



Forthcoming events

Club Meetings

6th January 2017
A G M

including presentation of
Competition Trophies

3rd February 2017
Paul Bellamy
Rugby Ball

Club Competitions

January 2017
Challenge
6 Coasters and stand

February 2017
Novice
Bud Vase

Chairman's Notes

We attended the Christmas Fair at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust at the end of November. My thanks to all those who volunteered to come and assist on the stand. Unfortunately, our income from this event was less than half that from the previous year. There was no obvious reason for that and most stall holders seemed to be suffering the same fate.

We had some interest from potential new members and at least one attended the December meeting.

We have reached the end of this year's programme, one for which we must thank Ted Gill. He is now building the programme for next year and we hope to announce it shortly, it was not finalised sufficiently to include in this Newsletter. The first demonstrator for 2017 will be ex. MSA member Paul Bellamy on 3rd February.

Our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on the first Friday in January. This break in tradition is because we thought that it was sufficiently removed from members to have recovered from the excesses of Christmas and New Year. A key activity for that meeting will be the putting together of a new committee.

When I took over the Chairmanship some four years ago, the club was in reasonable shape but was consuming the financial reserves at a rate that could not have been sustained for many years. This situation has improved for a number of reasons relating to how we have managed our programmes and controlled expenditure. Your Treasurer has already announced that we will hold the subscription levels constant for the next year. We could still welcome new members and an increased attendance level at our club meetings as these would both help in maintaining our financial stability.

So, it only remains for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Philip Watts

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Editors Scribblings

Doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourself? I almost can't believe that this is the 12th issue of Wood 'n' things that I have edited. I've not had any adverse comments, have had a few compliments, so I presume you are all enjoying it. Or perhaps not many of you read it at all!?

Contributions are always welcome, anything even if only vaguely related to woodturning will probably be of interest to other readers. Reports on outside events that you attend are especially valuable, especially if accompanied by a few photographs.

Our demonstrator for December, Mark Hancock, produced three items during his demonstration. Reporting this, along with coverage of outside events means this is another bumper issue! I hope you enjoy reading it.

Philip Watts has already advised that the time has come to appoint a new committee and that this will be the main activity at the AGM in January 2017. I intend, subject to your approval, to continue in my main role as Newsletter Editor and am happy to retain my secondary role of Health and Safety Advisor for the time being.

As this will be the last issue before Christmas I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and Health and Happiness in the New Year.

Hugh Field

Attendance and Membership renewals at the December meeting

Many thanks to all 22 of you that attended on Friday! Everybody there has re-joined the club and the AWGB. We gained one new member - welcome to David Brearley - and three other visitors joined us for the night. With two other members who weren't able to attend on Friday renewing as well, our membership now stands at 24. An excellent start - but we do need more members to sustain the club.

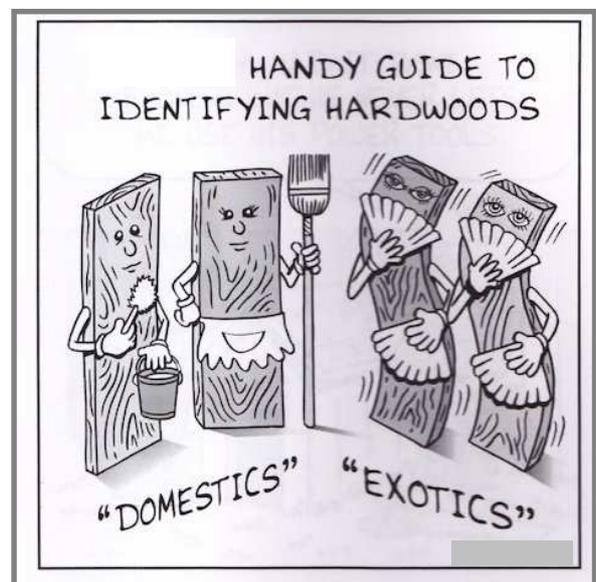
Vance Lupton

Do you fancy combining your woodturning with a bit of carving?

Take a look at this slideshow (link kindly submitted by Vance Lupton)

https://youtu.be/0NLAcxGw_k

Warning! YouTube can be addictive!!





