



Future Events

MSWA Meetings

June 1st

Richard Findley

A second time for Richard
back by popular request

July 6th

A return visit from Graham Lovatt

Other Events

Club Competitions

June – Novice

Jewellery – pendant necklace

July – Challenge

Sugar Bowl and Scoop

August - Novice

Cup and Saucer

The Chairs Chatter

Well, it is Monday 7th May, and I am just sitting with my feet up after a rather hectic weekend. I do actually have my feet up for a valid reason. Doctor's orders! Don't panic, it's nothing serious, just a very silly injury incurred whilst providing first aid cover at a cycling event.

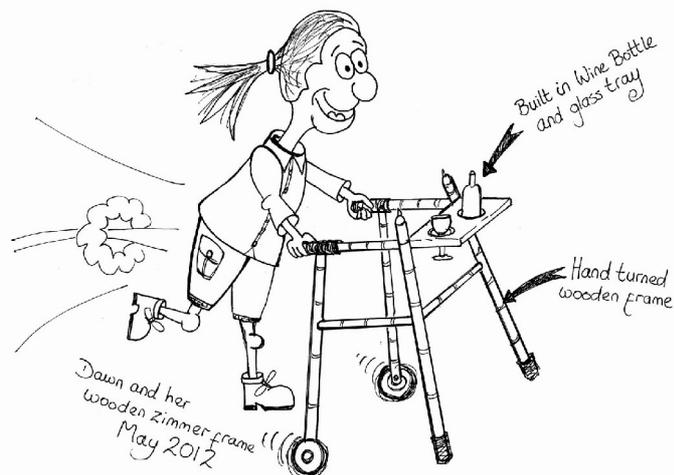
Now you are all probably wondering what on earth could have happened. Was I knocked over by a speeding cyclist? Did I trip and fall? Or was it even a bizarre accident involving a bicycle inner tube? If only! Nope; I simply stepped off a small grass verge and tore a muscle in my leg. The worst part about it all though was being rescued by my fellow members from the Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team who dropped me off at Stafford A&E. Will I ever live it down!

I am now hopping around the house feeling rather foolish and all of the jokes are flying in. I've had the obvious ones about making my own crutches or even turning a new wooden leg. Someone has even sent me some plans to make my own Zimmer frame! The cheek of it! Mind you, with a surname of Hopley it was not long before the nickname Hoppers popped up.

Back to wood turning then. My plan was to tell you all about my other little misadventures attempting to make a music box for the May competition. Now there is a very long tale of woe, frustration, pain and anguish. Let's just say that the wood burning stove is keeping us very nice and warm as a result. I was going to take photos of my "attempts", but John has beaten me to it and burned the sorry evidence. Not to worry, as I am determined to finish my all too ambitious design and unveil it at the next club meeting. So watch this space! In the meantime, here is the Zimmer frame design that I am sure you will all find just as amusing.

Until next month then, Happy Hopping!

Dawn





Editor's Scribblings

One of the side effects of the recent escalation in fuel prices is that the job of the Events Secretary has been made more difficult. Geoff Payne undertakes the unenviable task of finding demonstrators for the club meetings and is now finding that the travel expenses often out-weigh the demonstrator's fees. It is good, therefore, when he is able to call on local talent.. Paul Bellamy's demonstration was evidently well received. I was unfortunately not able to attend being elsewhere at the time and have to thank Dawn for providing this month's demonstration report and Hugh Field for some of the photographs.

A noble Lord has suggested that it is time with the Olympics approaching for the U.K. to adopt fully the metric system. He believes that we are all confused by buying beer in pints, milk in litres, petrol and diesel in litres whilst trying to convert mentally into miles per gallon, and so on. I am not sure how the canal-cruising fraternity amongst our members will metricate lock miles.

I recently had to undertake a job for REMAP, the charity that I work with, which involved making new, extended legs for a walking frame. At 6ft 7ins, the client was too tall for a standard NHS walking frame. I measured very carefully the existing legs with my digital callipers set to read in metric units, wrote down the subsequent measurements in millimetres to two places of decimals and went onto the Internet to source replacement tubing. The closest match, Imperial tubing one inch in diameter with a wall thickness expressed in s.w.g. (Standard Wire Gauge). Off to my favourite supplier in a back street in Birmingham who were very happy to sell me two four foot lengths at a very reasonable price! The client now has a more upright stance!

