



Future Events

October 2nd. Club meeting

Mark & Lisa Raby - Chestnut products.

Lisa does pyrography

October 11th. West Midlands Woodturners

Keith Lanchester demonstration

20-22nd. 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 they are getting few and far between.



Club Competitions

October Novice cup

A turned bird box

November Challenge cup

A clock

Premier Cup, January 2010

A piece of abstract art!!!

STOP PRESS!!!

Please check your latest copy of Revolutions. Some are missing pages. If your is thinner than it should be, please contact

Jon Simpson,
AWGB Regional Rep, Midlands & Wales.

JonAndBron@GoogleMail.Com
01604 491510 / 07818 445 308



Notes from the Chairman

“Didn’t we have a lovely time, the day we went to Bangor” goes the old song, except in our case it was to Westonbirt. This time we gave ourselves longer, staying to the end and still struggled to try and see it all. The chainsaw carvings were impressive and the work displayed by some of the local wood turning and carving clubs showed a very high standard of craftsmanship. Numerous demonstrations of turning, carving, joinery, axemanship, traditional crafts and more ensured a very full day and something for everyone. Added to this, a last minute change in transport saw us travelling in a full size coach with plenty of room to stretch out, the day remained dry and I remembered the camera for once.

As a result of our own demonstrations at both Alrewas and Kings Bromley shows back in July I can confirm that we have raised a sum in excess of £250 which will be going to the Stafford and District branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and I have to thank everyone who contributed either by giving pieces of turned work for sale or by being present at the events demonstrating, helping etc. My thanks are not only for supporting the club and its charity work, but in another context from my association with the Stafford M S Society. As I have previously mentioned, if any member has a specific charity they would like the club to consider supporting in the future, then please let us know.

Our meeting this month saw us welcoming back Tracy Owen who has always been one of those turners who are innovative in adding to their turned work to take it to another stage. We have seen it in the past with the texturing tool that he developed from a simple sprocket idea and was ultimately taken up by Robert Sorby Tools and marketed by them. This time using a chainsaw attachment to an angle grinder, he produced an effect that added significant character to a relatively straight forward bowl, then going on to further enhance it by wire brushing and spray painting. I’m not sure the piece of wood he chose really needed too much enhancement as it was a beautiful piece in it’s own right, but it did effectively show the technique. The use of the new projector system has proved very effective in being able to see what the demonstrator is doing and is a big step forward, however it is not without some problems. Specifically and as Tracy mentioned, the demonstrator can be a bit in the dark, so we need to improve the lighting aspect, but the additional wiring means we need to take care of the cable problem which could be a tripping hazard as well as the cables being subject to risk of damage. Needless to say, these problems are being looked into.

Also at this meeting we had the pleasure of a visit from “management” in the form of Jon Simpson, the new regional representative of the AWGB, together with his wife “the widow” Bron. We have exchanged correspondence since the meeting and I have to say he has been very complimentary about our club and we are promised a mention in a future edition of Revolutions. I have thanked them on the club’s behalf for taking the trouble to come and see us.
John.



Editor's scriblings

It is the time of year when many people are pruning trees and they could be a good source of timber for us but can I take this opportunity to remind everyone that chainsaws can be lethal.

I recently had a chat with someone who bought a chainsaw from Aldi, about a year ago. "It was a real bargain. Only cost £50". He came to me because he was having problems and heard I had done a course on them. He told me he got lots of smoke when he used it, and it didn't work very well; but he did keep the oil topped up!

When I looked at the chain he admitted it had never been sharpened – I think it would have struggled getting through a block of butter! As a result the guide bar was 'blued' due to overheating and that had let the slot open up so the chain wobbled about 30degrees each side of vertical. The tension was quite loose so I pointed out another potential risk of the chain jumping off the guide bar. "Would that be dangerous?" Now how do you answer that!!

The top handle had broken off some time ago so had been replaced with an iron rod. He had done a neat job but I did have doubts about how secure it was. What would happen if during a kickback, his 'new' handle gave way and the saw kept coming towards him?

And it got worse, it turns out he doesn't have ANY protective gear – well a boiler suit, a pair of gardening gloves and Totector shoes!

The following day, I took some pictures of chainsaw injuries, and pointed out those are the lucky ones as they are still living. He went a bit pale but I think he will still continue in his old ways. I just hope he doesn't become another statistic.