Wizardry in Wood - Carpenters Hall, London - 12th to 15th October <https://wizardryinwood.com/>

I visited the 2016 Wizardry in wood conference at the Carpenters Hall in London on Saturday 15th October. Having been deposited at the entrance by my lovely better half and daughter I experienced an abundance of delightful objects produced by a total of twenty six extremely talented woodturners, some of which can be seen in the attached photographs. It was the first time I had attended this exhibition and I came away with many ideas and an added appreciation of the versatility of the woodturners craft.

Brian Shaw





Glenn Lucas at Turners Retreat - 12th November.

Irish woodturner Glenn Lucas seldom visits the UK. As I hadn't been to Turners Retreat before, and I knew Vance had already booked a place, it seemed like too good to miss and hopefully worth the 160 mile round trip. The £5 ticket price included tea, coffee, and sandwiches so was certainly good value for money!

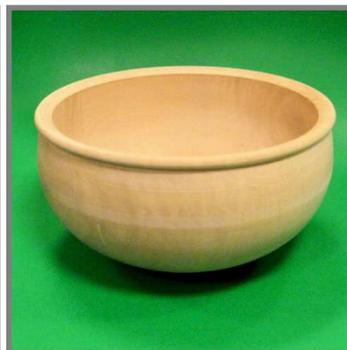
Well, we were not disappointed! Many of you will have seen Glenn's video where he is rough turning salad bowls and directing the shavings straight into a large skip in his workshop and thought it was just for show, but no, that is how he works! In fact he can fill 3 skips in a day!

Glenn started his career as a cabinet maker but turned wood as a hobby. Early on, he received a "sample" order for 100 salad bowls; on completion of those he received an order for 500 more. That, he says, is when he realised that life had changed and he was no longer a "hobby" woodturner. His production grew until he was producing, on his own, 3000 bowls a year. When the recession struck, demand dropped dramatically (to "only" about 1200 per year!) so he had to diversify and now designs tools (manufactured by Hamlet), teaches woodturning (with 7 training lathes available) and produces DVDs, as well as travelling widely to do demonstrations. In 2017 he expects to be away from Ireland for 18 weeks or more travelling in America, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. He now has several full time employees but is still very much involved in the production of his salad bowls. I really don't know how he has time to fit everything in! On the day of this demonstration he had 2 people back home sanding bowls for him and said that he would be flying back home that evening, arriving at about 10 pm but would be spending all next day turning! He is attending a Christmas show in Ireland and needs to produce about 180 bowls for that. He clearly enjoys his craft immensely.



During the demonstration he turned a platter (designed for actual food use), a small salad bowl, and an Irish Viking bowl. Conditions precluded "in process" photography, and this is not intended to be a full demonstration write up, but it goes without saying that his techniques were superb. Never before have I seen such expert tool control, but as he said, he does get lots of practice! He is a self confessed "turning addict" and never loses his enthusiasm for working with wood. He did minimal sanding, and used Food Safe oil as a lubricant, but his techniques are such that the inside of the Viking bowl had such a good finish straight from the gouge that it could well have been already sanded to 180 grit, or finer! It was interesting that Glenn also makes quite extensive use of scrapers.

The tools that Glenn supplies (also available from the Toolpost) are unusual in not only being ground to his precise angles and forms, but that he also includes jig settings for the popular jig sharpening systems. Glenn uses Tormek for sharpening his gouges but favours fine CBN wheels for sharpening scrapers.



It was a shame that the Turners Retreat's audio visual facilities didn't do justice to Mr Lucas' clear and very informative demonstration however whilst there we took the opportunity to purchase a copy of his sharpening DVD for club use. This DVD deals with all the major sharpening jigs and explains how to achieve the same grinding angles that he uses on his tools. Well worth a look and now in the club DVD library!

Vance Lupton & Hugh Field



Staffordshire Wildlife Trust - Christmas Fair - 19th & 20th November.

Though not as 'good' an event (from a sales point of view) as in previous years the event was well attended and, after a donation to the SWT (£30) and payment of disbursements to members for sales (£145.30), the club account was credited with £99.70. Every little helps!

