



Future Events

MSWA Meetings

December 7th
Colin Fishwick

Other Events

Club Competitions

December – Beginners/Novice Cup

Decorated Platter
(minimum 8 inches diameter)

Chairman's Notes

Brian Garratt 1937 to 2012

Sadly we lost Brian in the early hours of the Saturday immediately after our last club meeting, suddenly and quite unexpectedly. Brian joined our club in February 2001 at the same time as his friend, Albert Heath and they had consecutive membership numbers. Whilst Brian had only submitted the odd competition entry, he was nevertheless a proficient turner and a display of several pieces of his work was shown at the funeral service giving an indication of his love of wood and working with it. A small number of us attended the service to represent the club and a card offering our condolences was sent to his wife Dorothy and to the family. Again, one of our member who will be missed at future meetings.

This month's demonstration by Steve Heeley was in the first part a lesson in replicating items, such that they appear close to identical and stressed the need for accurate measurements. Producing a "one off" is something any of us can do, but turning several virtually identical copies does require not only skill, but also a lot of care in taking calliper readings etc. The second part of the demo made me realise the extent to which turning is becoming an increasingly sophisticated art form. Texturing, piercing, carving and colouring are appearing ever more in turned work and the piece that Steve worked on showed this well. Another fine show by Steve, even to the extent that some of his "fan base" turned up for the evening!

I would like to record my thanks to all of our members who brought along pieces of work to be sold at the Staffordshire Wildlife Christmas Fayre in the middle of this month. Events such as this provide us with the opportunity to show turning to a wider audience and possibly attract new members, whilst at the same time supporting a charity that has a long term aim of conserving our countryside heritage. A very noble cause in it's own right and something we can feel pride in supporting. I hope many of you will be able to visit Wolseley Gardens on the 17th or 18th to support both our club and the trust.

A couple of weeks ago I got a telephone call from one of my grandsons (the one who is 13, a difficult age!) with the request, "Grandad, can we make a shaving horse? I've been on the internet and I can give you the web-site so that you'll know how we can do it." So, having down-loaded the plan I set to finding suitable timber. Fortunately I cut down a Holly tree back in 2008 which I got planked and is by now well seasoned and which was long enough to fit the plans. Thus some days were spent during half term working on the project and if I can find a suitable eye bolt about 4 inches by 3/8ths then we will have everything we need. However the legs are tapered and it looks as if I might have to make a 1 in 12 tapered auger for the holes to take the legs. Why is it that one job always seems to make another?

John.



Editor's Scribblings

This month John's notes as Chairman cover the death of Brian Garratt, but shortly after he had sent them to me John himself suffered a stroke. Hopefully, there are signs of a recovery but John will obviously be unable to contribute greatly to the running of the MSWA for the immediate future. This is just another problem for the MSWA Committee to manage. John had stepped into the breach left by the resignation of Dawn but had rightly made it clear that he would do this until the AGM but not thereafter. John had already more than served his time in Club positions and felt that new blood should come on board.

If you haven't picked it up by now, and quite where have you been, then you should become aware that the MSWA is reaching a point that will determine its continuation into the coming years. At the Annual General Meeting in January, we will be looking for nominees for Club Chairman, Club Secretary and Events Secretary. Without these posts being filled, the club cannot function and will fold. It is as simple as that!.

We have circulated a questionnaire to all club members seeking information on what they want from the club, and what they are prepared to do to support it. If you haven't filled it in and returned it then please do so. It is in your interest. It is not just an idle academic exercise by the committee. It is intended to help shape the continuance of the club.

STOP PRESS

MSWA were once again represented at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Christmas Fayre. Proceeds from the sale of turned items on the stand were to be contributed to the Trust. The best selling item on the Saturday seemed to be Christmas Trees a la Ken Allen and a production line led by Vance Lupton and Hugh Field were kept busy producing them in order to keep pace with the sales generated by the hard-selling tactics of Geoff Payne. In the end, the Club made a donation of over £150 to the Wildlife Trust.



Jane taking a turn at the lathe whilst Geoff moves in for the kill.





November Demonstration by Steve Heeley

Steve Heeley is a regular visitor to the MSA and is always worth watching and listening to as he stands behind the lathe. This evening was no exception as he chose two projects, one for the less experienced and a technique for those interested in extending the range of their skills.

Before commencing the first project, Steve outlined the wide range of work that could arrive in his workshop as a production turner, from replacement stair rails onwards. Nothing, however, could outdo the example that he produced from the back of his van. Billed as a large salad bowl, it proved to be the basis for a re-creation of a Saxon shield. Thirty three and one-half inches in diameter and seven and one-half inches thick, this piece had been laminated from twenty blocks of tulip wood and had taken over two days to turn. The finished item was due to be handed to the client who then have the exterior covered in metal, probably a bronze, and the interior lined. The final item would then be used in re-enact ions of Saxon times.