Now the question is – who is to blame for this situation. The user? Yes, you would expect him to be concerned for his own safety. But I would also criticise the shops for selling equipment without offering any advice or personal protective equipment (PPE). It doesn't happen with the major manufacturers' dealers. Stihl dealers, for example, will not sell top handled chainsaws without the appropriate certificate, and they will ask questions of anyone purchasing even an ordinary chainsaw. They also stock all forms of PPE, maintenance tools etc.

Yes, the DIY chains and other shops sell inexpensive kit and we all like a bargain but how much do you value your arms, legs, eyes or even your life?

Paul

What is it?

Can you identify the object in the picture? 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 an adjustable spanner. Not strictly a woodturning tool but we have all had to use one at some time, I am sure. Well done to Keith Lanchester who got his answer in first but many others got it right.

And this month's object is another with only a loose connection with woodturning but it is associated with other parts of this newsletter. Now there's a clue for you.



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 on Chestnut products.

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

SHOP 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 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.



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



Books and DVDs

Just a reminder. The club has books and DVDs for hire. There is quite a selection and the fee helps support the club.



Wood 'n' things



September competition

This month was an auctioneer's gavel and block and we got a record number of entries. Well done to everyone who submitted a piece but what about the rest of you?



First place – Nigel Armstrong



Second place – Geoff Payne



Third place – Dave Neale

And the rest,



Good entries by Dave Dawes, Albert Heath, Phil Watts, Tom Young, and Paul Bellamy



Tracy Owens – circles the square!

by Peter Worrall

On Friday, I arrived at the Village hall for the September Club meeting at a time which I thought was quite early - only to find that many others were already there bustling around, setting up our new projector and screen, chairs already out and lathe and video cameras set up. There is one very noticeable and necessary attribute that our club has, and that is enthusiasm from the membership. Long may it last!



It was a nice warm evening and the members gradually drifted in until it was obvious that we were going to get a bumper attendance for the evening. And so we did. Anyone who looked down the list of demonstrators for this year would have soon realised the reason. One of England's finest turners was here to show us how it should be done! Tracy Own, of course, always welcome at the Mid Staffs meetings.

Soon, everything was ready and our Chairman John began by introducing the new AWGB area representative, Jon Simpson. Our previous rep. who had been very active in this responsible job had had to give up his post for personal reasons. Anyway we were all pleased to have Jon and his wife visit the club. In discussions in the interval the impression given is that Jon will be a very active, lively figure, helping to promote individual clubs and the AWGB in general. Good Luck John! And now we get to the turning.

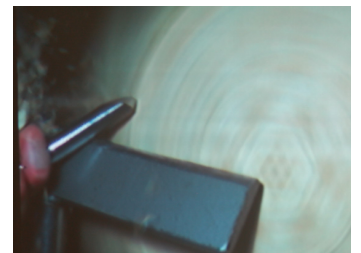
As I said, Tracy has been to our club several times, - and said he had good memories of demonstrating to us but he was going to be especially careful tonight because he recalled that on a previous occasion, he had allowed a skew chisel to fall off the bench and it had cut clean through an electric cable! The piece that he would turn tonight was going to be a square-ish, shallow bowl, decorated with carving and colouring. Quite a challenge to complete in just over two hours, don't you think?. But Tracy was soon eager to demonstrate that it could be done.



He mounted on the lathe a piece of spalted maple using a screw chuck. It was a pretty piece of timber with quite even spalting and slightly concave sides, about 10 inches square and he briefly outlined what he was attempting to achieve and as a help he showed 'one I completed earlier' in true Blue Peter fashion. So, lets get cracking. Keep the revs down low to start, remembering that at first the timber is out of balance and has wickedly sharp corners spinning round, ready to slice into your fingers if you are not careful.

Whoops! What happened there? As Tracy applied the gouge to the wood the complete lathe moved away from him. How could that happen? Because we had forgotten to take off the castor wheels from the lathe. These are only there to enable the lathe, which is very heavy, to be wheeled out of the storeroom and in all the bustle of setting up the new projector and so on, removing them had got overlooked. Taking them off makes the lathe steady, of course and also puts the lathe at a much more suitable height for turning.

