



# Wood 'n' things



Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue – October 2014

Editor: Philip Watts

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## Future Events

### MSWA Meetings

November 7<sup>th</sup>  
Hands on and Open Evening  
Celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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

### Club Competitions

November  
Challenge  
A pair of salt and pepper grinders

December  
Novice  
A small three legged stool

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

## Chairman's Notes

Your committee met again in October. The news about our neighbouring club in Stafford formed part of our agenda. Declining membership and increasing costs are endangering the very existence of their club. Something to concentrate our minds as we plan the future of our club.

On a happier note, we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club at our meeting on the 7th November. The format is for a Hands-on and Open Evening that is intended to give plenty of opportunity for socialising. We have invited past members to attend and some familiar faces are promising to appear.

A good display table will be welcomed. If you have items that you wish to show than bring them along to the meeting.

It is that time of the year again! The MSWA will have its usual stand at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Christmas Fayre. The objective is to publicise the activities of the club and hopefully to attract potential new members. In addition, we sell examples of woodturning and make a contribution to club funds.

Please contribute by bringing items for sale to the club meeting or to the Fayre itself. We will also be looking for volunteers to man the stand. Please get in touch with me if you can spare the time, even if only for a couple of hours.

Philip Watts



## **Editor's Scriblings**

Hugh Field has been researching the club history for a proposed article for one of the national woodturning magazines. In the course of his work, he acquired copies of the club Newsletter that had been preserved by the last Editor, one Paul Bellamy. This had the unfortunate side effect of reminding me that I had been compiling this publication January 2011. Time for a change, me thinks. There is only so much material that I can produce without beginning to recycle some from earlier years.

The job is well established. Paul laid down a format that I have continued on the basis that if it isn't broken, then do not fix it. The Chairman usually has to be chased for his input. The Editor has a bit to philosophise in and there is a report on the month's demonstration. Talk about the competition results and fill in the extra page if required to make up an even number and there you. Easy enough when inspiration is there.

So, how about a volunteer?

Philip Watts

## **A message 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.



## September Demonstration –Gerry Marlow

Gerry Marlow has visited the club before and on the last occasion produced a piece of abstract turning following a visit to the Sculpture Park north of Sheffield. This time he had selected a pierced and textured Christmas Decoration as the centrepiece of a demonstration covering a wide variety of techniques. In fact, Gerry listed these as:

Hollowing

Texturing

Colouring

Use of Liming Wax

Making a Finial

Making the switch button

Turning the cap to complete the project.



Starting with a blank between centres, Gerry demonstrated how to turn a ball shape free hand by roughing the blank down to about 75 mm in diameter. He then used a parting tool to mark out a length of the blank equal to the diameter, turning the ends of the blank down to form tenons that could be held in a chuck. Taking of the corners of the blank to produce an octagonal profile was the first step followed by taking each of the eight corners so formed provided 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.

The blank was now mounted in a chuck in order to provide access to one end. Firstly, a hole was drilled to the desired depth using a spindle gouge. The interior was then hollowed out with the gouge on its side with the flute facing towards the turner before making finishing cuts with the gouge rolled way. Any final ridges and hollows were then removed with the aid of a scraper which Gerry used upside down to avoid catches, clearing the debris out regularly. A recess was turned at this end to take the little light unit that Gerry had selected for his design.

The blank was now reversed onto a jam chuck cut to pick up the aperture and recess for the light unit. A revolving centre was used to provide support whilst what would be the base of the decoration and an 8mm hole drilled to accept the spigot of a yet to be turned finial. The tip of using an open ended spanner to size the tenon on the finial was just one of the many hints given during the evening. The purpose of the 8mm hole was to provide support through the medium of a bar held in a chuck in the tailstock during a later operation.

Texturing of the ball then took place. Gerry favours the use of the Henry Taylor Decorating Elf tool but there are others on the market place. He even suggested that the use of knurling tools as used on metal might be an alternative. A light sand was followed by a burnishing brush to clear out all the dust before the application of colour. Two base colours of blue and maroon were selected by popular acclamation before an over coating of yellow. A generous coating of liming wax came next. Normally this would be left to dry completely before sanding down and applying a coat of clear wax, but the time constraints of a demonstration do not permit this so Gerry continued to apply the wax immediately, leaving a matt finish.