Dawn hopes that Paul will supply an article on his favourite brew for a finish. He has already done this and it will be featured in the next issue. I attended another demonstration recently by a member of the Register of Professional Turners and was intrigued to note that the finish used appeared, judging by the label on the jar, to be Branston's Chutney Pickle. This presumably provides a rich brown finish with a slight aroma of vinegar.

You should all have received your copy of Revolutions by now and will have seen the article by Maggie Wright publicising the competitions run by the Worshipful Company of Turners. This year there are nine different competition classes, some have an individual challenge and some are open, so you can submit whatever you like. If you log onto the AWGB website or the company's site www.turnersco.com you can view the competition schedule. The prize money involved is extremely generous and is over £7000. Not many turners enter which is a great shame. A lot of turners in the various clubs certainly have the requisite skills . So if you want to spread your wings, then have a go!

On a more local note, now is the time to be thinking about the Kings Bromley and Alrewas shows.

Philip Watts

Warning

The Editors of this Newsletter have a lifespan dictated by the depth and number of subjects on which they feel able to pontificate. This lifespan is limited unless the newsletter content is supplemented by material from you, the members. Anything of interest to you and other wood turners. Notes of your visits to interesting wood working sites and events. Just give me the material in nice straightforward files or in hand written copies. Any photographs should be separate, either digital or print copies. I will do the rest.



May Meeting Report – Paul Bellamy's Début Demonstration

by Dawn Hopley

This month was a big event in more ways than one. Firstly, West Midlands Woodturners very kindly lent us their new camera system to evaluate. Secondly, Paul Bellamy nervously took to the stage for the first time at his home club. Paul has demonstrated at other clubs and events, but this was his début at Mid Staffs.

Our current cameras are starting to show their age and may well need replacing in the not too distant future. Rather than replace like with like, it was suggested that we may consider upgrading to new cameras that have a pan, tilt and zoom facility. The cameras were certainly very impressive with the ability to follow the action and zoom in for close ups. The downside though is the high cost of £600 per camera. Before we even begin to consider upgrading our current equipment, I would like to hear all of your thoughts and feedback first. If you are reading this, then you should be able to do so via Email to my current address which is www.chairman@mswa.co.uk. Please do send me your ideas and feedback so that it can be discussed at the next committee meeting.



So now on to the main report, and that is my summary of the demonstration by our very own and one and only Paul Bellamy. Paul has been a member of MSWA for a number of years now and we finally managed to persuade him to do a demonstration in front of his peers and mentors. Certainly not an enviable task indeed!

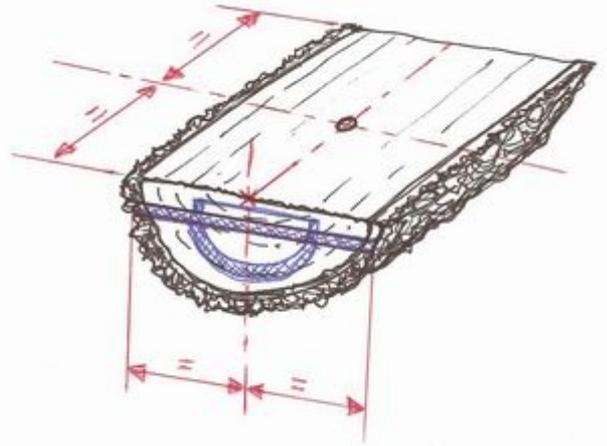
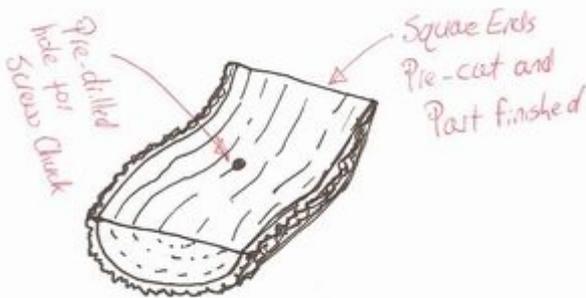
Paul was first introduced to woodturning at the very tender age of six. However, after showing an early interest in working with wood, he then went on to carve a career in engineering. Like many of us, woodwork became a hobby practised far less often than hoped. The turning point was the unfortunate circumstance of being made redundant. I say unfortunate, but maybe it should be fortunate? Like so many that find themselves in this situation, redundancy gave Paul the happy opportunity to be able to pursue his hobby as a full time career. He is now gainfully self-employed and runs his own business called Woodcrafts. You can visit his website at www.woodcrafts.org.uk for further details.