Many thanks to all members who contributed by making items to sell and especially to these members that were able to help man the stand and assist with sales etc.: Philip Watts - who was in attendance all day on Saturday and Sunday, Brian Shaw, Ron Dixon, Geoff Payne, Hugh Field, John McElroy, Jane Russell, Dawn Hopley and me!



The picture shows our Chairman hard at work turning a goblet!

A few visitors expressed an interest in woodturning as a hobby and we are hoping that some of them will pay us a visit on a future club evening. Perhaps this will result in an increase in membership, which is one of the reasons we attend this type of event.

Vance Lupton

December Competition (Novice).

There were no entries for the competition this month, the last one in the Novice series for 2016.

December Demonstration by Mark Hancock.

Mark's last visit to Mid. Staffs. Woodturners was in March 2012 and prior to that in 2007. His theme for the evening, "Flat work", was giving examples of how to use up small pieces of fairly thin material to make interesting items that perhaps belie their origin.

The first piece was made from a piece of oak, about 25mm thick and 160mm diameter and was to be a "hollow form". From such thin material? Well, yes, as we were about to see! There was not much commentary to this demonstration - suspense was needed!



During the evening, Mark used only two turning tools; a small bowl gouge and a shear scraper, and did no sanding at all.



With the wood mounted on a screw chuck, Mark trued and faced it and proceeded to form a smooth curve to a very thin edge. A hand held cabinet scraper, used negative rake at 45° to the surface, was then used to give a fine finish. Then, using a gas blow torch, he scorched the surface. Mark explained that he uses a “professional” torch that runs MAPP gas. This burns at a much higher



temperature than butane or propane and so scorches much more quickly, hence reducing the stress to the wood which can result in surface cracking. The downside is the cost (£50 or so for the torch head and £15 or so for the gas) but the process is so quick that little gas is used. The bonus is that the torch burns hot enough to use for brazing steel together. After scorching, the piece was sprayed with water to cool it and then



burnished with a stiff brush. This resulted in an attractive finish, with texture and highlights, and needing no further finishing, although microcrystalline wax could be used if required. In fact this is a very durable, natural, finish that can be applied to many woods and is even suitable for exterior cladding of buildings. Mark emphasised that during the burnishing process it is important to NOT have any dust extraction running in case any



embers should cause an explosion. It is also important to make sure the lathe is clear of shavings and dust when performing the scorching. Mark laid a fire proof board on the lathe bed for added protection.

A shallow recess was turned in the base (the reason for this would only become apparent at the end!).



The piece was then reversed on the screw chuck for facing and hollowing. Much careful measuring with a vernier caliper ensued while the piece was hollowed to form a shallow bowl with a recess at the rim and another small recess in the bottom (again, the reasons for these would become clear later!). Great care was needed to turn as much of the centre away as possible without hitting the screw chuck.



The scorching, wetting and burnishing process was repeated and the piece removed from the lathe. The face of the small recess was cleaned up with a carving tool.

Now for the clever part where it would become a “Hollow Vessel”!



Using CA glue, a pre-turned oak disk was fixed into the small internal recess to cover the screw chuck hole. Then, using impact adhesive, a CD was fixed (“tracks” facing up) into the top of the bowl. This made a nice contrast with the scorched oak (CDs and DVDs often display differing hues).



Finally, a small round mirror was glued into the recess in the underside, so completely obscuring the screw chuck hole. Mark advised against using CA glue for fixing the CD/DVD as there can be a reaction with the polycarbonate which results in a white deposit forming (see footnote on next page).



I noticed that it took Mark 45 minutes to complete this piece. At the “ten Turners Turning” event at Axminster Tools in Nuneaton in 2014, Mark completed a similar piece in less than 20 minutes!



