



## Chair's Chatter

Firstly my many apologies (yet again) for holding up the newsletter publication. Poor Hugh has been waiting for me to write my opening chat. Every month he has to badger me to put pen to paper and every month I seem to get later and later, but I always get there in the end??? I must thank Hugh for being quite so patient with me.

September always means one thing for me. HOLIDAY TIME! We always go away for a couple of weeks at this time of year in the hope of catching an Indian summer in Cornwall. Sadly this year it was not to be. I usually come back with a sun tan, but this year it was just wind blast. We had some rather breath-taking weather at times to say the least, which was pretty spectacular to see on the stunning Cornish coastline.

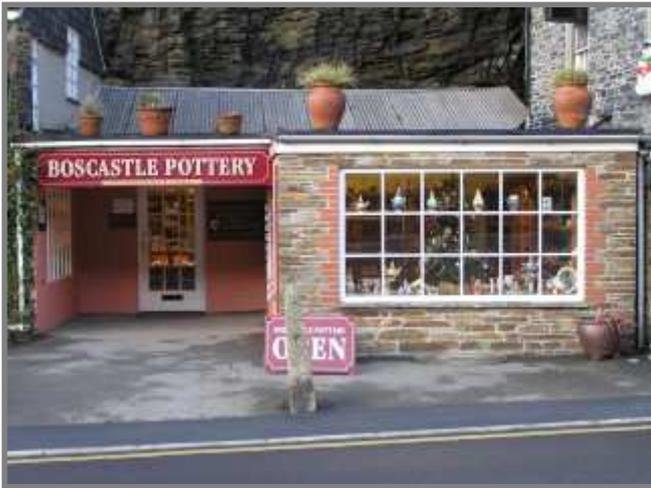
We both like to tour the art galleries and craft centres while we are away. At one time woodturning used to be everywhere, but this year we only found one gallery in Porthleven that was selling any work. The Customs House Gallery on Harbour Road had a good selection of wares by local artist Dave Cusik. It's always nice to see another turner's work on display in a gallery and to be inspired new designs and ideas. If you follow this link you can view some of his work online <https://www.cornwall-art.co.uk/wood>.

However, if you want some good inspiration for ideas and shapes and new decorative techniques, then you can't go far wrong with a trip to your nearest pottery. We popped into Boscastle on the way home and had a peek in the Boscastle Pottery. Boscastle Pottery is famous for its Mochaware, which creates intricate fern like patterns in slipware. This is then orchestrated to create a wonderful skyline effect. I instantly fell in love with the shapes and patterns being created by shop owner Roger Irving Little and his family. We ended up coming home very well stocked with Christmas presents for the family having spent a small fortune there. But more than that, the shape and forms were beautiful to both the eye and hand and could easily translate into woodturning. The unique decoration was also similar to some veining in wood created by spalting, so maybe that was what attracted me to buy his wares? Either way, I can highly recommend a visit to see Roger and his son at work in their lovely workshop in such a wonderful location.



I just found this lovely article all about them on the internet as well, which is well worth a read  
<https://creativesplurges.com/2013/07/05/boscastle-pottery>

So, if you are struggling for ideas or inspiration, then why not pop along to your local pottery? There are plenty right here on our doorstep in Staffordshire after all!



## Dawn

## Editor's Scriblings

Firstly, my apologies also for the lateness of this issue. Dawn has already admitted blame for that, so “nuff said”! Anyway, here we are well into October and another issue pending. I'll try not to let it happen again!

It's always interesting when someone who is not a member of our club picks up on something that appeared in one of our Newsletters. I have recently received an email from Dave Webb who is the Editor for the Cheshire Guild of Woodturners who had been reading my comments regarding the hazards associated with working with Tamboti. It prompted his comments quoted below:

*"I visit Africa on safaris once a year and one of the most often asked questions is 'what, apart from dehydration, is the biggest killer in the bush?'*

*Most answer 'Lion'.*

*Wrong, if you stick to animals then the correct answer is 'Rhinos'.*

*But the truly correct answer is 'tamboti' . It kills more people than all the animals put together. The problem is that the tree and wood are not very distinctive.*

*What upsets me most on my visits is the armfuls of leadwood which is so freely burned.*

*An evenings barbeque could use £200-300 of leadwood at U.K. prices."*

I didn't actually include all of the warning in my “scriblings”. The additional hazard arises during felling and milling in that the bark exudes a sticky latex sap, which is highly irritant to skin and eyes.



So, take care with any timber, particularly if it is one you've not used before, and research it's origin and hazard. Adverse affects may only become apparent much later in life.

