him to go one stage further. The results were on the table for all to see and as someone commented "it does your head in". After all those years since I left school, I now have found out what geometry is all about and maybe I should have paid a bit more attention instead of looking out of the window. I am still trying to work out why a simple turned shape, when split in half suddenly becomes a star or a cross or a hexagon.

I have to confess that I did not manage to put an entry in for the competition yet again although I do have a mug tree "I made earlier" as they say. This was a prototype that I made over ten years ago to see how it looked which I was then going to repeat in oak and make a real good job of. Sad to say it is still waiting to be done and I'm not really sure where the wood is that I put aside to do it. The prototype was put into service in the interim and is still fulfilling that function. The idea was that when the new oak version was made I would get half a dozen nice mugs to put on it. I then called in the Crown Derby Factory shop but finding out they ran out at around £60 to £80 each proceeded ten miles up the road to the Denby Pottery and acquired six of theirs at a much more affordable figure. They now grace the prototype. However in my defence I have in the last month made a set of book shelves for one grandson, a bedside cabinet for another grandson, got half way to repairing a child's chair and dug the vegetable patch over. So please believe me, I have not been idle.

Following our last committee meeting I can confirm we are now trying to organise the "Hands on" day which we hope will be in May and have got a sub-committee looking into updating the TV monitors. More on these matters as soon as we have something to report.

John



Editor's scriblings

Well this month's demo was a bit of a handful. I had been looking forward to David Springett's visit but I hadn't realised he would cram so much into one evening. My notepad was fizzing!! I just hope I have got most of it written up for you. And the pieces certainly set my brain to work, back to my maths with geometry and finite bounded and infinite unbounded shapes. I just won't be trying to derive the formula to describe David's work, just put it down as amazing.

I must apologise to the competitors from last month. I have been told I got the results / pictures in the wrong order. This month's competition was well subscribed which raises some questions. Do people prefer to make utilitarian objects instead of more abstract items or have we got some new, more enthusiastic turners? Whatever the reason, well done to everyone who entered and let's hope this trend continues.

And sorry for the VERY late publication, I went down with a bad cold in the middle of the month and only just managed to get it all done just before the meeting.

Paul

What is it?

Can you identify the object in the picture.
Send your answers 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 the tin opener attachment on my Swiss Army pen knife. That was sort of guessed by John Smith who thought it was the bottle opener. I couldn't be that hard to say he was wrong. John also identified the October mystery object as the side view of my pair of safety goggles.
Still no answers for November's object.



Club information

Your club committee for 2009 comprises:-

Chairman - John Smith

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Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Secretary - Dawn Hopley

Tel. 01543 878714 Mob. 07860 501379

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer - Roy Fallows

Tel. 01543 491826

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Assistant treasurer - Post vacant !!!!!

We need someone to take on this role to eventually take over in 3 years from Roy. Please will someone come forward. You are all part of this club!!

Tel.

Email:

Events secretary - Geoff Payne

Tel. 01543 480744 Mob. 07775 518769

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Abrasives - Terry Gray

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Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.



Next issue

Write up on Mick Hanbury's demo.

That said, articles, pictures etc. from any other members will help keep the newsletter going. After all it is YOUR newsletter.

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



March competitions results

This month was a mug tree.



First place – Geoff Payne



Second place – Dave Dawes



Third place – Terry Gray



Well done everyone. Great to see a large number of entries and just goes to show, there are many designs for even the simplest of objects.



Wood 'n' things



Vive la difference



English is a nice, simple language. Boys are masculine, girls are feminine, and things are neuter or "it". There are exceptions, of course. There are to any rule. Ships are always feminine, even when they have names such as the "Lord Nelson".

