



## Future Events

### Next MSWA Meetings

October 7<sup>th</sup>

Ivor Pedley

November 4<sup>th</sup>

Steve Heeley

December

Simon Hope

Decorative Pewter and Bagpipes

### Other Events

## Club Competitions

October – Novice

Mortar and Pestle

November – Challenge

A Coat Rack

December – Novice

A Christmas Ornament

Our busy Chairman is taking a well-earned holiday this month so I thought that I would allow the Secretary to step into the breach and use the space that I normally allocate to her to talk about one of the issues that your committee has spent time on in recent months.

## Notes from the Secretary

Some of you may be wondering what your committee has been up to in the last few months and what decisions have been made on your behalf so I thought I should put finger to keyboard. I mentioned at the AGM that my wife & I were planning an extended cruise in our narrow-boat over the summer (303 miles and 192 locks) and hence would not be around for some meetings. My thanks to those who stood in especially Jane Russell for taking the minutes at the committee meeting in May.

We currently have 43 members. 7 did not renew from last year but we welcome Christine Jobburns, Keith Myatt and John McElroy. A note to all members, if your contact details have changed since I updated the records in the spring please let me know, especially with respect to your e- mail address.

It was found that some members were not receiving their printed copy of the newsletter but we believe this has now been resolved. If not please tell me.

We are conscious of our duty of care to ensure, to the best of our ability, that members, visitors, demonstrators and members of the public are safe during monthly meetings and at demonstrations at summer shows etc. To this end Philip has carried out risk assessments which in conjunction with Dawn & myself have been turned into actions necessary to ensure safety. Philip has agreed to act as Safety Advisor until the next AGM. Our portable electrical equipment is to be tested for safety otherwise known as PAT. Demonstrators are to be required to confirm they carry suitable insurance to indemnify the Club, members and the owners of the Hall (Public Liability). Equipment Officers, Brian & Albert are to monitor the correct setting up of the lathe etc. at club meetings to ensure a safe environment, especially no trailing cables liable to trip, a clear safe zone between front row seats and lathe, demonstrators equipment to be safe etc. A club First Aid kit has been obtained which is to be made readily available for use.

Agreed that the 2012 Executive Committee be limited in size in accordance with the constitution i.e. Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Events Secretary, Newsletter and no more than four committee members. With power to co-opt as needed.

And the good news.....the MSWA membership fee is to remain at £12. Also that the meeting fee to remain at £3 for members and £4 for visitors.



## Secretary's Notes (cont)

It was decided that in future when we attend summer shows etc. there are to be no sales on a commission basis. Any items brought along by members are to be for display only unless 100% of sale be donated to club. Any member wishing to sell privately at such shows to do so separately to the club and to rent a table accordingly.

And finally .....It has been agreed that our chosen charity for 2011 is The Donna Louise Children's Hospice at Stoke on Trent. See <http://www.donnalouisetrust.org> for more information.

I hope this brings you up to date. Don't forget to make suggestions especially if you have seen something you like at another club that we could adopt. Complaints to Dawn!

Will Rose

## Editor's Scribblings

A recent discussion wandered round the subject of the requests that we get one people understand that we have a hobby called wood turning. Our Chairman has evidently turned a former for a model aeroplane fuselage for a neighbour such that he could make a mould. I often end up using the lathe for replacement feet for settees or extension legs for shower chairs that are the wrong height. More recently, I was asked to make some emergency bungs for one of the sailing ships that I crew on.

The Royal Yachting Association recommend boat owners to carry a selection of tapered softwood plugs for use if ever a pipe fitting below the waterline such as an engine cooling inlet suffers a breakage. Perhaps the narrow boat owners within the club should follow the same advice. I have made sets before for friends with yachts with diameters ranging up to between two to three inches and a couple if inches long. The specification for these bungs was however for slightly larger ones, between three and one half inches up to five and one half inches long and eight inches long.

The main problem was to find some suitable timber without any great expense. Passing a skip at the top of the road containing the ends of joists from a house extension solved that problem. Three layers laminated together provided the blanks and a couple of hours filled the workshop floor with pine shavings.

The problem of then shipping six large bungs to Southampton was solved by an emergency request from the JST Office to sail on the ship in question. In short, I carried my sailing gear in one bag and the bungs in another sports bag on the train down to the port, taking care not to kneecap any passing passenger with the solid contents.

Let me hear from any of you what unusual requests that you have received in your woodworking life. Perhaps a competition for the most unusual?

## Next Month's Issue

Vance Lupton has written an article on the Norwegian wood turning cruise. Perhaps some thoughts on skew turned bowls plus the usual reports on the demonstration and competition.

