



## Future Events

### 20-22<sup>nd</sup>. November. The North of England Woodworking and Power Tool Show

I have never been to this show but it seems to have an excellent reputation. And exhibitions are getting few and far between. If you do go, please let us all know what you thought.  
Editor.

### 4<sup>th</sup>. December MSWA club meeting Frans Brown demonstrating. A new name to the club.



### Club Competitions

### December Novice cup A tea light holder

### Premier Cup, January 2010 A piece of abstract art!!!



## Notes from the Chairman

I have to start by thanking a few people this month. On Wednesday the 4th of November the club fulfilled a long standing date when we gave a talk and demonstration to the Longdon Women's Institute on woodturning. Whilst I attempted to put them to sleep with a talk on the history of woodturning they certainly woke up again when Dawn got turning and produced an excellent propelling pen, which she then donated to their raffle ensuring a good sale of tickets as everyone seemed to want to win it. This was followed by Paul turning a "garden" mushroom from a log of green eucalyptus which was promptly sold as soon as it was off the lathe. The proceeds of this and other items donated by club members that were sold at the time, plus a cheque for £20 received as a fee from the WI amounted to £53.50 in all, which in turn will be donated to the Combined Handicapped and Disabled Society (CHADS). So I have to thank both Dawn and Paul, also Chris for his support and in supplying the lathe on the night. An added bonus was that a gentleman who had accompanied his wife on that evening was sufficiently interested to show up at our meeting on Friday the 6th.

This was the meeting that did not run as smoothly as one had hoped for when the hand wheel on the tailstock of the club lathe decided to give up the ghost, thereby giving our demonstrator a problem with his intended programme for the evening. However, being Steve Heeley, and with a bit of quick spigot turning by Ken Allen in his workshop, the night was saved and as ever with Steve, we had an interesting demonstration anyway. Back in my days in industry I recall the term "planned maintenance" being bandied about to ensure the minimum of production loss due to breakdowns. Maybe we need to consider this for the future, but in the meantime steps are in hand to secure a spare part to put it all back in working order again. So again, thanks, this time to Steve for putting on an interesting evening despite the problems and also to Ken for helping to make it possible. I should also mention Chris who went home to fetch his own lathe, albeit not being needed at the finish. Mentioning finish, it is something that always impresses me about Steve's work, as he takes as much care over finishing as he does over his turning. To me this reinforces the lessons we learned from Mark Raby's demonstration.

Finally I can report that the programme for next year is well under way although we are having to make some last minute changes due to Ted Webster's illness (I am sure you will all join with me in hoping he has a full recovery in due course) also the competition schedule will be available at the AGM if not before, so don't forget your piece of Gordon Fradley Yew if you haven't already got it. We will be expecting a large entry field for that when it comes up. Even I will have to get my finger out for that!

John



## Editor's scriblings

Well we are rapidly approaching the end of the year, with longer nights, worse weather (I think we had a summer!) and less to do in the garden but it does bring a great opportunity to get in the workshop to produce those Christmas presents. Oh dear, am I the first to mention the 'C.' word? Or have your family got all the bowls, candlesticks, platters they need?

Hopefully the club demonstrations will have given you some new ideas to try. I think we have had some excellent sessions this year, with more to come, so I hope you will all agree with my thanking Geoff Payne for organising the events.

Just a reminder, the newsletter has write ups of the demonstrations for the past three years so if you have forgotten how a particular item was made, you can always refer back to it in the newsletter.

Unfortunately Christmas seems to be the time for lots more 'Spam' emails, many of which have dire warnings and recommend you forward these to all your contacts. Please do NOT forward these as you will just compound the problem and may even be propagating a virus. There is a very interesting, and amusing site <http://www.hoax-slayer.com/> which has comments on most of these emails. My advice is to never forward emails where you don't personally know the first sender; use a recognised security product and, to quote an old saying, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Take care in whatever you do,

Paul, the Editor.

## What is it?

Can you identify the object in the picture? My thanks to Ron Dixon for another teaser  
Send your answer 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 a plough plane, the forerunner to the modern router for edge profiling. Well done to Derek Pyatt for being the first of many members who got it right. This month's will be a bit more tricky!



## Club information

Your club committee for 2009 comprises:-

### **Chairman - John Smith**

Tel. 01889 577380 Mob. 07976 913811

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 !!!!!**

Tel.

