



Forthcoming events

Club Meetings

March 4th
Dawn Hopley
Not a lot of bottle (?)

April 1st
Steve Heeley
Something from his back
catalogue

Club Competitions

March

Challenge:
Tea cup and saucer

April

Novices :
Paper Knife

Other Events

**Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Craft Fayre,
Wolseley Bridge**

5th and 6th March

Ten Turners Turning
Axminster Tools & Machinery,
Nuneaton

11th and 12th March

The Midlands Woodworking
and Power Tool Show
Newark Showground,
Nottingham

18th and 19th March

Chairman's Notes

I missed the first demonstration of the year being away from Birmingham so will have to await this Newsletter to read the report.

There is a gallery not far from where I live that specialises in a wide range of art including some spectacular pieces of hand-made furniture at equally eye-watering prices. For some time, there has been a number of turnings by John Shorrocks who specialises in large scale undertaken on an impressive purpose built lathe. His chisels, if one use that term, are manufactured by welding cutting edges onto pieces of steel bar, the same material used to reinforce concrete. His wooden blanks are no examples of perfect timber and the resultant hollow pieces include large voids.

More recently, their display cabinets have included samples of work by that Master Turner, Ray Key, a former Chairman of the AWGB and author of books such as "The Woodturner's Workbook". What a contrast! Ray specialises in fine miniature bowls in exotic woods allowing the qualities of the wood to shine through. His small bowls are often less than six inches in diameter. Each layer of his trademark Pagoda boxes are just over an inch in height and less than three inches in diameter.

That typifies the wide range of work produced by turners today, and long may that continue.

March 5th and 6th are dates for your diary. The club will have a stand at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Spring Fair. This a valuable opportunity for the club to publicise itself, possibly attract new members, and make some money for the club. Why not volunteer to help on the stand, sell some of those completed projects littering your workshop and help your club?

Philip Watts



Editor's Scribblings

In his excellent book, “Woodturning - A Foundation Course”, Keith Rowley establishes his 6 Laws of Woodturning. It seems to me that there are several more! For example, when selecting wood from my stock for a project - pieces are either too big, or too small. If one is just right then it's the wrong wood. Or, if I need to make six things the same then I only have enough appropriate wood for five. Do other members find the same thing, or perhaps you have discovered other “laws”?

One thing doesn't change though; prepared turning blanks seem to be getting more and more expensive! At craft fairs that the club attends we often find that items are selling for little more than the cost of the wood. It's a good job we enjoy turning as a hobby!

On the same note, although I tend not to take on commissions, I have been asked by a family member to make a large bowl (needing a 12” x 4”, or 305 mmx 102mm, blank). I hadn't realised how little choice there is in that size and the cost, £26 for Ash and upwards from there; plus a carriage charge unless something can be found locally. By chance I found a stock of old and very dirty Beech pieces, probably many of them spalted like the one finally I chose; the price? £18 for a piece about 400mm square by 105mm thick. The only downside was that I was, by then, 50 miles from home! If enough people talk to me nicely I'll divulge the whereabouts of my supplier; but only after I've been back to have my pick of what's still there!



I went to Axminster at Nuneaton on Saturday 30th January as Richard Findley was demonstrating all day. I have to admit that Richard is one of my favourite demonstrators. Professional production turners do not always make good demonstrators, but Richard seems able to identify with all capabilities from absolute novice upwards and is a patient coach. He had four projects planned for the day, apples, bowls, fluted legs and spheres. He let the audience choose what they wanted him to do. The event was well attended and few familiar faces were amongst the audience. I had only planned to stay for a couple of hours but ended up spending nearly all day there. Spending involved both time and money! I always seem to find something I didn't know I needed whenever I call in!

I'm now looking forward to their Ten Turners Turning event in March and hope to see some of you there. Any volunteers to do an article about it for a future Newsletter?

I hope you enjoy this issue of Wood'n'things. It's a bit short on content as there were no contributions from other members this month, so bigger pictures and a slight increase in font size in some sections have helped to make it the usual 8 pages!



February Competition

Disappointingly only one entry this month for the novice competition, so Phil Williams was the winner with his unusually shaped pair of matching light pulls.

Let's hope there are more entries at the April meeting. The subject is a paper knife. This can be made either using a kit for the blade or all in wood. Why not give it a try?