Paul began his demonstration by imparting valuable advice for acquiring cheap or even free timber. If you visit your local sawmill, they often have a pile of off-cuts that are of no commercial value and are usually destined for firewood. Included in this pile is often the outer layer of a log which is first cut-off to give the timber a square face to sit on as it goes through the machinery. Paul utilised one of these scrap pieces during his demonstration to produce a Winged Bowl with Natural Edges as illustrated below.



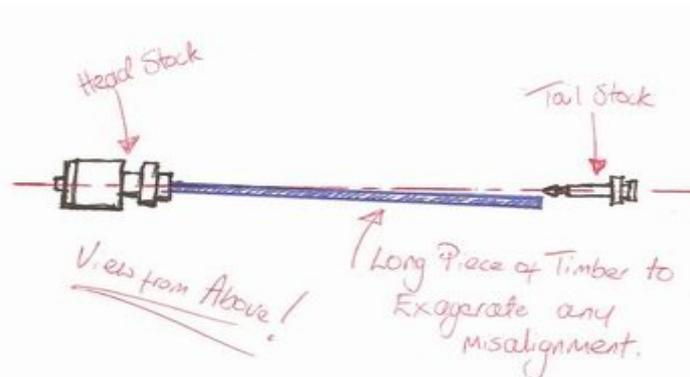


Paul had pre-prepared his bowl blank by cutting the two straight edges on his bandsaw. He had also pre-drilled a hole in the flat face of the timber to mount the work on a screw chuck. But where do you drill the hole in the first place? Paul quickly demonstrated how he draws the wings of the bowl on the cut end of the blank, as illustrated below, to define the centreline for the hole.



Before mounting the blank onto the screw chuck, Paul very quickly gave us another very useful tip indeed. As well as using the screw chuck, he was going to use the tail stock for extra stability and safety. In effect, the same as mounting the work between centres. This meant that he needed to ensure that the head and tail stocks were correctly aligned. There are various methods for doing this, but Paul showed us a more accurate system using a long piece of timber; or has he called it, his extra-long lace bobbin. As you can hopefully see in the following diagram, the longer the piece of timber the better, as any misalignment will be exaggerated by the extra length.

Once the blank was securely held in position with a screw chuck and the tail stock, it was time to start turning.



- 1) The first steps were to turn the base of the bowl down towards the wings and create a chucking point. Another safety tip ... make sure that you get rid of all of the bark at the base, as this will weaken the chucking point. You certainly don't want flying winged bowls bouncing off the walls in your workshop!
- 2) Once the chucking point was established, Paul then continued to form the wings of the bowl. He did this using a Bowl Gouge with a David Elsworth long grind. He used a pull cut to begin with to clear the scrap timber, but then a push cut to define the wings. A push cut also helps to keep the bark in place at the outer edges.
- 3) Once the undersides of the wings were defined, Paul then went back to finishing the base of the bowl. For his final cuts to both the wings and bowl, Paul changed over to a long grind spindle gouge.



Wood 'n' things



- 4) Paul then quickly ran us through the sanding process. With the lathe switched off, he used a cork block and Abranet to hand sand the wings, making sure to sand following the grain direction at all times. The underside of the bowl is then sanded, as per normal, with the lathe running.
- 5) Once the sanding was complete, Paul then applied his home-made Beeswax finish. Paul gets his Beeswax from a bee-keeping friend. He then mixes this with Turpentine Substitute and Carnuba Wax over a low heat. This can be a hazardous exercise as Turpentine is combustible, but if you would like to make your own finishes in the same way, then I am sure Paul would be willing to give you further advice.
- 6) The underside of the bowl was now finished and it was time to turn the work around in the lathe. It was this point in the evening that we broke for our normal tea break. This reminds me that I must tell you about Paul's special mug that he also revealed to us all. It was the perfect design for a wood-turner. Not only was it insulated to keep your brew nice and warm, but it also had a lid to keep the wood shavings out. Now I have a similar insulated mug at home, but what sets Paul's mug apart is the unique shape. It is conical so that the foot is much wider than the neck. This means that as well as anti-dust, anti-heat loss and anti-shavings, Paul's mug is also anti-spill. I have trawled the Internet to try and find a similar product, but can only find them for sale in the USA. Maybe you have had more success?