Email:

### **Events secretary - Geoff Payne**

Tel. 01543 480744 Mob. 07775 518769

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

### **Abrasives - Terry Gray**

Tel. 01889 576921

Email: terry13@talktalk.net

### **Raffle - Margaret Hill**

Tel. 01543 876187

Email: margaret.hill@mswa.co.uk

### **Newsletter editor - Paul Bellamy**

Tel. 01543 472669 Mob. 07946 980978

Email: editor@mswa.co.uk

### **Member's representatives**

#### **Peter Worrall**

Tel. 01785 840370

Email: worrall9pn@btinternet.com

#### **Ron Barnsley**

Tel. 01902 685754 Mob. 07760 474672

Email: ronbarnsley@sky.com

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.



## Next issue

Write up of Frans Brown demo.

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



## 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

## SHOP 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 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.



## 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! Involuting Turning – Sue Harker

Wood Turning with Steve Heeley – Steve Heeley



# Wood 'n' things



## November competition

This month's task was a clock. Once again the Barton under Needwood team featured well, although they didn't get first prize but they have recruited another member. Come on everyone, they need some competition, or they will be taking over the club! Seriously though, well done to everyone who submitted a piece.



First place – Geoff Payne



Second place – Dave Dawes



Third place – Dave Neale



Tom Young



Albert Heath



## Do you value your work?

by Paul Bellamy

It's Christmas time and lots of charities need and ask for support. Doing something for charity makes you feel good, as do your hobbies, otherwise why would you do them? In our case that's woodturning. But do we get the best out of this when we combine the two?

Whatever we do to support charities, the aim, surely, is to raise the maximum amount of money for them, so they have the funds to carry out their work.

So do charities benefit from us selling items so cheap nobody will refuse to buy them?

As an example, last year, at a charity event, I saw an immaculate, large yew vase sold for £10. The buyer themselves obviously couldn't believe the low price, asking the seller to confirm it. The wood alone would have cost at least £30 from any timber merchant ( I know some of us get wood for free but that is irrelevant). The time taken to make and finish the vase must have been several hours, so even at the minimum wage of £5.80 per hour that would be at least £20. Then there's the cost of finishes, the workshop costs for heating, lighting and tools.

Surely a better alternative would be to sell your finished items, realistically priced (i.e. cost of wood, finishing materials, labour time and overheads) at craft fairs, markets, local shops or even a charity event, then give the actual money raised to the charity.

This has several benefits; you will feel proud as your work is seen to be more valuable, both financially and aesthetically; you have covered your costs; but primarily, you will get a lot more money which you can pass on to your charity. They will thank you even more for the significantly increased funds.

The majority of people WILL pay for quality goods, especially unique and hand crafted items. The purchaser will value the item even more if they have paid a good but fair, price for it; you will be willing to produce even more pieces for sale as your costs are covered and you will get a lot more pleasure from your hobby. Everyone wins!

By the way, regarding the vase that was sold for £10, I happened to be chatting with the buyers later on and they told me they thought the price was £100!!

In fact if you sell your item for less than it cost aren't you actually reducing what you are giving to charity? Instead of buying bits and pieces to make something for charity, then selling it for less than that, why not just donate all that money instead? That would be more than they get at the moment for your 'finished' item.

I realise this is a contentious issue. Don't get me wrong, I support several charities, but I give them money from items I have sold, and it's a lot more than pennies. And I am not suggesting we inflate our prices, only that we value our hard work realistically.

So think about it, would the charities we support prefer to receive £5 or £50?

(Please note, this is a personal opinion, not necessarily that of the club or committee.)



## Steve Heeley turns up trumps

by Paul Bellamy

The evening did not get off to a good start when we discovered the club lathe has a worn quill handle, preventing any spindle being securely locked in place. Fortunately Steve, with some help from Ken Allen was able to modify his demonstration to just demonstrate chuck mounted items. And it meant he could show us good and interesting tool control to make several items.



Steve started with a piece of oak, spigot mounted in the chuck. Having got it down to the round with his spindle roughing gouge, Steve proceeded to shape and finish the piece using only his skew chisel. Steve uses a skew with a curved edge and quite short bevels. He holds it with one finger under the toolrest and uses his thumb to control the angle of the cut.