Demonstration by Adam Stephens

It was nice to see a new face! Adam started turning about 10 years ago and enjoys other aspects of woodworking as well. He discovered his passion for woodworking during a foundation course in Art and Design where he began woodturning and started to make a selection of small turned objects, mainly bowls and goblets. With interest growing, he decided at the end of the course to further his knowledge and passion in woodworking generally and achieved a 3D Design and Crafts BA (Hons.) at Staffordshire University. It was here where he also found ways of bringing his love of history into his designs.



In 2010 Adam graduated and started to design and make objects at home in a small workshop. In 2012 after bringing his ideas and work together Adam set up his own company, Mooq; making items such as Harry Potter wands, children's toys, interlocking letters, etc. Some of his items for sale are produced on his 3D router, an almost £3,000 investment used for producing his Wooden keepsake cubes.

Currently Adam is also working as a classroom technician.

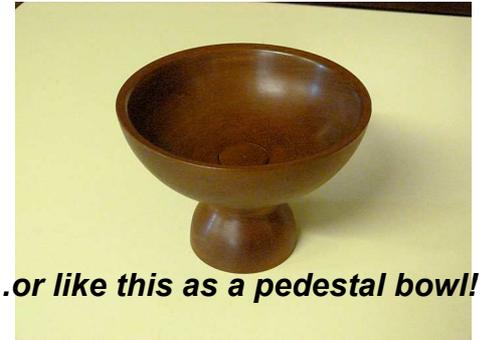
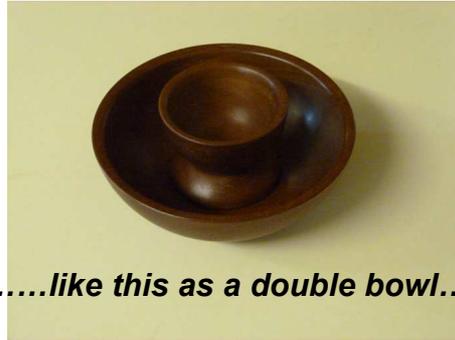
For more information go to www.mooq.co.uk



Adams display table



Adam's project for the evening was a 'reverse' bowl in Sapele. This was ingenious and something that was new to the majority of the audience, although I had seen the end result on the display table at another of Adam's demonstrations at a different woodturning club (where he had turned his "take" on a miners lamp, see display table above, on left).



These can be screwed together.....like this as a double bowl.....or like this as a pedestal bowl!

Normally Adam would have made the bowl first and then turned the base/inner bowl to fit. However as this would have meant changing chuck jaws several times during the demonstration (his chucks do not fit our club lathe) he decided it would be more time efficient to make the base first. This was made from a cross grain blank about 75mm cube in Sapele, initially mounted between centres. It was mounted cross grained because the spigot was to be thread chased to fit into the centre of the bowl. Although hard, close grained woods such as Box or Ebony (which are expensive and usually only available in small sizes) can be very successfully threaded end grain, softer woods do not result in sufficiently strong threads.

Whilst it was between centres Adam turned the outside of the blank to round and added a chucking spigot using a parting tool and then a skew as a scraper to produce a dovetail shape suitable for the chuck jaws.



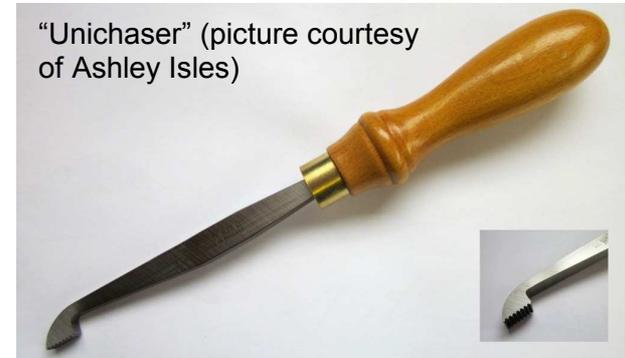
Then, with the piece mounted in the chuck Adam hollowed out the bowl recess and shaped the outside using a bowl gouge, producing in effect a large egg cup. This was sanded and finished with cellulose sanding sealer and then friction polish.



