



Future Events

MSWA Meetings

October 25th

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Melvyn Firmager

December 6th

Andrew Hall

Wooden Hats

Other Events

November 16/17th

Christmas Fair

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Club Competitions

November

Challenge

A piece of involuted turning

December

Novice

A natural edged bowl or platter

January

Challenge – A tea light or candle holder

Premier Cup – An abstract piece based on turning

Chairman's Notes

The October meeting featuring Joey Richardson was well attended with a number of visitors coming from other clubs. This was very welcome and we hope that they will be attracted and come again.

Your committee met again recently. The main items on the agenda covered the state of the club finances (more on that at the AGM in January), the programme for the next year, and the competition challenges.

Ted Gill has been busy developing the programme and has demonstrators for the majority of the months. There will be a mixture of well known names and new ones demonstrating new skills, We think that you will find it attractive. A new set of challenges have been selected for the three club competitions. We have retained the existing format of Novice, Challenge and Premier with the first two competitions being on alternate months. We urge all members to participate. This is the best way of developing your skills. Do not be nervous if you have not entered before. We all have to start somewhere. Here is your chance.

Philip Watts

Chairman

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Editor's Scriblings

The Editor's local council in Birmingham is keen on meeting its recycling targets and the local recycling depot (that which we called the tip) has skips for a wide variety of material including real wood, as distinct from chipboard and the like. I remember once commenting to my wife as we bought bowl blanks at Craft Supplies that 90% of what we were buying would end up on the workshop floor in the form of wood shavings.

I was tempted to remark at the end of the Joey Richardson demonstration that she appeared to be pushing the recycling targets to in excess of 95% as she cut away and pierced yet more of her work to produce the delicate items for which she has become renowned.

It is now accepted that my shavings can find the way to the garden compost heaps, but only in the correct proportions to the other material. Sometimes, I am exhorted to produce more to mix with grass cuttings. At other times, my offerings are spurned.

Philip Watts

Change of date

For various reasons we have moved the November meeting forward to Friday October 25th when the demonstrator will be Melvyn Firmager.. Please place this date in your diaries now.

October Competition

The Novice challenge for October was for a square topped box. David Neale and John McElroy responded with David taking the top spot with box with a pierced lid. It would be nice for everybody if we could see more entries for this competition. A natural edged bowl or platter is the requirement for the December Novice competition. Only so many turning days until the Christmas month meeting.





Joey Richardson – Demonstration

From an interest in woodturning commencing in 1995,

Joey Richardson saw her profile in the woodturning world increase in 2005 when she won a bursary to visit the Staes and study under Bhin Pho, a leading American woodturner. She learnt many of her techniques from him and it is these that she seeks to pass on through her demonstrations. From the outset, she provided much detail and it would be impossible within the confines of a few Newsletter pages to capture all these. The best that this report could do would be to provide the highlights. More background information is available on Joey's website.



What are we talking about? A sample of one of Joey's pieces is shown below. A basic turning is transformed by piercing and colouring techniques into something totally unique, very often with a hidden story to tell. A further development has been the use of the finished wooden items being used to provide the moulds for glass replicas, different coloured glasses providing variations on a theme. The basis of each piece is often sycamore, being a white wood that turns, can be easily worked and one that takes colour well. Cut from locally felled trees, the greenwood is bagged and kept in a freezer and turned whilst thawing out, with the finished item sometimes dried out in a microwave.



Joey's demonstration was a mixture of practical work, handouts of photographs

The piercing work is carried out using either a very high speed air powered drill or one of the more common Dremel electric drills. The air powered drill is obviously quicker in operation, running at in excess of 300.000rpm and is not a cheap option. Certainly one for the professionals! The work-pieces are turned to a thickness of 2mm before piercing, either with that thickness overall, or with pre-determined areas reduced to that dimension as part of an overall design.



Wood 'n' things



Designs can either be drawn on freehand, if one is that sufficiently artistic, can be derived from commercially available material or from the internet. Joey demonstrated one technique in which a design copied using a photocopier can be transferred to the wood by placing the paper image side down onto the work piece, the back of the paper is then being coated with acetone or cellulose thinners. The outline of the design can be made more distinct by going over it with a pyrography pen.

Colouring using air brush pens provided a further phase of Joey's work with many tips being provided on their use. Techniques for the manufacture and application of masks completed the picture. Many of Joey's designs now contain a story told within the design.

The latest development pioneered in America is the use of these turned and pierced items as a pattern for glass items. The results are fascinating and represent a way of reproducing a shape but in giving it a further degree of individuality in the choice of colour.