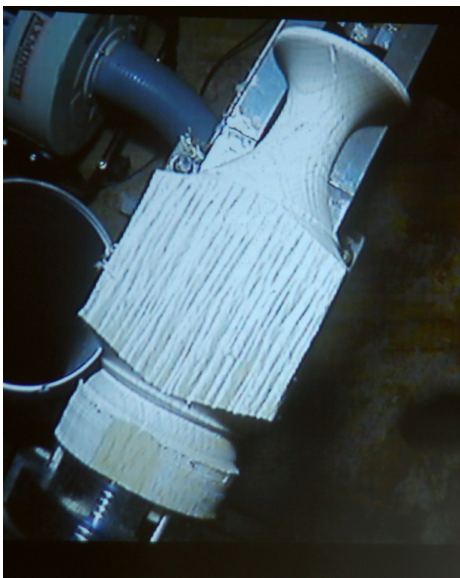
The first cuts at the tail end of the piece were made using the short point of the skew to round over the end. If the chisel loses a cut, don't try to pick up where you were, go back and make the whole cut again. With this technique, Steve created a wooden acorn. This was sanded through the grits and the boundary between the acorn and its bowl, tidied up with the long point of the skew.

To enhance the appearance of the acorn, Steve used a Robert Sorby texturing tool, with the coarse teeth to pattern the bowl. Once he was happy with the effect, Steve applied a coat of sanding sealer, using a brush to get into the texturing and make sure all the wood is covered. This was burnished with a handful of shaving, then Steve applied a coat of melamine lacquer. That coat was cut back slightly using '0000' wire wool. The final finish was stick wax and a good polish.

Instead of just parting off the acorn at the base, Steve used his spindle gouge to leave a thin stalk. After parting off, he trimmed this with a knife to create a more realistic appearance. Simple but very effective. But Steve had a twist on this, he showed us another acorn but this time it was a box.

For the second piece, Steve started with a small section of yew branch. Using his spindle gouge he cut an ogee curve on the end, immediately giving away what he was going to make – a mushroom. When he was happy with the top section, Steve used the long point of his skew to cut the bark where the base of the cap would start. Then he cut in with a parting tool, undercutting the cap as he went. To get further under the cap Steve used a small skew flat on the toolrest to

The final cuts were done with a specially ground bowl gouge used conventionally to hollow the cap but then pulled down the 'stalk' of the mushroom to develop one continuous curve. To finish Steve just sanded and sealed the wood as yew does give a lovely surface.



The last piece started as a square section spindle. Ken had put a spigot on one end, to be held in the chuck. Steve shaped the top part of the vase using a spindle gouge, paying particular attention to the rim, ensuring a nice curve all the way round. This was sanded through the grits but no finish was applied.

The lower section looked rather plain until Steve took a rotary cutter in his electric drill to it. Cutting shallow groove along its length, it quickly took on a much more interesting appearance. But Steve did realise one mistake, the cutter ran across the wood and clipped the finished surface. We all learn by our mistakes and Steve pointed out it would probably have been better to cut the grooves before finishing the neck.

To finish the piece, Steve cut a foot to match the dimension of the step in the neck of the vase. After that it was sanded. Finally Steve used a wire brush, in his drill to tidy up the middle section, and sanding sealer applied to the whole item.

Thanks, Steve, for a very interesting evening, and for getting round the problems with the lathe. We look forward to seeing the Cindy Drozda lidded bowl next time.



# Wood 'n' things



## Longdon WI demonstration

This event was postponed from earlier in the year due to bad weather but we didn't have much luck on this night either as it was pouring with rain. However, a warm welcome at the meeting hall and numerous offers of help to get the room organised soon had things sorted out.

John started the evening with a talk on the history of woodturning and even had a model pole lathe to show to the audience. Quite fascinating. Then he handed over to Dawn who was going to turn a pen.



Dawn started by handing out some samples of exotic timbers to show the different colours and patterns in woods, but the wood she was using tonight was from a neighbour's crab apple tree. The two prepared pen blanks were fitted on the mandrel and roughed down to a cylinder. The final shaping was done with Dawn's favourite spindle gouge. The wood was sanded, sealed and finished with melamine to give a durable finish. To assemble the pen, Dawn had to resort to a mallet and the floor, but this proved quite successful, gaining applause from the audience. The finished item was offered as a prize in the raffle.