- 7) Tea break over and now Paul turned the bowl around to shape the top and inside. Obviously, the bowl was now securely mounted in the scroll chuck using an external dovetail grip that had been formed at the start. Or was it? This is where Paul was able to demonstrate the importance of turning with your ears. During the tea break, Paul had been distracted with various questions and had forgotten to tighten the chuck all the way. However, this became obvious as soon as he started turning again, as something did not sound quite right. Stopping the lathe and double checking everything revealed that the work was slightly loose in the chuck.
- 8) Disasters averted, Paul continued by defining the rim position of the bowl. He then concentrated on finishing the upper edge of the wings, again using pull cuts to clear away the scrap timber and then push cuts using the bowl gouge and finally a spindle gouge.
- 9) Next, using a short grind bowl gouge, he hollowed out the internal bowl shape. To ensure that the bevel is in contact all the way around the internal curve, Paul grinds off the heel of the bevel when sharpening. This allows a nice continuous arc and flow when cutting.
- 10) Paul then sanded and finished the bowl utilising the same methods as before.
- 11) This just left the foot of the bowl to be finished. Paul removed the bowl from the chuck and set it aside. He then mounted a piece of scrap timber into the chuck and turned a Jam Chuck to fit the internal shape/size of his bowl.



Wood 'n' things



- 12) The bowl was then returned to the lathe and fitted on the Jam Chuck with the tail stock in position to hold it securely in place. This enable Paul to quickly remove the chucking points and shape a nice foot for the bowl to stand on.

So there you have! A natural edged winged bowl in 12 easy steps! Well, to his credit, at least Paul made it seem that easy. Paul finished his demonstration by going on to show us the buffing system that he uses. This could have been another demonstration in its own right, so I am hoping that Paul will write us a small article to highlight the methods he uses.

To summarise, Paul gave us an outstanding presentation that he should be very proud of indeed, and hopefully he will do another in the future. The measure of a good demonstrator is always the feedback from the audience. At times, you could have heard a pin drop because everyone was so engrossed in Paul's work, and the huge round of applause at the end certainly conveyed everyone's appreciation. Well done Paul and thank you for all of the knowledge and advice shared with us all.



As Dawn commented at the beginning of this report, the cameras recently acquired by the West Midlands Woodturners were used for this demonstration. This picture by Hugh Field shows the arrangement required to accommodate the high level cameras. These are remotely controllable in direction and zoom by a member of the audience. Placing the screen so that the demonstrator can see it permits them to place such items as chisels, etc in the best position to illustrate any points that they might wish to make.



May Challenge Competition

The May Challenge was to produce a music box. There were three entries. They came from Hugh Fields, Ted Gill and John Smith.



The photograph appears to show that Hugh and Ted tied for first place but I am informed that Gordon Fradley exercised a casting vote and awarded first place to Hugh.

The picture below shows the interior of Hugh's entry. It is not recorded what the tune played was, perhaps the Wood-chopper's Ball!





Club information

Your club committee for 2012 is:-

Chairman - Dawn Hopley

Tel. 01543 878714 Mob. 07860 501379

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Secretary - Will Rose

Tel 01543 490424

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Tel 01922 457159

Assistant treasurer – Roy Fallows

Tel. 01543 491826

Email:

Events secretary - Geoff Payne

Tel. 01543 480744 Mob. 07775 518769

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Abrasives - Terry Gray

Tel. 01889 576921

Email: tgray268@gmail.com

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

Email: editor@mswa.co.uk

Webmanager – Philip Watts

Email: webman@mswa.co.uk

Member's representatives

John Smith

Tel. 01889 577380 Mob. 07976 913811

Jane Russell

Terry Gray

Albert Heath

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.

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 £2.20 for a set of 7 sheets - 120 -600 grit.



Books and DVDs

The club has the following DVDs for hire.

AWGB Instant Gallery -1991 to 2003

Sharpening - GMC

Turning Projects with Richard Raffan

Turning Wood with Alan Holtham – Table Lamp

Colouring Wood – Jan Sanders

The Skew Chisel – Alan Batty

Bowls for Beginners – Ray Jones

Course on Spindle Turning – Ray Jones

Making and Decorating Platters – Mick Hanbury

Making and Decorating Boxes - Mick Hanbury

Turn it On – Volume 1 – Jimmy Clewes

Turn it On – Volume 2 – Jimmy Clewes

Turn it On – Volume 3 – Jimmy Clewes

All Glued Up! Open Segment Turning – Sue Harker

Turned Out Nice Again! Involuted Turning – Sue Harker

Wood Turning with Steve Heeley – Steve Heeley

Wet turning with a difference – Stuart Mortimer

See John Smith at any club meeting if you want to borrow one of these.



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.

Timber Supplier - Capricorn Eco Timber
Unit D
Ladfordfields Industrial Estate
Seighford
Stafford St18 9QE

Website www.capricornecotimber.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

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 at the club meetings.

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, see him at the club meetings.

I