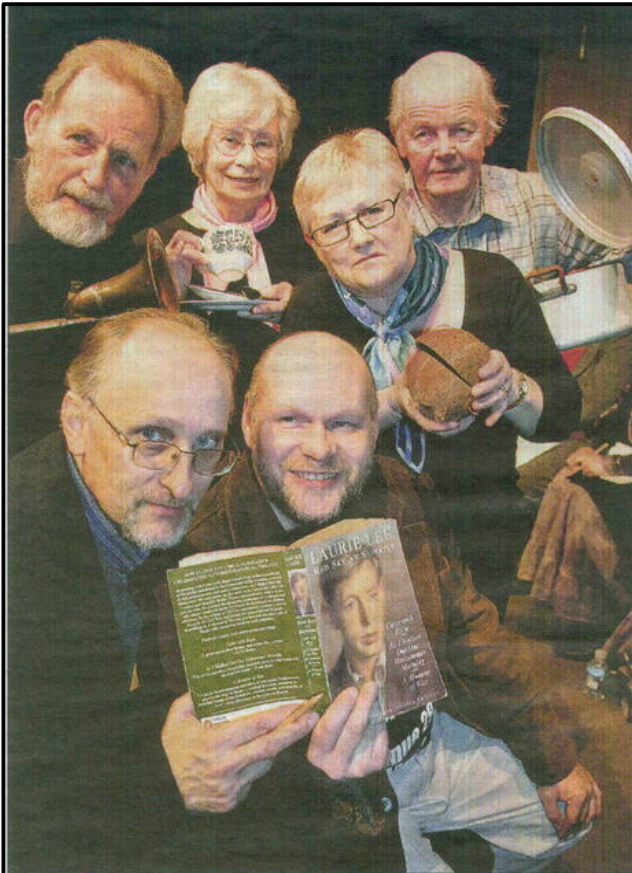
French is different. Things can be masculine or feminine. Logic does not always apply. There are words for intimate parts of the human body that are masculine or feminine in the French language that are without any correspondence to the sex of the person to whom they are attributed.

Having found one's way into a shop in Provence entitled "L'art de Tournerie" (The art of Wood turning), how do you explain to the owner that you are not a buyer but do have a deep interest in the items on display. "I also have a lathe" sounds easy enough except that "le tour" is a lathe in French but "la tour" is a tower. Using "la" instead of "le" and thus saying "I have a tower in my workshop on which I make wooden bowls" is guaranteed to create confusion and does not lead to a sensible discussion on wood. And then there is the "Tour de France". Here, I believe, there is a touch of the Franglais to confuse us all since the dictionaries are quite clear that it should be the "Voyage de France".

The dictionary is quite clear on one thing, however. A lathe-operator is masculine. Sorry, Ladies.

Philip Watts

Turn and turn again, Mr. Worrall



I was shown this article in the Express & Star (21st. Feb) by Chris Gibb who recognised the face in the picture. He thought other club members would like to see our former chairman in a different guise. Yet another string to Peter's bow!! And joined by his wife, Joan, a long standing supporter of our club.

My thanks to Chris for the article and to the Express & Star for permission to use it in our newsletter.

Getting ready for Cider with Rosie are actors Peter Carrington-Porter and Ray Manning with sound effects staff Peter and Joan Worrall, Ann Bickle and Monty Smit

Cider With Rosie goes live for radio audience



Wood 'n' things

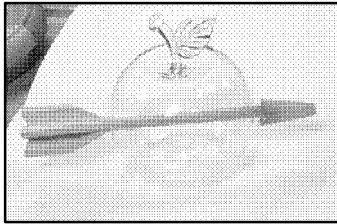


Dave Springett - a real wizard!

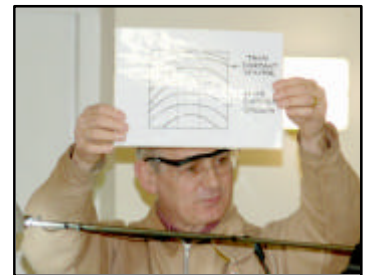
This was the first time Dave Springett has visited our club but his work is probably known to many members so it was not surprising the evening was well attended, and we were not to be disappointed.



David started with a brief introduction about the various forms that he turns, especially his Chinese balls and bobbins but he emphasised that he likes to do everything small. He also believes in saving money (like the rest of us) so is keen to make his own simple jigs to make jobs easier. And he will use cheap chinese chisels as the starting point for one-off tools, with specific grinds.



David enjoys his turning but especially likes challenging the viewer with many of his pieces. He produced a glass bottle with a wooden arrow shot through it, then a glass apple, also with an arrow piercing its centre.. Easy, he said.



The secret is to use a piece of wood with well spread growth rings, in this case a piece of lime about 20mm square and 200mm long. At one end he has routed grooves which will be the flights. This is easier than carving them afterwards.



The wood was mounted between centres and using the skew point, David cut a line at the head end to stop any splitting. He then used it to get the wood to the round. The arrow was shaped and the shaft turned down to 8mm to suit the 9mm hole in the glass. The measurement was made with a set of Aldi calipers (very good value) but make sure you round the tips to prevent them catching. The arrow head needs to be trimmed with a saw to the same thickness as the shaft but the crucial thing is to have the growth rings go across the piece.

The next challenge is to drill the hole in the bottle. Using a diamond drill, you still need to lubricate it as it cuts. This is done by placing a dam of putty round the hole and filling it with paraffin. To mark the hole a GENTLE tap with a centre punch will do the job and the bottle is filled with sand to provide support when the drill breaks through.

