



Future Events

Next MSWA Meetings

December 2nd

Simon Hope

Decorative Pewter and Bagpipes

Other Events

Club Competitions

December – Novice
A Christmas Ornament

January – Challenge
A Christmas Lantern
Premium
A goblet with a barley twist stem

Chair's Chunter & Chat November 2011

November Madness

As I write this month's little report, it is actually the last day of the month and I am very late indeed getting my notes over to Philip in time for the newsletter. I therefore must apologise to you all for holding up procedures.

As the weather this month has been a bit on the crazy side with the unseasonal warm conditions, so it has also been a mad, crazy month for me. I have been away at events every weekend with one thing or another, and my poor family have started to forget what I look like. During the week, I have also been extremely busy wood turning for a change. Every man and his dog have asked me to make them something for Christmas and I am actually starting to run short of timber supplies. Now there's a first!

The one big Woodturning event for the club this month was the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Christmas Fayre. This proved to be a huge success and we were very proud to be able to donate just over £185 to their funds. The event organiser was quite overwhelmed by our donation and actually shed a few tears of joy. This made me feel very proud of the club and all of you that have donated items to sell or came along to help. We apparently made the whole event worthwhile and of course have been invited to all future fairs.

Other events that kept me busy were a "Charitree" Christmas Tree Festival at St. Lukes Church in Cannock and a Water Safety training course at Shugborough. The latter involved swimming fully clothed in the River Trent of all things. Fortunately the warm weather meant that the water temperature was also well above average for the time of year; but still a chilly experience. Fortunately the Charitree event was indoors and definitely did not involve any water. I decorated a tree to raise funds for the Staffordshire Search & Rescue Team and was rewarded with the honour of "Best in Show" for my efforts.

Finally the Search and Rescue team have also had a busy month, not only searching for missing persons, but marshalling a big Adventure Race on Cannock Chase. At least 800 people descended upon us to Run 15km, Cycle 30km and Canoe on the River Trent. It took them 3 to 5 hours to complete the event, with us there to direct them and cater for any First Aid needs. There were a few minor casualties with twisted ankles and cramp, but most people made it safely around the gruelling course. It's amazing what some crazy people will do in the name of Fun and Adventure!

Dawn



Editor's Scribblings

Not a lot from me this month. A holiday in Madeira produced only one encounter with anything to do with wood turning. That was a small lathe used for machining the bungs for sherry casks in the local wine making establishment. So, little inspiration for my Editorial scribblings this month. Fortunately, there has been a wealth of contributions this month for which I am truly grateful. May they continue to flow and make the life of the Editor that much easier.

Philip Watts

Caption Competition

Dawn suggested a caption competition based on her exploits in the charity field. So here are the suggestions: My favourite one came from Will Rose.

Never mind Ken Allan burning holes in a Potpourri bowl I'm using bullets!



Vance Lupton responded with:

"I wish that bloke I am carrying would keep his head down - doesn't he know this is a military exercise?!"

Could this be 'The Dawn of War'?

"Right, that does it! I'm off to find the guy that put up that insulting sign behind me!!"

Thanks to them for their contributions.



November Demonstration – Steve Heeley

Steve Heeley Demo

This report is based on notes kindly provided by Anne Hopkinson, the Editor being elsewhere at the time of the meeting,

Steve Heeley is a regular visitor to the club and never disappoints his audience. His demonstration this month covered two projects described by him as “not for beginners”.

The first project was a thin wall hollow form turned in green wood sycamore. This being a rather bland wood, the final finish would involve some texture or colour. The initial rough turning shaped an end square with a spigot to fit the chuck. Some work was also done on the base before the piece was turned and mounted in the chuck with the jaws gripping tightly to give a really firm hold. Turning of the rim down to 3mm thick was finalised with a spindle gouge which is Steve's favourite tool. The view was expressed that the rim will not look right until the proportions are right, “When it looks right, the shape is right”. Steve prefers to spend time getting the shape that he wants and does not worry too much about the finish particularly when an area is to be textured.



His other tool was a 3/8 inch bowl gouge with the wings ground swept right back. A shear scrape to tidy up the bottom of the cove followed before the top and edge of the rim were tidied up with Steve standing right up to the lathe and supporting the back of the rim allowing the thumb to be used a fulcrum in controlling the tool. Loose damp shavings wiped over the work helped to keep it cool and green.

Hollowing now started working from the outside in. The inside hollowing could be assisted by drilling down to the base, stopping frequently to check the depth and the width, with the lathe stopped. The club lathe having a swivel head permitted the work to be turned towards the turner making for easier access. Steve worked all his way in and brought the piece roughly to thickness before finishing off from the outside. The green wood was drying out throughout this operation. Shear scraping helped to remove any rough edges identified by touch.

Sanding was undertaken using both hands on the main body. Small grooves on the base and under the rim outlined an area for texturing using a Dremel tool to create wavy lines between the grooves. Finally a dental burr was used to create a pierced area around the rim. Steve's maxim for this that it was “the amount that you leave in NOT what you take out that matters”

A hat from wet sycamore formed the second part of the evening's demonstration. The emphasis here was on getting all the cuts as clean as possible. Some speed is required as the wet sycamore moves even during the turning process. An even thickness all over forms a test of tool control and skill.

Skewed Bowls by Philip Watts



Wood 'n' things



I know that a number of the members of the MSWA have experimented to good effect with eccentric or off-centre turning of pieces but I do not remember see any examples of what is described as a “skewed” bowl. A search on the Internet also did not produce any immediate examples.

The idea is not new (hardly anything ever is) and I am indebted for the idea to a chapter in a book entitled “Winning Designs for Wood-turning” published in 1987 by Practical Woodworking. It requires no special tooling and uses techniques that are relatively simple to apply and which are a throw back to the methods used historically in the turning of bowls.

