



# Wood 'n' things



Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue – November 2014

Editor: Philip Watts

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## Future Events

### MSWA Meetings

December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Mark Hancock  
of crooked goblet fame

January 9<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Date to be confirmed  
Annual General Meeting

### Other Events

November 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>  
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust  
Christmas Fayre

### Club Competitions

December  
Novice  
A small three legged stool

January  
Challenge  
A Square Dance Themed Item  
Premier Cup  
A Pedestal Bowl

## Chairman's Notes

I believe that the Open Evening was a success. The past members enjoyed a return and a welcome. There was plenty going on on the turning front with three lathes in operation. The display table was well laden and many people were going away from an inspection of it with new ideas for future projects.

David Winter was doing a trade in his wood. The idea that he has of pre-cutting and packaging against specific projects is an interesting that must bring him sales.

Dawn had produced a superb cake, a chocolate log, obviously the appropriate one for a wood turning club. This, plus a champagne toast, rounded off the evening. A good entry to the competition completed the picture.

Many thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success of the evening.

## Philip Watts





## **Editor's Scribblings**

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, so no apologies for the fact that this newsletter includes a large number of pictures.

Thanks to Hugh Field for his clarification notes to my last demonstration report. It makes the point that there must be better report writers than myself who could contribute to the Newsletter. The invitation is there, all you have to do is to accept it.

Philip Watts

## **A Reminder from your Treasurer**

### **Annual membership renewal arrangements:**

#### Membership Cards

As of the end of this year, the AWGB will be dispensing with the old membership cards and stickers. They will be replaced with individually printed cards, which will be replaced each year.

At the end of October, I will be sent new 2015 cards for all current (2014 or 2015) members so they can be handed out when you pay for your membership renewals. Note - cards will not be handed out unless your membership fee has been collected.

#### Membership Subscription Fees (for both AWGB and MSWA)

There are no changes to membership fees for 2015. A year's full membership to both the AWGB and the MSWA is held at £30 per individual.

Family membership also remains unchanged at £50 per family.

#### Application Forms

It will not be necessary for existing members to complete again another full membership application form unless any of your contact details have changed or you wish to complete or change the gift aid declaration.

However, a much simplified 'No Changes' proforma should be completed and handed in with your membership payments. These should be available at the November meeting.

Important note: Please remember when paying in your fees to check that your payment has been recorded and that you collect a receipt for the payment of your subscription fees.

#### Deadline

The membership year ends on December 31st. I would appreciate it if you can complete your membership renewal application from November for me to forward payments and names to the AWGB.

## **Newsletter**

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.



## October Demonstration (cont)

At the conclusion of Gerry Marlow's demonstration, he offered his project piece for auction in aid of the Acorns Hospice. Hugh Field was the successful bidder and was able to complete and photograph the item. (You will recall that my camera chose that moment to play up.) He was also able to clarify and expand upon certain parts of my write up and I am pleased to show them here. You should read them in conjunction with the original report.

“Taking of the corners of the blank **at 45 degrees** to produce an octagonal profile was the first step. **Gerry advised that the length of each flat needs to be 0.43 of the diameter (this can be checked also as the length of the 45 degree surface),** followed by taking off each of the eight corners to form a hexadecagon (this can be done by eye, but the length of each side should now be **0.43 x 0.43 of the ball diameter) providing the basis** for a final rolling cut with a gouge to produce the ball shape. Gerry admitted that in his workshop he would use a ball turning jig of the form that we have seen demonstrated at the club on a number of occasions.”

“Any final ridges and hollows were then removed with the aid of a **round shank scraper with a separate round tip** which Gerry used upside down **so that the cutting point is on centre** to avoid catches, clearing the debris out regularly. A recess was turned at this end to take the **threaded mounting ring for the LED flashing** light unit that Gerry had selected for his design.”

“The sides of the ball were then slotted using a powered slitting saw mounted in the tool-post banjo and the indexing feature on the lathe. As described earlier, support was given to the ornament by inserting an 8mm bar into the hole that had been drilled with the outer end of the bar being held in a Jacobs chuck inserted in the tailstock. **By means of the 24 point indexing, and then slightly rotating the piece on the jam chuck, Gerry produced 48 slits in the ball.** For those of us not having this facility available, Gerry suggested drilling a pattern of holes of different diameters or building a jig to guide a Dremel or similar tool. **A little sanding or filing will be required on the inside and outside following this stage.”**