Dave produces a newsletter on a quarterly basis and does not write detailed reports on demonstrations, feeling that the majority of interested members will have been at the meeting making it a waste of his time. He also commented that he is feeling rather despondent at the relatively small number of members who contribute articles for publication. I share his feelings. Whilst I am very grateful to those of you who do send things in, I would welcome more! By far the majority of the Newsletter content is from me so far; as I said when I took over in 2016 I am meant to be Editor, not author. In the light of what I have said above I am considering significantly reducing the detail in which I write about future demonstrations and events that I attend; unless I get strong support otherwise. You have been warned!

Now on to more cheerful matters, the highlight of August for me was a visit to the Morgan Car factory in Malvern. Nice to see that traditional coach building techniques are still being used, the frames being made in English ash, grown and milled in Nottinghamshire. The curved parts that form the rear wheel arches are laminated from 3 pieces, ¼" thick glued and cold bent in a jig that looked as if it might be as old as the cars design! The aluminium body panels are produced using a mixture of traditional, hand formed, and also space age forming techniques. The factory produces less cars in a year than most mainstream car manufacturers do in a day!

The factory tour takes about 2 hours and I recommend it to anyone who has an interest in traditional crafts, even if you are not so interested in cars themselves.

## ***Hugh Field***



Yes, it really is a lavender coloured one!



Lots of lovely English ash!



## August Competition

The Challenge for this month was a miniature table or stool, the width to be less than 50mm. There were three entries as below:

1<sup>st</sup> place - Hugh Field



2<sup>nd</sup> place - John Meers



3<sup>rd</sup> place - Philip Watts



## August display table - Vance Lupton



Pair of "Emerging Bowls" in Ash (Google it to find out how to do it!).



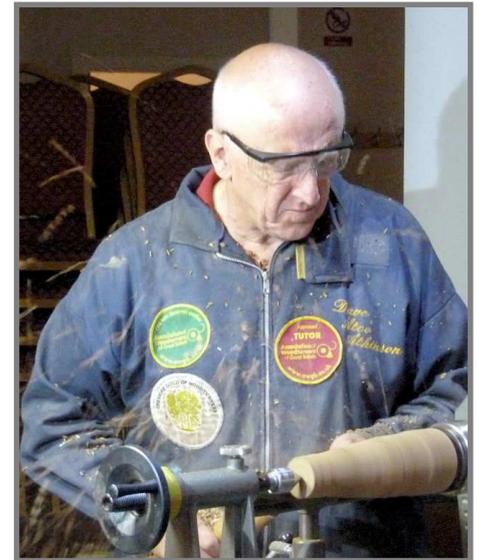
Large platter in bleached sycamore, drying out prior to finishing.



## September Demonstration - Dave Atkinson

This was the first visit to MSWA by Dave Atkinson, current Chairman of the AWGB. He had chosen to demonstrate making a small box with tall finial lid, and the promise of some thread chasing if time allowed (it did, albeit with a later than normal finish time!).

The chosen wood was a Laburnum branch, about 80mm diameter. He mounted it between centres ensuring that the pith was off centre at both ends, otherwise the thin finial would potentially be weakened by having the pith run through it. After roughing it down to a cylinder, which Dave does initially in a series of plunge cuts to avoid stripping the bark in large pieces, which can fly off, he created a chucking spigot to suit the club lathe chuck. The piece was then mounted in the chuck with support from the tailstock running centre.



Overhead screen shot.

After roughing to a cone form, the approximate shape and size for the finished box and finial were marked out as shown (left), allowing sufficient material for parting off between the finial and the box, and for a chucking spigot for the box. In this case there was plenty



of spare material at the chuck end.

Next, some shape was put into the piece using the marking out as a guide. Turning the finial came next. This was done progressively, using a gouge and skew, from the tailstock end so that the piece retains sufficient strength to support the turning and sanding operations. A Henry Taylor Decorating Elf was used to create a textured area, defined with a vee groove either side. The finial was then sealed and parted off.







Next came the turning of the outside of box itself and hollowing. Dave used a range of hollowing tools including spindle gouge, cranked "chip" type tool( which work best at



Jason Breach 1/2" oval skew

low speed), and round carbide tipped tool (he is still mastering the latter!). Refining of the aperture was achieved using a Jason Breach 1/2" oval skew (unusual in that it does not have a handle which provides more sensitive control) this is a versatile tool which can be used in a number of different ways. The finial was fitted to the box, and Dave noticed that he had not undercut the rim sufficiently for it to fit snugly to the box. He commented that turners often do not take sufficient care with finishing the underside of finial lids, and since it was his intention to mount the finial in a jam chuck to do just that anyway, it would give him a opportunity to correct the undercut.