The sides of the ball were then slotted using a powered slitting saw mounted in the toolpost 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



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chuck inserted in the tailstock. 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 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. The top was shaped to match the ball and a hole for the supporting line drilled.

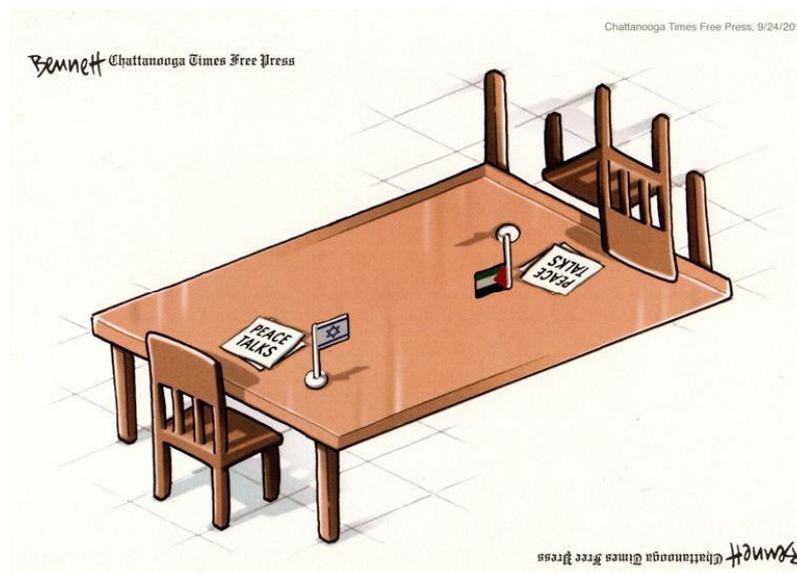
Provision to operate the switch on the lamp unit was made by drilling a hole in the top and turning a small intermediate piece to act as a button. The edges of the top were scalloped with the aid of a sanding wheel held in the lathe.

All the components were then buffed up on a series of buffing wheels mounted in the lathe, finishing with Carnauba wax. Assembly of the components with Superglue completed the piece.

This was the night that my prime camera decided to play up and I did not have a reserve with me, so no photographs of the finished product. My apologies.

Thought for the month.

The Israeli Foreign Minister suggested recently that the Middle East Peace Process was more complicated than assembling an IKEA flat pack piece of furniture. In response, the Swedish foreign Minister promised to send him an IKEA cabinet to practice on. Perhaps it would look like the following.





## October Competition.

The October Competition was for the Novice Turners and looked for a candlestick.

This is the time when we encourage everybody to have a go and a couple of new names are emerging.

Peter Wood led the way this time with a very nice candle stick to an old design. Jane Russell demonstrated the art of spiral work with a stylish design and Robert Taylor also went down the spiral route. An unusual design from Tony Tripp completed the quartet of entries.



## 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)



Not quite twenty five years ago but a page from one of the older Newsletters still on file:



ISSUE No 20

N E W S L E T T E R

OCTOBER 1995

#### THE WOODTURNING SEMINAR. WARWICK UNIVERSITY

Work was submitted from Turners the World over, and from these Bert Marsh selected 50 pieces which he considered to be the (Pick of the Gallery) some 300 in all. I have pleasure in telling you, that, Five of these fifty pieces, were submitted by members of our Club, Namely, Graham Hughes, Ken Allen, Bill Kinsman, Gordon Fradley, and young Neal Howard from Sandon Staffs, whose photograph appears in the September issue of Revolutions. The Club applauds their success. We all are indeed, in Illustrious company, and proud of it.

#### DEMONSTRATION NOV 19th VILLAGE HALL.

Stephen Cooper has confirmed this Date with The Chairman. What we need to know tonight are the names of people coming. This is necessary in order to make arrangements for the Catering. Buffet Lunch is included in the cost which is £10 per head. This demo is not subsidised by the A.W.G.B.

#### WOODWORKING SHOW NEC

This is on Friday, Saturday, Sunday. 13/14/15th September. Fred Woods has informed me that he is demonstrating his newest lathe on the Bry Wax Stand. The Chairman and I are going on Friday 13th and there are two seats available in the Chairmans car for anyone wishing to go on that date.



## 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**

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**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'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.

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)