After that Paul had his opportunity and went to the other extreme, starting with a large green eucalyptus log, felled the week before. This was to be a garden mushroom, not one of the little decorative ones, this was going to be a foot high and five inches in diameter. He had prepared this with a spigot for the chuck and had got it roughly in balance on his own lathe but the demonstration lathe was struggling to keep it revolving. However, Paul did manage to get some wood streamers, and make a large pile of shavings on the floor. Unfortunately, most of them were NOT on the tarpaulin, but he had brought a dust pan and brush, and his vacuum cleaner. And the finished mushroom was quickly snapped up by one of the members.

With the demonstrations over, everyone rushed in to help with the tidying up and it was also time for tea and cakes. And you won't get any better than at a WI meeting! It also gave us a chance to chat with the audience, one of whom has since visited the club and is likely to become a member. Another member collects mushrooms and was fascinated to see how they are made, to the extent she wants to have a go herself. In addition, lots of items were sold to raise funds for our charity, adding to our 'fee' for the evening.

All in all, the evening was a great success and I can see the club being invited to other WI meetings.

This one made me smile,

"You can climb even the tallest tree when it is lying down".



## 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.

### Winning competitions

Not so much a tip as an observation. One of the club members who has hired several DVDs from the club is now a regular winner of our competitions.

I know practical experience counts above all else but seeing how something is done can help an awful lot.

The list of DVDs available is on Page 3 and we will always consider recommendations for other DVDs from all members.



## Useful websites

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.

The following are worth a look :-

British Trees – help you identify sources of timber  
<http://www.british-trees.com/treeguide/>  
but no cutting down living trees!!!

Some useful information on grinding wheels  
<http://www.peterchild.co.uk/info1/wheelinfo.htm>

How to torment a telemarketer! I have used this a couple of time and it is very amusing to hear the reaction. And I have not had a repeat call from the companies involved.  
<http://www.phonespamfilter.co.uk/video.php/1>

For those who don't have access to the internet, the method is to answer every question and statement, with just the one word 'Yes', don't say anything else. Don't be embarrassed, just try it! I collapsed laughing after my first 'victim' put the phone down.

Hoax emails exposed!  
<http://www.hoax-slayer.com/>

And this is the site of Cindy Drozda to whom Steve referred for his finial bowl he was unable to demonstrate. Maybe next time Steve!  
<http://www.cindydrozda.com/index.html>



## 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.



## 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

#### Wooden roses – Paul Bellamy

I use these to enhance my wooden stem vases. If you would like some, I have various colours available for sale.

Email, telephone or see me at the club meetings. Paul

### WANTED



## Member 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 or advice 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!

**Breaking news! Ron has just got a morticing machine and his offer extends to that as well.**

**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. He is also able to supply spares and attachments for the obsolete Coronet brand. 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".

And another amusing find by Ron Dixon:-

### Australian computer jargon

LOG ON:	Adding wood to make the barbie hotter.
LOG OFF:	Not adding any more wood to the barbie.
MONITOR:	Keeping an eye on the barbie.
DOWNLOAD:	Getting the firewood off the Ute.
HARD DRIVE:	Making the trip back home without any cold tinnies.
KEYBOARD:	Where you hang the Ute keys.
WINDOWS:	What you shut when the weather's cold.
SCREEN:	What you shut in the mozzie season.
BYTE:	What mozzies do.
MEGABYTE:	What Townsville mozzies do.
CHIP:	A bar snack.
MICROCHIP:	What's left in the bag after you've eaten the chips.
MODEM:	What you did to the lawns.
LAPTOP:	Where the cat sleeps.
SOFTWARE:	Plastic knives & forks you get at Red Rooster.
HARDWARE:	Stainless steel knives & forks - from K-Mart.
MOUSE:	The small rodent that eats the grain in the shed.
MAINFRAME:	What holds the shed up.
WEB:	What spiders make.
WEBSITE:	Usually in the shed or under the veranda.
SEARCH ENGINE:	What you do when the Ute won't go.
CURSOR:	What you say when the Ute won't go.
YAHOO:	What you say when the Ute does go.
UPGRADE:	A steep hill.
SERVER:	The person at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.
MAIL SERVER:	The bloke at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.
USER:	The neighbour who keeps borrowing things.
NETWORK:	What you do when you need to repair the fishing net.
INTERNET:	Where you want the fish to go.
NETSCAPE:	What the fish do when they discover the hole in the net.
ONLINE:	Where you hang the washing.
OFFLINE:	Where the washing ends up when the pegs aren't strong enough.