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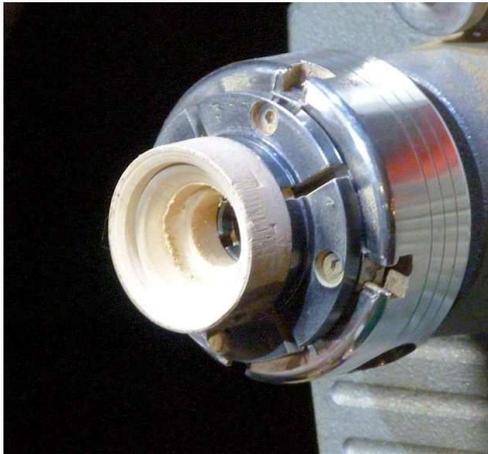


A jam chuck was next prepared for finishing the underside of the finial. This technique relies on the finial being small enough





in diameter to pass through the chuck into the spindle bore (otherwise a very long jam chuck would be required).



The jam chuck was carefully sized to give a slightly loose fit so that a piece of kitchen paper could be introduced under the finial. This would make removal of the finial easier.



Undercutting the rim with the Jason Breach skew.

Dave concluded his demonstration with a brief exercise in thread chasing, such as he uses for his acorn boxes shown in the foreground of his display table below.

Dave had prepared some nicely concise illustrated instruction sheets showing how he undertakes thread chasing which were handed out. If any members would like a copy of these then please contact me at [editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:editor@mswa.co.uk) or ask me at a club meeting.



**Hugh Field**





## Forthcoming events

### Club Meetings

**6<sup>th</sup> October**

Steve Heeley with a choice of projects. Gerry Marlow - Fork Handles!

**3<sup>rd</sup> November**

### Club Competitions

**October - Novice**

An egg & cup

**November - Challenge**

A clock

### Other events

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

**Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition**

Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, Nr Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN

No woodturning, but plenty of tools and other things that are useful in our hobby!

<http://www.midlandsmodeleengineering.co.uk/>

**27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October**

**Woodworking and Power Tool Show**

Westpoint Arena, Exeter, Devon.

Many well known turners will be there and this event has **free seminars free entry and free parking.**

Go to <http://www.wptwest.co.uk/> for more information.

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> November**

**Toolpost** open day

Unit 7, Hawksworth

Southmead Industrial Park

Didcot

Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

Tel: 01235 511101

This will feature Henri Kuntz (France); Willy Vanhoutte (Belgium); Gerry Marlow (UK); Nick Speakman (UK), and also other demonstrations

Go to [www.toolpost.co.uk/](http://www.toolpost.co.uk/) for more information

**17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> November**

**North of England woodworking and Power Tool Show**

Hall 1, Great Yorkshire Showground

Harrogate HG2 8QZ

This is the largest and longest established retail woodworking show in the country.

Go to [www.skpromotions.co.uk/](http://www.skpromotions.co.uk/) for more information



## 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.

## Members sales items

This section is for listing any turning or woodworking tools or related items you have for sale.

Any submissions to [editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:editor@mswa.co.uk), please.

## 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)! 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.

See Ron Dixon who has agreed to manage the DVD library.

## Abrasives and other items (when available)

### 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



## Club information

Your club committee for 2017 is:-

**Chairman – Dawn Hopley** [chairman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:chairman@mswa.co.uk)

Tel: 07860 501 379

**Secretary – John McElroy** [secretary@mswa.co.uk](mailto:secretary@mswa.co.uk)

**Treasurer – Phil Williams** [treasurer@mswa.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@mswa.co.uk)

**Assistant Treasurer -**

**Events Secretary – Vacant** [events@mswa.co.uk](mailto:events@mswa.co.uk)

**Newsletter editor – Hugh Field** [editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:editor@mswa.co.uk)

Tel: 0121 329 2911

**Webmanager – Philip Watts** [webman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:webman@mswa.co.uk)

**Health and Safety Advisor**

**Hugh Field** [health.safety@mswa.co.uk](mailto:health.safety@mswa.co.uk)

*Please use phone numbers only if absolutely necessary.*

***Other important people responsible for:-***

***Refreshments:*** ***David Neal, David Dawes & Ron Dixon***

***Equipment:*** ***Mark Pickering & John Meers***

***Cameras:*** ***John Meers, Ted Gill, Vance Lupton & Dawn Hopley***

***Club shop:*** ***Ron Dixon***