After that, it will depend on what articles, ideas and inspiration that you provide to me at the [Editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:Editor@mswa.co.uk)

Philip Watts



## September Demonstration – Ken Allen

Ken Allen is a long established member of the MSWA and can normally be found in his workshop on the Shugborough Estate. He returns as a Demonstrator at the request of a number of MSWA members.

For this demonstration, Ken had chosen to make a 17<sup>th</sup> Century pot-pourri bowl. The inspiration for this project came from a number of requests that he had received to turn replicas of bowls that had been acquired by collectors. Two such examples were passed around for examination by members. The principal feature was the thickness ( or should that be thinness) of the two bowls, each being about 4 inches in diameter but of the order of 1mm (< 1/16 inch) in thickness, and coloured and pierced.



Ken commonly uses Silver Birch, harvested from Cannock Chase. He claims that this is an under-rated wood. It turns well when wet but is less easy to turn when dry. This is an interesting choice because other turners have emphasised the propensity of this wood to decay swiftly, it being claimed that rot sets in at the first sound of an approaching chainsaw. On this occasion, a piece of beech that had been drying for about three months was used. The ends of the blank had been waxed to prevent cracking.

Turning commenced with the piece between centres with a spigot to suit a chuck being turned at one end and an overall shape being formed in rough. The internal shape was then formed with the blank securely mounted in a chuck. Ken prefers to use a push cut when hollowing end-grain, believing that this gives him more control than the alternatives. The work was sanded as the job proceeded using wet and dry papers, initially 240 grade followed by 320 and proceeding to finer grades if desired. Sanding was carried out wet with water also being applied to the blank to prevent it from drying out too quickly before turning had been completed.

The outside profile was then refined using the well-known technique of judging the thickness of the work by shining a bench light into the interior, and observing the colour and brightness of the light being seen through the wood.

Decoration was applied in two different ways. Bands were scorched into the wood with the aid of copper wire pressed into small grooves turned in the exterior of the bowl. Colouring was in the form of acrylic paints laid on with a wet cloth. Throughout the process, the wood was kept wet. This action was said to draw the colour into the wood and make it integral rather than just a surface layer. The colouring was muted. The acrylic paint was diluted with water in a jar and allowed to remain on the wood for only a short time before being wiped off again. (Ken had a tip for keeping dilute acrylic paint fresh in a jar by adding half a tablet of Steradent to the solution, causing some non-dentured members to enquire what that substance was.)



Reference was made to a Jimmy Clewes method of accelerating the drying of a turned item by spraying methylated spirits onto the surface and then setting light to it. Ken did not adopt this rather spectacular approach, much to the relief of our Health and Safety conscious Secretary but still drew some reaction with the use of a gas-powered blow lamp of the sort that is now an essential feature of any high-tech kitchen. An electrically powered hot air gun would achieve the same end with less drama.

The piercing was achieved with the aid of a Pyrography tool which Ken preferred to the use of a Dremel type drill and burr. The effect of the piercing is enhanced by the scorch marks around each hole. Various ways of achieving a random pattern were discussed and tried including the co-opting of various club members to take part on the operation. Ken's preferred method of finishing is to use Melamine finish diluted 50/50 with cellulose thinners. He pointed out that the application of this finish tended to bring out the colour in the piece, thus emphasising the need to keep the applied colouring to a minimum if garish over-the-top colouring is not the objective. Two coats of melamine are usually sufficient. This can then be cut back and a final finish or oil or friction polish used.

Finally, the importance of the base being turned down to an equivalent level of thickness was emphasised and Ken hollowed out the underneath of the base before parting it off from the spigot that had held in the lathe chuck.

The finished item.



## **On the subject of safety:**

A Police Protection Officer was talking to a group of small children in a rough area of one of the cities in Northern England. He asked "Why should you not touch the oven handle or the kettle? After some thought one small girl replied "Because you might leave fingerprints".



## A visit to Gayle Mill – Wensleydale

A family occasion took the Editor and his wife back to Wensleydale and presented the opportunity to visit the recently restored Gayles Mill in Hawes.



The mill was erected in 1784-5 as a cotton mill and based on designs by Arkwright. Having moved from cotton to flax and finally, wool production, the mill closed and was re-opened in 1878 as a sawmill employing what the friends of Gayle Mill are pleased to call “the latest in cutting-edge technology”. The Mill still contains all the woodworking machinery dating from that time and powered by the earliest water turbine still in its original position and doing its original job.

A second turbine was installed in 1925 and was used to generate electricity for the mill and nearby buildings. This turbine, together with a brand new one will be used to power the mill and provide surplus renewable electricity to the National Grid.

The Gayle Mill won third place in the 2004 final of the BBC Television's programme “Restoration” and, following substantial restoration works is now open to the public. It also produces high quality wood products and provides an educational resource.