“A long slender finial was then turned between the chuck and tailstock centre, sizing the tenon to fit the 8mm hole with the aid of an 8mm open-ended spanner. A cap for the upper end of the ornament was turned from a blank that was held initially against the chuck by pressure from the tail centre whilst a tenon was turned to fit the aperture through which the ball had been hollowed. After reversal onto the chuck, the use of a flat bit ground to a shape was demonstrated at this point in order to provide a small shoulder **to suit the LED light unit.** The **underside of the top** was shaped to match the ball and **an 8mm hole drilled for the top finial.** A small finial or knob was turned with a small through hole for a hanging cord. **The cord was threaded through and knotted and superglued in place.**

Provision to operate the switch on the lamp unit was made by drilling a hole **(and countersinking from the inside)** in the top and turning a small intermediate piece to act as a button. **This had a countersunk head to match the hole in the top section.** The edges of the top were scalloped with the aid of a sanding drum, 60 grit, held in the lathe **in a Jacobs chuck and backed up with the revolving tail centre.**

All the components **except for the main body** were then buffed up on a series of buffing wheels mounted in the lathe, **starting with Tripoli, then White Diamond and finishing with Carnauba wax.** **Normally Gerry would seal, or oil the components before buffing but an impressive finish was, nonetheless, achieved from the “bare” wood.** Assembly of the components with Superglue completed the piece. **Gerry was careful when gluing the LED light into the top section to avoid getting glue near to the switch area, for obvious reasons!”**

See the pictures on the next page:



And a little geometry lesson!

As the number of sides in an equal sided polygon increases it becomes closer to a true circle. Obviously a square is the first stage but the next logical polygon for our purposes is an octagon (8 sides) and then a hexadecagon (16 sides). The theoretical side length of an octagon is  $0.414 \times$  the “in-circle”, and  $0.199 \times$  the “in-circle” for a hexadecagon, but a little extra needs to be allowed for cleaning up the shape. For a larger sphere it might be worth going a stage further and creating an icosidodecagon (32 sides) which should have a side length of  $0.0985 \times$  the “in-circle”

Hugh Field.



## November Competition.

The November Competition was for the ChallengeTurners and called for a pair of salt and pepper grinders. The entries are shown below:



The result of the voting was:

1<sup>st</sup> Entry D – Ted Gill

2<sup>nd</sup> Entry E – Vance Lupton

3<sup>rd</sup> Entry C – Hugh Field

4<sup>th</sup> Entry B – Geoff Payne Joint 5<sup>th</sup> Entry A – Philip Watts, Entry F Tony Tripp, Entry G Philip Williams

## Competitions for 2015.

Now is the time when we compile the list of competitions for next year. You are invited to put forward your ideas for each of the series.

So, we are looking for suggestions for:

Novice – 6 items

Challenge – 6 items

Premier – 1 really challenging item

Suggestions to me [Editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:Editor@mswa.co.uk)



# Wood 'n' things



## Pictures from the Open Evening



Two Chairmen, Ken Allen who helped found the club, and the present day Chairman, Philip Watts.

A general view of the turning side:





## Club information

Your club committee for 2014 is:-

**Chairman - Philip Watts**

Email: [chairman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:chairman@mswa.co.uk)

Tel. 0121 308 7838

**Secretary – John McElroy**

Email: [secretary@mswa.co.uk](mailto:secretary@mswa.co.uk)

**Treasurer – Vance Lupton**

Email: [treasurer@mswa.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@mswa.co.uk)

**Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field**

**Events Secretary – Ted Gill**

Email: [events@mswa.co.uk](mailto:events@mswa.co.uk)

**Abrasives -**

**Newsletter editor – Philip Watts**

Email: [editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:editor@mswa.co.uk)

**Webmanager – Philip Watts**

Email: [webman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:webman@mswa.co.uk)

**Committee Members**

Dawn Hopley

**Health and Safety Advisor**

Hugh Field

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.

## Merchandise



### Abrasives

If you need that finishing touch, the club has packs of Abranet, recommended by demonstrators and other club members, at £1.40 for a set of 5 sheets-120 -400 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'DonnellID
- 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.

A tree surgeon near Stafford has several tonnes of small diameter yew logs for sale.

Rob Keyzor Tree Surgeons can be contacted at 01785 284088 (Ask for Jack) or through the website

[www.robkeyzor.co.uk](http://www.robkeyzor.co.uk).

Steve is a member of Coombe Abbey Turners and has a massive stock of timber which he is happy to sell to turners and woodworkers. The timber consists mostly of locally sourced native hardwoods, planked and kiln dried, and is available at great prices; some really lovely stuff. Steve lives in Sapcote in Leicestershire, not too far away, and close enough to Axminster in Nuneaton for a joint visit! Steve can be contacted on 01455 273894, and his website is [www.woodcharm.co.uk](http://www.woodcharm.co.uk)

## 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

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](mailto:paul.bellamy@mswa.co.uk)