The piece was then remounted with the bowl end in the chuck, protected with several thicknesses of paper roll. The chucking spigot was then turned down using a parting tool (surprisingly, not using the tail centre for additional support) ready for thread chasing. As Adam was later intending to use a 28mm saw-tooth bit for the internal threads he turned the spigot to about 30mm diameter and created an undercut using a thin parting tool in order to reduce the likelihood of the thread chaser running into the end face when cutting a full depth thread. If this happens then the thread is destroyed and a series of grooves is cut!



Now Adam demonstrated the use of the Ashley Isles "Unichaser" thread cutting tool. This single tool can cut both the male and female threads by simply turning the tool over.



"Unichaser" (picture courtesy of Ashley Isles)

Adam said that the 16 tpi tool he was using costs around £22 for the un-handled version (*according to Ashley Isles on-line catalogue, currently £24.84 handled or £20.64 un-handled - Editor*) unsurprisingly this is about half the cost of a pair of conventional male/female chasers.

Adam demonstrated that an armrest tool support, as often favoured for thread chasing, can also be used with the "Unichaser" but he does not use this himself, preferring to simply use the normal tool-rest for both external and internal threads.



Armrest tool support (picture courtesy of Ashley Isles)

Adam then sanded a 45° angle on the outside edge to help with getting the thread started. Running the lathe at about 250 rpm, he moved the thread chaser in a circular motion, starting the thread at 45° and gradually bringing it parallel to the axis when the thread was well formed. Adam finished the thread by applying a coat of paste wax with an old toothbrush.

For the main bowl he started by using a bowl gouge to turn the approximately 170mm octagonal bowl blank (mounted on a screw chuck) to round, followed by creating a chucking spigot and turning the outside shape which was then sanded and finished with sanding sealer and friction polish as before. The outside shape needs to be such that the inside of the bowl can have a fairly flat bottom for when the base is screwed into the inside.



Adam then held the piece in the chuck using the previously turned spigot and began hollowing out the inside using a bowl gouge. It was at this point that Adam attempted what many of us have tried, and where none has succeeded - trying to turn the inside of a bowl larger than the outside! However, in the best tradition of the stage, "the show must go on" and, tossing the resulting "ring" into his tool-box like a frisbee, Adam's confidence overcame his embarrassment and he just carried on, albeit with a much smaller bowl! He continued to finish the inside, making the bottom as flat as the remaining material would allow and sanded and finished it as before.

Adam then used a 28mm saw-tooth bit to make a hole for the female thread, carried out at this stage so that any "break out" from the drilling will be removed when the chucking spigot is removed later.

Adam then reversed the bowl, mounting it Cole (button) jaws, and removed the chucking spigot with a bowl



gouge to produce a face for the base to sit against when the two parts are assembled as a pedestal bowl. The cut was angled slightly inwards to ensure the bowl would sit flat. He then sanded a 45° angle on the opening of the previously drilled hole, as before, and, by inverting the "Unichaser" proceeded to cut the female thread, moving the "Unichaser" in a circular motion, bringing it round to parallel as the thread forms. He kept trying the inner

bowl for a fit and removing more thread material until he got the two parts to screw together easily. A coat of paste wax on the thread eased the fit, as for the male thread. It is likely that the threads produced in cross grain material will be slightly oval, and also might "move" over time so the threads need to be not too tight at this stage.

A point to note is that some planning is needed to ensure that the diameters of the faces on the two bowls need to be arranged such that the parts fit neatly together either way round and that the length male thread on the inner bowl is very slightly shorter than the female thread in the outer bowl. This will ensure that when used as a pedestal bowl the bottom will be flat, and when used as a double bowl the protruding thread does not stop the bowl sitting flat.

Thank you Adam for an interesting demonstration.

Our CCTV camera operator for the evening was Phil Williams, who did a splendid job!

Hugh Field





Club information

Your club committee for 2016 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – John McElroy

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Newsletter editor – Hugh Field

Email: editor@mswa.co.uk

Tel: 0121 329 2911

Webmanager – Hugh Field

Email: webman@mswa.co.uk

Health and Safety Advisor - Hugh Field

Email: health.safety@mswa.co.uk

Dawn Hopley

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. Sold at a discount in a pack of grades 120 - 500 grit.



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.

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.

Items can also be brought to club evenings when donated to raise money for club funds. Please advise the Treasurer if you wish to do this.

For Sale

SIP 10" Table Saw 45 to 90 degree cutting angle

Also provision for mounting a router

Available to view in Barton under Needwood

Brian Smith Tel 01283 716566

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