



# Wood 'n' things



Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue – May 2013

Editor: Philip Watts

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## Future Events

### MSWA Meetings

June 7th

Chris Eagles

### A Master Class in Turning

July 5<sup>th</sup>

Frans Brown

### Other Events

### National Marquetry Exhibition

Gladstone Pottery Museum

25<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013

### Club Competitions

June

Novice

An Apple or Pear

July Challenges

A pair of Chess Pieces  
King and Queen

## Chairman's Notes

It is too early to know how successful the Club's Hands-on and Open Evening will be in producing new members. The evening itself had a good feeling about it. There were visitors having a go and looking suitably pleased with their first efforts on a lathe. There was also the opportunity for members to learn more about keeping their tools and chisels sharp.

We have to thank those members who brought in their lathes and undertook to coach visitors. Paul Bellamy deserves our thanks for providing a strong centre of interest as well as bringing along his lathe.

David Winter had an interesting supply of wood at reasonable prices and attracted custom.

If you enjoyed the evening and feel that they should form at least part of our regular meetings then let members of the committee know.

Ted Gill is already compiling the programme for next year and needs your input.

Philip Watts



## Editor's Scribblings

Are you an Imperialist or a Metrician? In other words, do you measure things in feet and inches, or work in metres and millimetres (That's right, we in the Engineering Profession know that millimetres are the preferred unit in the System Internationale, or SI for short. It is only British Schools that insist on working in centimetres. When I was teaching my daughter to sail, I would say "Let the jib sheet out an inch". She would reply "How much is that?" To which, I would reply "Let the jib sheet out two and one half centimetres", thus implying a far greater degree of precision than the situation actually demanded.)

But what of the other units commonly in use? The word "smidgeon" came up on Radio 4 the other day and "tad" cropped up in an old wood-turning magazine that I was perusing. Both these words have the stamp of respectability from their inclusion in the Compact Oxford English Dictionary that is the Editor's standby source of reference. "Smidgeon" or smidgen or smidgin is defined as a *tiny* amount of something and is perhaps from the Scots word *smitch*. "Tad" as a noun is a *small* amount of something. The origin perhaps coming from the word *tadpole*.

Understandingly, the Dictionary does not go as far as including the phrases well known in the Engineering Industry and which relate to the size of a part of the anatomy of a gnat or midge. But of that, no more.

John Smith's article in this Newsletter is a very welcome contribution. See the note below. I now have a new grandson too young to make such demands on me. His older sister, however, is now walking and talking, with the emphasis on the latter. She is thus capable of making demands such as asking Granddad for the supply of a set of wooden hen's eggs. Her Grandmother, my wife, not content with the simple idea of just turning solid wooden eggs has now requested eggs in the form of little boxes that open to reveal the white and the yolk of the egg. I dare not think what the next request might be.

Regular readers of this column will know that I have an extensive collection of books on wood-turning and wood working in general. My latest acquisition may turn out to be one of the more useful ones. It is "Fixing and Avoiding Woodworking Mistakes" by Sandor Nagyszalanczy, a Fine Woodworking Book published by Taunton.

Philip Watts

## 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.



## May Meeting – Hands-on and Open Evening

Not so much of a report, more of a photographic essay.



Paul Bellamy had a good audience as he talked about the parallel skill of tool sharpening. Meanwhile, Vance encouraged a newcomer to “Have a go”.





# Wood 'n' things



Dawn and Hugh cast a critical eye on a beginner's first attempt at a key ring whilst Ron initiates a visitor in the art of saw doctoring.



Part of the display of Member's work



## The Shaving Horse by John Smith

As some of you may recall, I was asked by my grandson (the thirteen year old who has now gone on to fourteen and become even more demanding), could we build a shaving horse? This was referred to in my Chairman's Notes last November when I promised to let the club members see the final result.

The project has now been finished and with the delay in waiting for the next club meeting, added to which my grandson refused to leave it with me for that long, the article has been removed from my care. As I have said it would be shown to the club, regretfully that is not possible now. However we have photographs of the article, so these are included for all and sundry to see and assess.

For information, the original timber is from a holly log/trunk which grew in the front garden and was the only piece of timber big enough to make the horse. The legs are taper fitted and can be knocked out for easy storage and are made of ash. Otherwise all the rest is holly.

The only remaining item that has now to be obtained is the draw knife, which with a little bit of luck will be the cause of an email from the grandson to Amazon, Axminster or someone similar.





## May Competition

The Challenge for this month was to provide a clock. The result was an impressive entry with a preference for skeleton clocks being displayed. I have tried to present the photographs at the same scale to give an indication of scale.

Vance Lupton collected the most votes with his clock in zebrano. Geoff Payne came second with the entry on the right in the right hand picture below.



Hugh Field and Brian Smith shared the third place honours with their respective entries. Hugh's entry is on the right in the picture below and Brian's is on the left in the right hand picture above.





## Club information

Your club committee for 2013 is:-

### **Chairman - Philip Watts**

Email: [chairman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:chairman@mswa.co.uk)

Tel. 0121 308 7838

### **Secretary – John McElroy**

Email: [secretary@mswa.co.uk](mailto:secretary@mswa.co.uk)

### **Treasurer – Vance Lupton**

Email: [treasurer@mswa.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@mswa.co.uk)

### **Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field**

### **Events Secretary – Ted Gill**

Email: [events@mswa.co.uk](mailto:events@mswa.co.uk)

### **Abrasives -**

### **Newsletter editor – Philip Watts**

Email: [editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:editor@mswa.co.uk)

### **Webmanager – Philip Watts**

Email: [webman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:webman@mswa.co.uk)

### **Committee Members**

John Smith

Tel. 01889 577380

Mob. 07976 913811

Albert Heath

Geoff Payne

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.

<b>Sweatshirts (dark blue)</b>	<b>£12.00</b>
<b>T-shirts (light blue)</b>	<b>£7.00</b>
<b>Baseball caps</b>	<b>£6.00</b>

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, 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

**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.

## 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

### Machinery and Equipment list (Ex Terry Gray)

Delta - bandsaw K9334 28-180

Power craft - Router table and router

Power craft - Reciprocating saw

Jet - Woodlathe JWL 1220VS

Axminster - K10 chuck with spare O'Donnell jaws, spare "C" jaws and spare button jaws (to fit Jet wood lathe JWL 1220VS)

Chuck - 4 jaw with spare set of extending jaws (no makers name but manual with it)

Erbauer - 8" thickness planer RO9W44

Turning tools - Approx 2 dozen assorted

Hilka - 6" bench grinder with one white and one pink wheel

Red Eye - Circular saw with 185mm blade diameter

Power Craft - cordless power drill, 24 volt, with 13mm chuck and battery charger

Delta - Scroll saw

Black and Decker - 240 volt router

Black and Decker - 240 volt variable speed drill with 13mm chuck

Dremel - "300" hand router

Record - "5 1/2" Jack plane

Bosch - PBS75 Belt sander

**If you are interested in any item please contact Mrs M Gray on Tel 01889 576921 Rugeley(Staffs)**

### 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](mailto:paul.bellamy@mswa.co.uk)