Tracy works quite quickly and the bowl soon begins to take shape. Do not make the bowl too thin at first because we are going to do quite deep carving on the front and besides, leaving bulk at the centre helps to give stability to the piece as you go along. This is one of Tracy's main attractions. He gives almost a running commentary on what he is doing as he goes along so you pick up hints on tools, timber and features to look out for when you are choosing pieces to turn. Getting even warmer now so it is off with his smock and press on.



With a piece like this it is the corners which give the turner a testing time. The 'hit and miss' rattle as the tool attempts to cut the wood makes getting a good finish quite, or even, very, difficult. But there is an answer. Use a very sharp edged scraper in the 'shear' mode and you will find that only a small amount of sanding is needed.



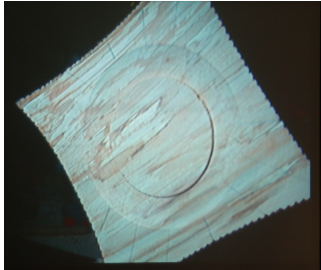
Having turned a small foot and a spigot to use on the reverse turn Tracy could not resist using his texturing tool to add a little feature to the foot. And why shouldn't he use the texturing tool, after all he invented it!



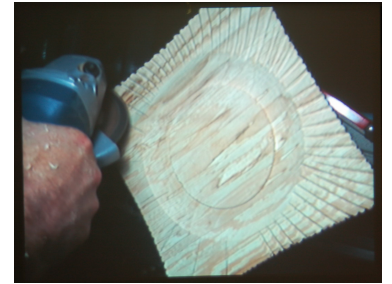
Wood 'n' things



After reverse chucking, the shallow bowl part is turned away. Quite shallow in fact, but this leaves a thick surround so that it can be carved not only on the top surface but on the edges as well. Now, if I was doing this carving it would take me hours, I am sure but if you use an Arbortech type of chain saw then it can be done in about ten minutes! If you are Tracy Owen, that is.



With a running commentary about the timber and especially about the soft patches of the spalting the carving, which, to briefly describe it, is like rays of the sun emanating from a central Sun (which is the shallow bowl) is finalised. Just a few minutes with a wire wheel will clean it up ready for finishing. The non-carved area of the piece is sanded using a power sanding technique and this again seems to take only a few minutes.



Now the colouring. It was explained that this part of the project could take a lot of time and also it was pointed out that it was wide open to experimentation but for tonight a simple coat of black from an aerosol can was the aim, avoiding the edges and the central bowl if possible, although the bowl part could be cleaned up afterwards should this be necessary.



Turning off the holding spigot required holding the piece using a pre-prepared disc and the tailstock cutting away the final little pip with a sharp knife, but before that a coat of Danish oil rubbed in and de-nibbed gave the bowl its finishing touch.

A most informative and entertaining evening from one of our top turners. I am sure that we shall be seeing Tracy (and his texturing tool!) at the club again. Oh, I almost forgot. When the demo was finished I went and examined the square bowl more closely and as my fingers ran over the dished area of the bowl, something that woodturners cannot resist doing, well, expressions like 'Smooth as a baby's bottom come to mind!

Many Thanks Tracy - come again soon.



My thanks to Peter Worrall for doing this month's write up.

Would anyone else like to show their journalistic self??



Wood 'n' things



Kings Bromley Village show

Some pictures of club members showing woodturning, and Peter Worrall doing his 'Super Salesman' role to raise funds for this year's charity, the local Multiple Sclerosis society.