Now the real puzzle is to get the arrow through the hole. It is put in a pan of boiling water for 15minutes, then it is squashed in a vice, compressing the growth rings. That is why the orientation is important. The arrow is left clamped for 3 days. When it is dry it maintains its compressed shape and can be passed through the hole in the bottle. Finally it is put in hot water where it will swell up to its starting size and shape. Now you too can puzzle your friends!

David showed us several other puzzles that make use of this compressibility of timber, which are easy to work out when you know how, but that's true of all good puzzles

Many of David's pieces make use of wooden spheres, so the next part of the evening he showed us his own jig which he uses to produce them. The idea is to hold a cutter at centre height and swing this around, gradually cutting most of a sphere.

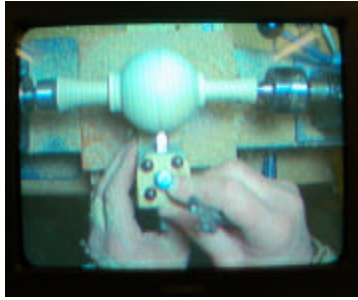
The jig is made from 6mm MDF laminated into a J-shaped block with a gap at the top for the cutter. David uses standard size spheres, 62mm in diameter, 2.5" for the old school! The jig pivots on a piece 20.5mm high to allow for movement as the jig base is 20mm thick. So how do you work to fractions of a millimetre? Easy, cut close and sand to the right size. So we can all work to fine tolerances!



The cutter is held in place with a block using a captive nut. Once the jig is setup on the lathe, centred both longitudinally and height, a piece of wood is mounted between centres, and the cutter moved in to make the initial cut. The cutter is progressively moved forward until most of the sphere has been cut, leaving two spigots either end.

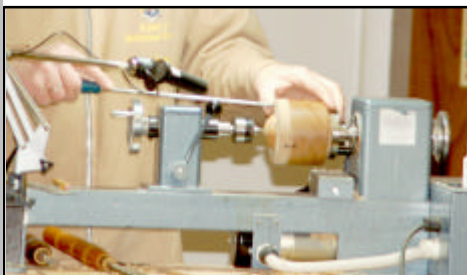


Wood 'n' things



The spigots are sawn off close to the sphere but you must allow enough wood for the curvature to continue across them. A faceplate with a thick piece of scrap wood is mounted on the lathe and a hollow, slightly deeper than the sphere is cut. The hollow is lined with 'Blutak' and the round section of the sphere put in place. The tailstock is brought up against the sphere, with another small piece of scrapwood to prevent the point damaging the surface, to hold everything in place. Now the spigots can be turned off, working to the ghost image. The cut is made 'uphill' to reduce tearout of the end grain.

Now David had a sphere he could move on to the next project - a Harlequin ball. This has 12 spikes evenly spaced round the ball. To mark the positions of the holes, set your compass to $0.526 \times$ the diameter of the sphere. This number is easy to remember as the time for the early evening news - five to six!! Start anywhere on the surface, draw a circle. Move the centre to any position on that circle and draw another. Now continue using the intersections as the centre for subsequent circles. You might need to make small adjustments but it won't be that noticeable.



The sphere is mounted in a similar way to how it was made, using a hollowed block, mounted on a face plate with the hollow slightly bigger than the sphere. Wrap the ball in polythene, then put car filler in the hole, followed by the sphere. Hold in place until the filler sets, then you will have the perfect chuck. An MDF collar bolted to the faceplate block, locks the sphere in place but exposes one section for turning.

there is no lateral movement. David uses a set of calipers at 9mm to measure the hole diameter. The depth is set with a tippex mark on the tool itself.



When all the holes are cut, the spikes can be turned. These are turned to 9.2mm diameter, then starting in the end waste wood, brought down to the correct size to almost fit in the hole. When the size is correct the rest of the spike can be turned, then the whole piece is inserted in the sphere using a good push. Once inside the hole, the spikes can wobble around but don't fall out. Very amusing!!

Now David produced his next source of amazement. Shapes that looked impossible to have come from a lathe, but closer inspection shows two halves that have been rotated so the surface is no longer cylindrical. There are lots of variations but the technique is the same, what David terms 'dot to dot' turnery. The idea is that the shapes have 'rotational symmetry' and the layout determines the axes of symmetry and this is where a paper glue joint is made.