There was a time when a standard method for turning bowls was to plane the side of a piece of wood to form the base of a bowl. A face plate was then screwed to this prepared side and the complete bowl turned without reversal. Both sides of the bowl were shaped without the wood blank being removed from the faceplate. At the end of the process, the finished bowl was removed from the faceplate and the screw-holes filled with plastic wood, possibly coloured to match the wood. Green baize was also used to finish the bowl bottom. Nowadays, such efforts would be regarded as slightly naïve or simplistic and bowls are commonly turned three times during production. The bottom being turned first, followed by the inside of the bowl, and with the bowl being finally reversed to remove the spigot or recess used to hold the bowl in a chuck.

This method for turning skewed bowls employs some of the older techniques in conjunction with another well established method. Briefly, the bowl blank is held on a faceplate on the lathe on a glue chuck that is wedge shaped. Turning then commences with the underside of the bowl being turned first. The use of the wooden glue chuck permits turning to be carried out right down the base, any excess wood on the glue chuck being turned away as necessary. Finishing by sanding down through the grades and applying a chosen finish is carried out as normal.

The upper side and the inside of the bowl is then turned, taking care with the initial cuts as they will be intermittent due to the offset on the blank created by the wedge shape of the glue chuck. The result will look like the picture below.

This simple approach is attractive but produces a bowl that could also have been made by turning a bowl in the conventional manner and then shaping the base to produce the skew. Not the most exciting!

It gets more interesting if you use two or more wedge angles, changing the angle between each stage of turning. Try, as an example, turning the base of the bowl in the conventional manner before attaching the wedge shaped glue chuck and face plate. Locate the faceplate on the headstock spindle and now turn the upper half of the bowl and hollow the inside. Take care to keep the edges formed in the turning neat and crisp.





November Competition

A small number of entries for this month after the greater interest being shown in recent months. The brief was for a coat- hanger.

Te Gill gained first place with this piece of involuted turning.



Hugh Field came up with an interesting design that included concealed fixings for the hanger. This was voted second.



Terry Gray invoked the Olympic Spirit with his design to gain the bronze place.





Staffordshire Wild Life Centre

On the weekend of 19th and 20th of November we staged a demo at the Wolseley centre of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust where Dawn set up her lathe and shavings were produced. Whilst we did not do as one turner apparently does and make small bags of shavings which he then sells as “rocking horse droppings”; never-the-less dibbers, mushrooms and spinning tops were produced and sold well.

This was an occasion for members to sell their work and donate 10% of the proceeds to the trust and three members took the opportunity to do so. There was in addition a considerable amount of items donated by members where all of the proceeds went to the Trust. The result of this was that sales of over £300 were achieved in total but after deduction of member sale costs we were able to donate £185.30 to the Trust

Dawn had the pleasure of taking the cash to the lady in charge which was considerably over anything the other stallholders had managed to achieve, with the result that she was overcome by our efforts and brought to the edge of tears. Needless to say we have been invited back again next year!



So whilst its thanks to those there, namely Dawn, Vance, Terry and Will, thanks also go to all you members who sent pieces to be sold on the day. We will doubtless all get a prod from Dawn ahead of the next demo when we take our hobby out into the community and do a bit of good for others at the same time.

John Smith

The MSWA Website Gallery

The website gallery is woefully understocked at the moment. I could add to it by posting pictures of the competition winners but the photographs snatched during the normal MSWA meeting do not always do justice to the pieces. I have received some pictures and these will be uploaded to the website shortly but more will be welcome.

So my request is the one that I have made before. Please send pictures to me by e-mail to the Editor@mswa.co.uk or give them to me on a CD at the meeting, or failing that give me good prints that I can photograph or rescan. I reserve the right to crop and adjust resolutions to suit the requirements of the website. Give me also a title and a brief description of the piece and any notes that you want to attach.

The website is a showcase for the MSWA. So here is your opportunity to assist in the presentation.

Philip Watts



Club information

Your club committee for 2011 is:-

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Albert Heath

Tel:

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Brian Garratt

Tel:

Email:

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

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

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 :-

Boiling wood

Some information on this alternative wood treatment.
<http://www.woodturningvideosplus.com/boiling-green-wood.html>
www.woodturners.org/tech_tips/misc-pages/boiling.pdf

General

www.turningwood.com/artists.htm

There is an entry on this site for Darrel Feltmate with lots of useful information.

Ideas for ornaments can be found on
<http://woodcentral.com/newforum/ornaments>

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

Tony Chapman, email address 'tonychapman5@btinternet.com' and phone number 01335 300 259 and that's in Ashbourne has contacted Paul Bellamy to say he has a Union Jubilee lathe, chucking attachments and turning tools for sale. He would like £500 for the whole lot but would break it into 3 lots if necessary at £250 for the lathe, and £125 each for the chucking and the tools.



Custom toolrests – David Fields

David's grandson is able to make toolrests, similar to the Robert Sorby system, out of round steel bar. These can be tailored to suit your requirements i.e. toolpost stem and length of the actual toolrest. At the moment he is only doing straight toolrests 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 toolpost, allowing the toolrest 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 'woodturning 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.

Teknatool Nova 3000 lathe, upgraded to 1Hp full electronic speed control, with remote and reversing switches, complete with stand, outboard bowl turning attachment and Supernova chuck - Paul Bellamy

This lathe is the same as the club lathe but was upgraded for a customer who has since pulled out of the purchase. It is an excellent lathe and I am only selling it as I now have a Nova DVR. The lathe also has the outboard turning attachment allowing you to turn bowls up to 29" diameter – big stuff! If you want more information, or want to see the lathe, please get in touch. I can also deliver and help set it up for you, as it is a bit big to go in a car.