Terry and Geoff turning out goodies

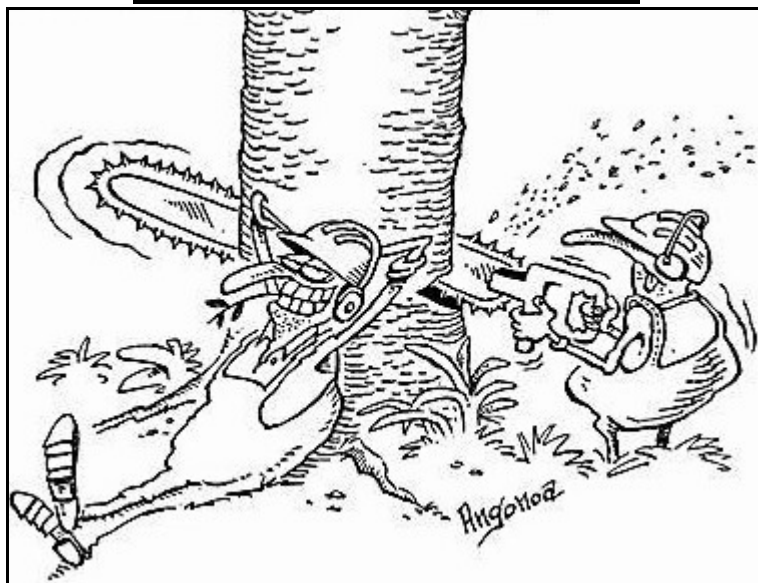


Peter promoting our sales



Chris and Dawn finish another top

These ear protectors are brilliant!



A humorous suffix to my earlier scribblings but I wonder if it has ever happened? It wouldn't surprise me. I am just glad I am not a paramedic!



Wood 'n' things



Westonbirt
- some images from John Smith and Mike Gadsby





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.

Tracy Owen's line burning

A nice tip from Tracy. We have all used a wire to burn a ring round a spindle but how do you get the same effect where you can't wind a wire round, like the base of a bowl. Yes you can use the tip of a skew chisel but the heat is damaging the steel. Tracy's solution – an outcut of Formica. The edge is sharp and very hard so ideal for burning a ring.



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 :-

Tudor Rose Woodturners – the 'home' club of our new Midlands representative.

<http://www.tudor-rose-turners.co.uk/>

and Jon's own website

<http://www.wood-be-nice.co.uk/>

Getting ready for next month, with some inside information. Info. on Mylands woodturning finishes,

<http://www.myland.co.uk/turning.html#1>

WANTED

Small to medium sized bandsaw – Ty Kerr

Ty is looking for a bandsaw for preparing bowl blanks. If anyone has one, or knows of one, for sale. However, due to recent events, please get in touch with me, not direct with Ty. Thanks, Paul Bellamy



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.

Yew – poisonous or not?

There is a lot of conflicting information on yew, from 'incredibly dangerous' to 'used for ancient tankards and spoons'. Does anyone have a categoric answer about the use of yew in turnings? Can it be used for salad bowls? Fruit bowls? Toys? What finishes have been used?

Please send any comments, advice to the Editor. Thanks.



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

Record Power CL2 lathe, with scroll chuck and Record Power stand.

I am selling this on behalf of a friend. He has had to give up woodworking following two knee operations. It is about six years old but in brand new condition and is one of the English castings, not the more recent Chinese imports.

Record don't market this lathe any more but it falls between the CL1 and CL3 so we have priced it at £350. Features:- ¾ Hp motor, 36" bed, 12" swing, MT1 tapers. I am not sure of the make of the chuck. I think it is one of the Record range. It has a dedicated ¾ x 16TPI thread, set of standard jaws and a screw insert, and has indexing holes in the body. Selling for £75.

The stand is the RPLB 24-48 Lathe Bench which alone retails at £150 so this package is a real bargain.

I would keep it myself except I just got a Nova DVR. I have got pictures of the lathe before we dismantled it. Email me if you would like to see them. Will sell separately or looking for around £500 for the lot. Paul Bellamy.



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".

Pampurred - Another look at life from Ron Dixon

15 pieces of advice to be passed on to your mum, your daughters or granddaughters, nieces, aunts, girlfriends, etc.

1. Don't imagine you can change a man - unless he's in nappies.
2. What do you do if your boyfriend walks out? You shut the door.
3. If they can put a man on the moon - they should be able to put them all up there.
4. Never let your man's mind wander - it's too little to be out alone.
5. Go for the younger man. You might as well, they never mature anyway.
6. Men are all the same - they just have different faces, so that you can tell them apart.
7. Definition of a bachelor: a man who has missed the opportunity to make some woman miserable.
8. Women don't make fools of men - most of them are the do-it-yourself types.
9. Best way to get a man to do something is to suggest he is too old for it.
10. Love is blind, but marriage is a real eye-opener.
11. If you want a committed man, look in a mental hospital.
12. The children of Israel wandered around the desert for 40 years. Even in Biblical times, men wouldn't ask for directions.
13. If he asks what sort of books you're interested in, tell him cheque books.
14. Remember a sense of humor does not mean that you tell him jokes, it means that you laugh at his.
15. Sadly, all men are created equal.

I will leave it up to members whether or not they pass this on.