Joey's demonstration was both informative and well presented. Her use of samples and hand-arounds supplemented the practical demonstration, keeping the interest of the members and visitors alive throughout.

Two examples of Joey's recent works:

Seed of Love



Fervens – Turned and pierced wood and then cast in glass





The 2013 European Woodworking Show at Cressing Temple Barns, Essex, 21st & 22nd September.

Report by Hugh Field

It was a long way to travel but, what a marvellous venue for a woodworking show! My wife and I decided to stay at the Holiday Inn Express at Braintree on Friday night (a comfortable room and surprisingly quiet considering it's proximity to the A120), having stopped en route at the Wimpole Estate (National Trust) near Cambridge, and so were eagerly waiting for the show to open on Saturday morning.

The farm buildings at Cressing Temple were acquired by Essex County Council in September 1987 to safeguard the future of the two 13th-century barns built by the Knights Templar and to make them more readily accessible to the public. Generous purchase grants received from English Heritage, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the European Commission represent general recognition of the site's international importance.



The County Council's objective has been to develop it as one of the focal points of the heritage of Essex, preserving its historical and archaeological character whilst encouraging public use through appropriate educational and leisure activities. The facility would justify a visit even without a show to see and has permanent exhibits that portray the heritage of this site. These include two lathes, one treadle powered, the other, described as a "wheel-wrights lathe" being hand crank powered (presumably by the apprentice) with a large flywheel. The walled garden, originating from the 16th century provided a haven of peace and tranquillity (and a pleasant place to sit at lunch time!).

Anyone interested in learning more about these amazing buildings can download a guide at <http://www.cressingtemple.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/cressing-guide.pdf>

The show covered the entire spectrum of woodworking from tree felling, heavy horse log hauling, and chainsaw planking, through to furniture making, carving, spoon making, guitar making, willow basket making, boat-building, timber frame building construction, marquetry, stick making, pyrography (courtesy of Bob Neill and his wife, with the opportunity to "have a go") and, of course, woodturning.

Nick Agar and Mark Hancock were the professional demonstrators, and not surprisingly very willing to chat and offer advice; and Chelmer Valley Woodturners and Sandon Woodturners both had excellent displays and several lathes in operation. Pole lathe turner, Paul Hayden from Westonbirt Arboretum



Wood 'n' things



was demonstrating the log to finished article processes. The AWGB had their travelling gallery with work selected from the recent Loughborough seminar and it was nice to see these items “in the flesh” and to marvel at the skilled workmanship that had gone into making them.



Trade stands included Axminster Tools, Robert Sorby, Chestnut, Toolpost, Jet, Classic Hand Tools, and several others selling tools and a wide variety of wood for carving, woodturning and other purposes. One stand was even selling Lilac, something I've not seen for sale before! I had to keep my hands in my pockets, as my allocated space for wood is already full! A stand selling veneers seemed to be trading well, not surprising in view of the range of natural and dyed woods on offer. I was also attracted to a stand selling really lovely work-benches, the quality of which would be quite appropriate in a dining room (with prices to match!).

There were interesting demonstrations on hand tool use and maintenance including a talk/demonstration on the differences in using and maintaining Japanese planes compared to European ones. Other interesting things to see were the demonstrations of steam bending, tying a wooden staved wheel, medieval hewing, axe making, chainsaw carving and drum making.

Carving was well represented by several clubs with “work in progress” and the Essex region of the British Woodcarvers Association had organised a competition with some extremely fine entries. This was to be judged by visitor voting but the wide range of subjects made choosing between them rather difficult. One entry, in the style of Grinling Gibbons, would certainly have done justice to the master himself and would be my choice to win the trophy and £750 cash. A Master Class in cabinet making was well attended (I was too late even to get a place standing in the doorway!).

This show truly provided something for anyone even slightly interested in wood and crafts, and if you thought us wood-turners are a friendly bunch then equally so are woodcarvers!

Newsletter

Many thanks to Hugh for this report. Very refreshing to see something that has not come from my keyboard. 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, I can accept photographs in both hard and soft copy, in many formats.



Club information

Your club committee for 2013 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – John McElroy

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Abrasives -

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

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Committee Members

Albert Heath
Dawn Hopley
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.

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.



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

Dawn Hopley has taken over the responsibility for these items and may be seen at Club Meetings



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

1 Glue Pot Cast Interior and Exterior	£15.00
1 Draw Knife	£15.00
2 12" Record G Clamps	£30.00

Ring Albert Heath on 01785 661851

For Sale

Axminster Jet Bench Top Circular Saw JTS-10
Assembled and complete with stand
Little used and taking up room £150

Ring Philip 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