The mill was laid out to take timber from the raw material to the finished product. Felled trees from the surrounding countryside could be delivered to the mill, offloaded with the aid of a four-ton capacity Scotch derrick, and placed on the table of a water-powered circular saw in the basement of the mill. This saw has a four-foot diameter saw blade with minimal safety guarding. Trunks cut into slabs on this saw could then be set to one side to season, although today an electrically powered kiln is provided to speed up the process. The use of this saw has now been limited on “Health and Safety” grounds and the organisation looking after the mill has acquired a portable Wood-miser trailer-mounted band saw that can be used on and off the site to slab newly felled timber.

The floor above housed a variety of machines including a water-powered thicknesser/planer, band-saw, another circular saw and three lathes. Strangely, most of the belt drives come from below the floor with the shafting from the turbine running in the basement. These machines are complemented by hand operated equipment such as a mortising chisel. Some more modern machines such as a spindle moulder and a Record Nova lathe have been added to cater for the every-day work..



The wood turning lathes range from a treadle-powered machine constructed almost entirely from wood, up to a water-powered conventional lathe. Conventional, that is, until it is pointed out that the headstock and tailstock have been raised on wooden packers at some point to accommodate larger diameter work. Not content with this, the owners of the time had then extended the bed of the lathe again with wood to enable longer items to be turned. A third lathe was called the “bobbin” lathe and featured a power driven lead-screw. The tooling was held in a tool post as on a metal working lathe and long cylindrical items could be turned with a reasonable degree of precision. The tool in the lathe at the time of our visit was of the ring-tool variety.



The Bobbin Lathe

The “extended” wood lathe

The saw mill specialised at one time in the production of farm trailers, both horse and tractor-drawn and a map in the mill shows a concentration of those having been delivered to the local Dales area. One unusual large order had been for some 700 round discs used in the production of small cheeses at the local Wensleydale Creamery. Today, items such as large wooden farm gates are more typical with smaller items such as bowls, platters, light pulls etc. being available for sale to the visiting public.

More information including opening times, admission charges and how to get there can be found on the Friends of Gayle Mill website.





## Christmas Games

Dawn recounted in her Chairman's Chatter last month how she had come across some new ideas for games that could form the basis of projects for wood turning and, since that time of the year is approaching, be the basis for Christmas presents. There was no space last month for the pictures, so here they are with a repeat of the web addresses for the rules and descriptions.

Kubbuk is thought to have come over with the Vikings and often called Viking Kubb or Viking Chess, It is an intriguing game of throwing skills and strategy using wooden batons and blocks. As a woodturner, the first thing that went through my mind was that I would like to make my own set of playing pieces rather than buy them off the shelf, so when I got home I started doing some internet research to find the rules, specifications and dimensions.

The UK organisation has a website at [www.kubbuk.org](http://www.kubbuk.org) giving the rules and background to the game. The picture below is a Kubbuk set in Ash.



Forget Football says one Toptafel site, skittles is the quintessential addition to any games room. Spin the top and see how many skittles can be knocked down.





Then there is Crokinole, a table top game from Canada.



The Woodgears website in Canada has plans for the Crokinole Board game as well as many other fascinating and bizarre wooden projects, including outdoor games such as Bat and Trap and Aunt Sally. Search Engines on the Internet will take you to many websites covering all these games. For the non-Internet aficionados, a visit to the local library will surely provide many similar ideas.

Don't forget the traditional English games as well such as Nine man's Morris.

## **How to make things that much more difficult**

Many of you will have seen a pole lathe turner in operation at events such as the recent Woodfest in the National Forest and wondered at the additional skills required in standing on one leg, treading with the other one, whilst using a skew chisel at the same time. But there are some turners who take even that one step further.

The corruption of a back-up on a supposedly permanent CD means that I no longer have my own pictures of a trip to Morocco but a recent wander through the delights of You-Tube on the Internet (one way of wasting time on the computer as You-Tube takes you from one subject to another) revealed a video made by Stuart King, a well known UK wood turner. It was made in the market alleys of Marrakesh and shows a wood turner making chess pieces on a bow lathe.

The principle of a bow lathe is simple. The piece of wood to be turned is held between two rudimentary centres with a simple tool rest alongside. A bow, much like an archery bow, with the string wound round the wood in the lathe, is moved back and forth in order to provide rotation. So how does the turner hold the chisel? The answer in Morocco is to sit in front of the lathe which is at ground level and to use the free hand and one foot to guide the tool. The chisel being held in the gap between the big toe and the adjacent one.

Some other people appear to use a bow lathe and to hold the chisel with one hand with the butt of the tool against the chest, somewhere in the region of the sternum. Either way, it makes you glad for the more simple way of pressing the green button and letting the National Grid do the work of rotation.



## September Competition

Five entries received this time in a competition calling for either a cake or a plant stand.



The outright winner with a true tour de force was Ted Gill with a cake stand featuring scalloped edges and a final touch of a cake, not edible but in wood. Tom Young came second with a simple but stylish cake stand in yew.