After the refreshment break Mark started his second project of the evening, a “weed pot”. Using two pieces of similar thickness, but this time about 100mm diameter, Mark used similar principles to those used in his first project to produce two pieces of identical size and shape, one being scorched, the other left plain. As a

contrast, the scorched one had a plain recess turned in it, the plain one had a scorched recess. Mark used a shear scraper to finish the curved surfaces, explaining that using this technique you can ignore grain direction, the tool being used in trailing mode at 45° to the surface. I noticed that Mark appeared to use diamond lapping fluid when honing the edge of the scraper, something I discovered earlier this year. It makes the diamond work much better that dry or with water, eliminating clogging and allowing the diamond to cut with minimum pressure. It’s not cheap (about £8 for a 100ml bottle) but it goes a long way and, in my opinion, well worth the cost.



Making sure the back faces were completely flat, the two pieces were glued together, with the grain in line.

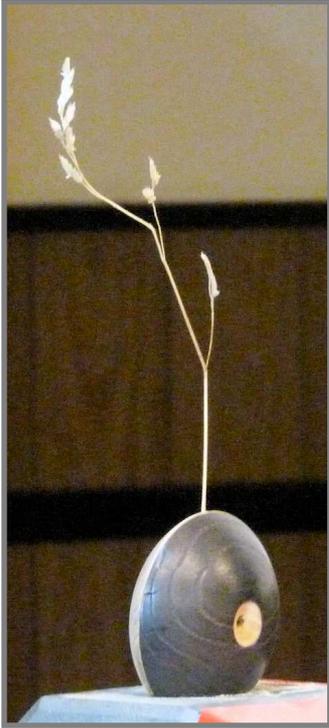


A Japanese pull saw was used to create a flat on which the piece could stand. To clean up the cross hole, a golf ball with a hole drilled in it was mounted over the live tail centre and a drill chuck mounted in the 4 jaw chuck used to re-drill the cross hole from each side. Finally, after marking with a bradawl, a small hole was drilled in the "top" and the "weed pot" was complete. Mark sometime drills a pattern of holes (of varying diameters) to allow several stems to be displayed. These drilling operations could, of



course, be carried out using a pillar, or even a hand held, drill.

I found this recommendation for gluing polycarbonate:- "use an alkoxy-ethyl cyanoacrylate if surface "frosting" (a white powdery residue) is an issue, also these products tend to smell less pungent. Limitations are a 0.5mm gap fill and environmental exposure – if the joint interface is in contact with water for long periods it can degrade the adhesive. Excess cyanoacrylate adhesive can cause stress cracking of polycarbonate so it is important to minimise excess liquid adhesive or cure it with an activator." **Hugh Field**



The final item was a “vase”, again turned from a small piece of oak. After turning a shallow bowl, Mark cut this in half (along the grain) and joined glued the two halves together. A small flat was formed by sawing off a small section to allow the vase to stand up. Finishing of the open face is optional and Mark showed several alternative styles that he has used.



Mark spent some time during his demonstration talking about how to orientate the wood to create a “happy” appearance (where the grain curves upwards), which is more “saleable”, touching on principles used in advertising such as the “10:08 rule” for displaying clocks and watches. This makes them look “happy”, and therefore more appealing, as opposed to twenty to four, which looks sad.

On the subject of bowl gouges, Mark discussed the use of non traditional grinds, commonly referred to as “Celtic”, “swept”, “long”, “Ellsworth”, etc. which make for a fairly universal tool capable of working both inside and outside of a bowl in most circumstances. However, he often uses a “traditional” grind (created freehand on an angled rest, rather as you might grind a spindle roughing gouge), having a selection of these with various bevel angles to allow him to use the optimal body/sight position when turning (i.e. to allow sight along the bevel angle whilst keeping the tool handle tucked in against his hip). The tool he was using during the evening had about a 45° bevel which was ideal for creating a flat face on the pieces, but also suitable for the external and internal curves

An interesting demonstration which will hopefully inspire many in the audience to experiment with using small pieces of timber to create interesting items.

Hugh Field



Hints and tips

This section is for any tips or advice you would like to pass on to other members. If you have discovered something you found useful, that you think may benefit others, please pass it on.