As an example, David mounted a cylinder made from two pieces glued along the central axis, between cup centres. These are used so there is no point to force the joint apart. Spigots are turned on each end so the piece can be chuck mounted as soon as possible. The piece was then turned to a cylinder 70mm in diameter, and the spigotts down to 35mm, 30mm away from the mid line.. The diameter of the spigots is critical so practise getting the right diameter in the waste wood, then work in to exactly 30mm from the mid line. The next cuts join the mid line of the main cylinder to the end of the spigots, in a straight line, hence the dot to dot terminology



The last cuts are to part off the spigots. David used a hacksaw blade to achieve a narrow, clean cut. After tidying up both ends the result is a hexagonal profile and the glue joint can be cracked to allow the two hexagonal pieces to be rotated relative to one another. As an added surprise, the piece David had been working on had been hollowed out, so he actually had a novel shaped box. The two halves can be held together with small magnets, inserted in small surface holes.

David passed round several intriguing shapes but all of them use simple two dimensional shapes as their base; circle, triangle, square hexagon. (This takes me back to school geometry and I can see those maths formulae are going to come back to tease me once again!! Now what was that about finite, infinite, bounded and unbounded surfaces)



Wood 'n' things

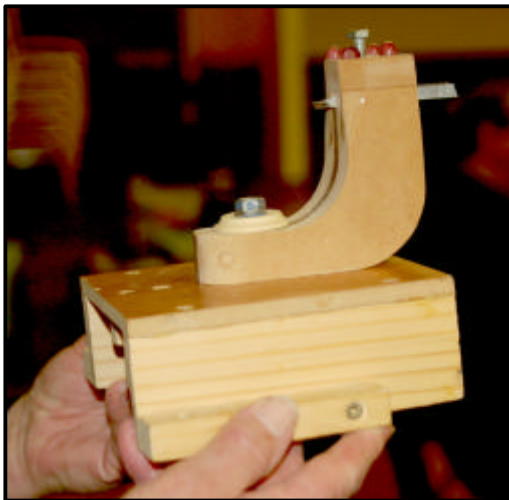


The last piece that David turned would use the same 'dot to dot' principle but the starting shape was a ring of wood, 30mm thick with a central hole 35mm in diameter. The edge of the hole was joined to the outer edge, again in a straight line, so the end result resembled a ring doughnut with a triangular cross section. This can be cut into pieces and those glued together to produce spirals, or bent rings or ... combining more rings, the possibilities are endless. Reminded me of Escher's drawings!!!

I know everyone really enjoyed the evening and had plenty to think about, as everyone just stayed in their seats at the end. I think 'shocked amazement' would be an appropriate description. And this evening just covered some of David's work.

Thanks David for a mind boggling event. I will never look at a piece of turned wood in quite the same way ever again. Now where's that graph paper..

Some more images from the evening and David's website.





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.

Correct chuck spigot sizing - Philip Watts

I have a small square of white faced hardboard. There is a hole in one corner so that it can be hung on the shadowboard behind my lathe. One side of the square is marked with the correct dimension for the size of recess required to fit the outside of the jaws on my chuck, the other side is marked with the dimension for the minimum (and, therefore, optimum) size for a spigot. This means that that I do not have to remember to check the chuck size on every occasion.

I have also started to use an appropriate size of Forstner bit to put a recess into a piece of wood to mount it on a chuck instead of using a screw chuck. I can never get a screw to hold properly for some reason. The recess may not have dovetailed sides to it but seems to work o.k. for me.



Useful websites

There is an awful lot of information available on the internet but some is better than others. If you come across any good or useful sites, please let me know and I will publish them in the newsletter.

The following are worth a look :-

Have a look at the Projects pages.

<http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com/page.asp>

And if you register with them they have some free books available. You only have to pay £2.95 for the postage.

The site suggested by David Springett for various bits and pieces.

<http://www.mutr.co.uk/index.php>

And if you want to resurrect your interest in maths and geometry

<http://www.math.cornell.edu/~mec/Winter2009/Mihai/index.html>

And this is the timber yard recommended by Philip Watts

<http://www.crocadon.co.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.

Email problems if you use BT Internet

I have recently been helping one of our club members when his emails could not be sent from his PC. The problem only exists for users of BT/Yahoo mail systems and occurs when the system tries to send a 'Read Receipt'. I won't go into all the details here but if you are a BT/Yahoo client and have your emails 'lock up', please give me a call and I may be able to help.
Paul Bellamy



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

Timber - Philip Watts

Crocadon is a Cornish sawmill situated in St. Mellion, close to the river Tamar and just 20 minutes from the city of Plymouth. It is worth visiting if you are in the area.

Crocadon Farm, St. Mellion, Cornwall, PL12 6RL

Tel. 01579 350096

Email: sawmill@crocadon.co.uk

WANTED

Small piece of brass

Does anyone have a small piece of brass about 10mm dia. x 15mm. I am trying to make a collet for lace bobbin turning. Thanks, Paul Bellamy



Skills and 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 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. 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".

Editor's challenge

Just for fun, would anyone like to have a go at making this. I need it for one of my customers!