Brian Smith produced a square edged plant stand to come in third.



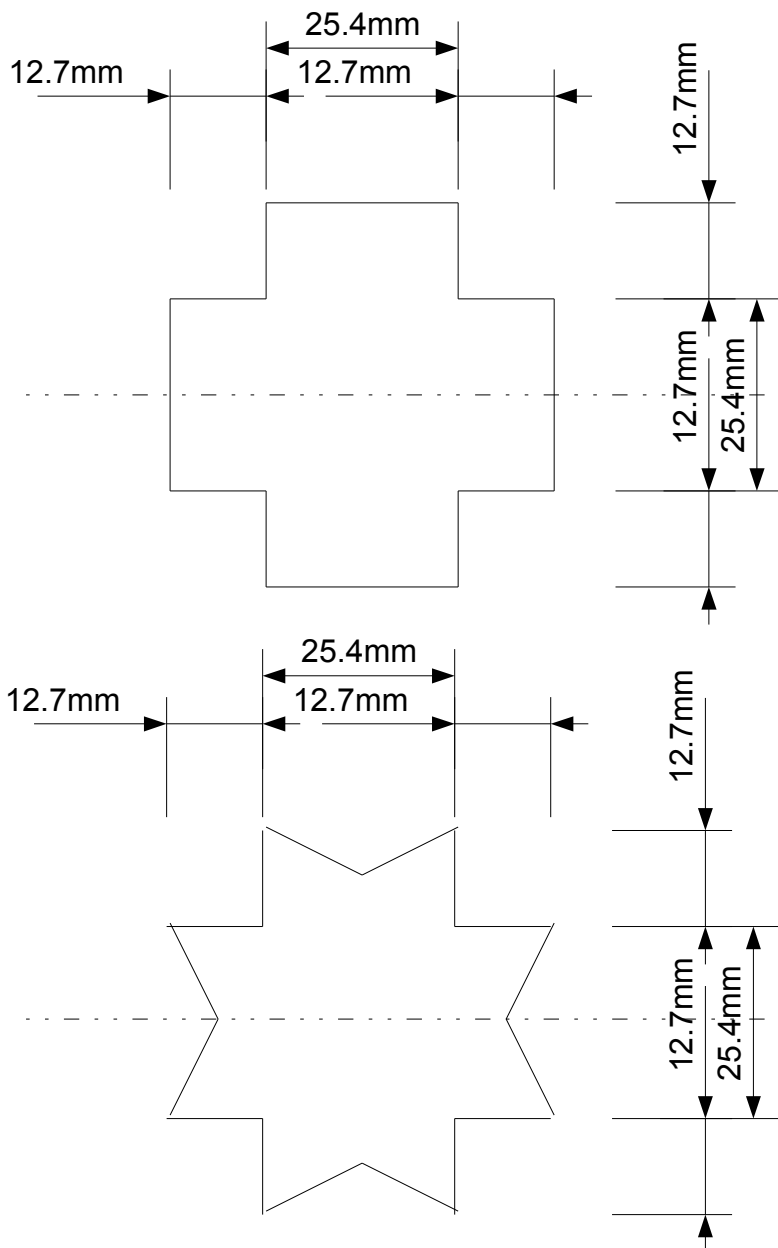
Entries were also received from Terry Gray and Albert Heath, who must now be feeling the heat of competition.



## Springett Shapes

Some of you may remember a David Springett demonstration of two years ago where he showed how split turning could produce some unusual shapes. For those who were not there, the principle is that of taking two pieces of wood, gluing them together with a piece of paper between them, and then mounting them in the lathe on the centreline. The use of ring centres helps to avoid splitting the blank back into its component parts. Turn the outside of the blank to one of the shapes shown below. Split it back into its component parts, rotate one part in relation to the other until the shapes rematch, and glue back in place.

The result is a combination of plane and circular sections that are a puzzle to anybody who has not seen the technique before. The principle can be extended to produce some very interesting shapes.





## Club information

Your club committee for 2011 is:-

### **Chairman - Dawn Hopley**

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### **Treasurer - Roy Fallows**

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**Assistant treasurer – We urgently need someone to take this on, ready to take over next year!**

Tel.

Email:

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

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Email

#### **Paul Bellamy**

Tel:

Email:

#### **Albert Heath**

Tel:

Email:

#### **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.

<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 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! Involuting 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](http://www.woodturners.org/tech_tips/misc-pages/boiling.pdf)

### **General**

[www.turningwood.com/artists.htm](http://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>

### **Marquetry**

It is well worthwhile looking at the website for the Staffordshire Marquetry Society. There is an excellent gallery of work by members.

[www.staffsmarq.freemove.co.uk](http://www.staffsmarq.freemove.co.uk)

## 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