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Custom Toolrests – David Fields

David is an ex member of MSWA and his 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@pnbellamy.co.uk

[David and Paul are members of Derwent Woodturning Club, as am I, so I could act as "go between" on these if required - Hugh Field]



Abrasives and other items

Mirka Abranet 70 x 125mm Sheets:

5 x Mixed Grit Pack (120, 180, 240, 400 and 500) = £2.00 per pack

Mirka Abranet 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £1.50 per pack

Rhinogrip 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £0.90 per pack

Flexipad Sanding Pads (for above discs):

50mm Velcro Conical Spindle Pad with 6mm shaft = £8.82 each

J-Flex Sanding Paper:

5 x 1m lengths mixed grits 120, 180, 240, 320 & 400 = £9.50 per pack

Screwdrivers:

Various sizes donated to club = £1 each

BondFix Superglue:

50g Bottle of Medium Viscosity = £3 per bottle

Donated Items:

Various Books and Magazines = 50p to £2 each



DVDs

I haven't published the list of DVDs this month, please refer to a previous issue.

If any members have DVDs which are not on the list, but which they would like to donate to the Club, they would be most welcome.



Club information

Your club committee for 2016 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts;

chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – John McElroy

secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton:

treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

events@mswa.co.uk

Newsletter editor – Hugh Field

editor@mswa.co.uk

Tel: 0121 329 2911

Webmanager – Philip Watts

webman@mswa.co.uk

Health and Safety Advisor -

Hugh Field

health.safety@mswa.co.uk

and **Dawn Hopley**

Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary



DVDs

The club has a selection of Woodturning DVD's for use by registered club members use only. You can borrow them for just £2 per month (some are free)!

Current List of DVD's available:

Club Ref.	Description		Cost per month
MSD1	AWGB Instant Gallery 1991 to 2003		Free
MSD2	Sharpening Woodturning & Carving Tools	The Guild of Master Craftsmen	£2
MSD3	Turning Projects with Richard Raffan	Selecting wood and various projects	£2
MSD4	Turning Wood with Alan Holthm	Project No.3 A Table Lamp	£2
MSD5	Colouring Wood with Jan Sanders	The secrets behind various wood finishes inc. liming and gilding	£2
MSD6	The Trent Bosch 3 disc collection	Vessels of Illusion, Decorative Bowls & Sculpting Wood	£2
MSD7	Bowls for Beginners with Ray Jones		£2
MSD8	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Pete Harland	
MSD9	Making & Decorating Platters	Mick Hanbury DVD	£2
MSD10	Making & Decorating Boxes	Mick Hanbury DVD	£2
MSD11	Jimmy Clews "Turn it On" vol. 1	A footless bowl, and oriental style box and tool sharpening	£2
MSD12	Jimmy Clews "Turn it On" vol. 2	A Ziracote Bowl with Brass Inlay, A long stem Goblet and preparing a fallen tree for turning	£2
MSD13	Jimmy Clews "Turn it On" vol. 3	A Lidded Box, Footless Bowl with Silver Highlights with ~The use of CAD to design projects	£2
MSD14	All Glued Up with Sue Harker	A study in Open Segmented turning	£2
MSD15	Turned Out Nice Again with Sue Harker	A study in Involute Turning	£2
MSD16	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Pete Harland	£2
MSD17	Woodcut Turning Tools promotional DVD	The Woodcut Bowlsaver and Pro-Forme hollowing tool	Free
MSD18	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Pete Harland	
MSD19	Inlaid & Novelty Boxes with Chris Stott	Box making and decorating techniques	£2
MSD20	An Introduction to Fine Woodturning with Simon Hope	"Hope For Us All" vol.1 with Simon Hope	£2
MSD21	A Burr Hollow Form with Pewter Finial	"Hope For Us All" vol.2 with Simon Hope	£2
MSD22	Wet Turning with a Difference with Stuart Mortimer	Wet wood turning with a difference!	£2
MSD23	The AWGB Seminar 2011	Images and Gallery from the 2011 convention	Free
MSD24	Turning Green Wood with Mick O'Donnell	Thin wall turning of green of fresh timber. DVD also includes Tool Sharpening techniques	£2
MSD25	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Anne Hopkinson	£2
MSD26	Turning a Half Sized Hat with Andrew Hall	Live demonstration of hat turning	£2
MSD27	Turning a Small Corinthian Helmet and Stand with Andrew Hall	Another live demonstration by "The Hat Man".	£2

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