The first project was for a pair of napkin rings but sets of four or six could be made in the same way. (By the way, napkin rings are definitely middle class according to recent correspondence in one of the papers. The true upper classes had clean napkins for every meal and did not, therefore, need napkin rings. The lower classes did not use napkins. Hence, the observation that these are definitely for the “nouveau riche”).

Material used was a Sapele, dried to about 16% from an initial 34%, although the ideal would have been about 10% for use in a modern centrally-heated house. The blank was placed between centres and rough turned down to a cylinder before forming a dovetail on end. This was used to hold the blank in a chuck providing access to the out end so that a suitably sized Forstner bit could be used to bore out the



centre. The rings were to be about one and one-half inches in length and with an outside diameter of one and seven-eighths of an inch.

A skew was used to form decorative grooves on the outside of the first ring and a spindle gouge employed to roll a bead at the outer end. Finally, the skew was used to form the outside of the ring into a smooth barrel shape working from the centreline outwards. After sanding off with the normal range of grits, the decorative grooves were highlighted by friction burning with a piece of wire. The final finish employed Steve Heeley's standard one of oil. The first ring was then parted off.

The process was then repeated to form the second ring. A short jam chuck was then turned from the remainder of the blank to permit the parted ends of the rings to have the beads formed and finished.

A stand for the rings completed the project. The initial blank was slimmed down to take the rings with a smooth sliding fit. Planing cuts with a skew being used on a tool rest set high compared to the centreline of the blank produced a good finish. The base of the column was turned to a spigot for insertion into the yet to be turned base whilst there was scope for creativity in the decoration to be turned at the top of the column. A miniature finial, perhaps. A second blank was turned to provide the base with a hole bored to accept the spigot turned on the column. Steve looks for a fit that is not too tight to allow for the use of the adhesive. Again, there is scope for the base to have decorative features.



As stated earlier, Steve's favourite finish is oil alone with which he creates a superb finish but he commented that Richard Raffan, a well-known turner and writer, uses a combination of oil and wax.

Following the tea break and judging of the monthly competition, Steve demonstrated a colouring technique that will no doubt set certain members thinking. The basis for the project was a part turned vase. Steve first demonstrated a range of cuts using a bowl gouge with a long grind. First, cleaning off with the edge of a wing in a fine shear scraping mode, the handle of the tool being held well down. A better cut can be achieved with a push cut with the bevel rubbing but Steve commented that it is more difficult with this cut to achieve the shape and a clean cut together. Being left-handed, Steve commented on how he used a finger to oppose the direction of push as a means of controlling the movement of the tool.

Sanding commenced with a coarse grit and the lathe being used in reverse, a technique that is good with some woods but not others. A texturing blade in an Arbortech tool was then used to texture the outside of the piece with the lathe running at low speed. This is not an exercise for the unskilled, or indeed the faint hearted. The application of something resembling an angle grinder to a rotating piece of wood requires care and concentration. The ends of the textured section were then cleaned up with a skew chisel and refined with a small detail.

What can only be described as blotches of colour were then applied to the textured area with a brush. The base of the piece was masked off before the application of a sprayed coat of black. Cutting back with an abrasive then revealed areas of the wood grain, the base coat of colour or retained the top black coat. Once this process had achieved the desired effect, to the taste of the individual turner, then a coat of an acrylic sanding sealer was used to seal in the colour before an oil finish. Steve Heeley often uses 8 to 9 coats of oil to achieve the standard of finish that he deems to be of quality.



Wood 'n' things



A final few minutes were spent demonstrating the use of a Woodcut tool in the hollowing process. This is a well usable tool that is kept sharp with the aid of a diamond slip.

Philip Watts

A further example of Steve's work.





November Competition

There were three entries for the November competition that called for an acorn box not less than two and one-half inches in diameter.

Hugh Field was the winner coming in one point ahead of the Editor who tried the “Never mind the quality, feel the width” approach by field not one but two boxes mounted on a carved branch. Ted Gill was inspired by his daughter's Russian dolls to take the approach even further with a set of nesting boxes but lost out probably because his largest box was smaller than the competition demanded.



Hugh's Box (above) and the overall entry below.





Club information

Your club committee for 2012 is:-

Chairman -

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Position vacant protom

Secretary

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Tel 01922 457159

Assistant treasurer – Roy Fallows

Tel. 01543 491826

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Events secretary - Geoff Payne

Tel. 01543 480744 Mob. 07775 518769

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Abrasives -

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

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, 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

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.