



## Future Events

### MSWA Meetings

January 9<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Annual General Meeting

February 6th  
Ken Allen – Involute Turning

### Other Events

### Club Competitions

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

February  
Novice  
Plain Bowl or Platter  
under six inches in diameter

March  
Challenge  
A piece of involuted turning

## Chairman's Notes

We have reached the end of the 2014 session and concluded it with a fine demonstration by Mark Hancock. Ted Gill is to be praised for the programme that he compiled and next year's programme promises to be as good. See what is proposed later in this Newsletter.

Attendance at this demonstration was down on our usual numbers, a little disappointing particularly as this was the first time that we had used a new improved camera. There were a few teething troubles due to our unfamiliarity with the system but the results are promising and could lead to the purchase of a second camera to the same specification.

We are preparing for the Annual AGM next month. The date is the traditional one of the second Friday in the month, it being assumed that the first Friday is too soon after the festive season. There will be the usual call for volunteers to serve on the Committee, or to act as shadows with a view to take over in the future. Most of the jobs are not that arduous but fresh blood would always be welcome. The club is yours, if you want to have a hand in determining its future activities and programmes, this is the way to influence it.

The MSWA took a stand again at the Wildlife Trust Christmas Fair. The usual suspects manned it, and my thanks go to them. WE had a good weekend on the sales front. The Trust received a sizeable donation, the club gained a similar amount for the funds, and a number of us reduced the stocks of finished products from our workshop and profited in the process.

This is my opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in January.

Philip Watts





## **Editor's Scribblings**

I will apologise here for the odd stray e-mail that has escaped from my computer in recent weeks. Commissioning a new laptop with an upgraded operating system may be one of the reasons, or it may just be the usual finger problem.

The task of writing these notes has also been made more difficult than usual because of the latest recruit to the Dogs for the Disabled socialisation programme. In the case of a nine week old Labrador puppy, silence can mean that he has gone to sleep in his crate or more likely that he has found something to chew that is more tasty than the toys provided for that purpose, my wife's trainers being a particular target.



I had a senior moment during Mark's demonstration when he talked about having visited the club about two years ago. I had absolutely no recollection of his visit. It was only after a discussion with Hugh Field on the way home in his car that we established that I had not been present on the previous occasion. Furthermore, Hugh had provided the demonstration report for the Newsletter and had been complimented by Mark for its comprehensive nature. If you want to undertake some revision, my files give the date as 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 and his project for the night was one of his goblet designs. I think that the reason for my absence was the usual one of being on a ship somewhere in the Canary Islands.

Philip Watts

## **A Snippet for the Newsletter**

I am indebted to Jane Russell for the following:

Overheard (not for the first time) at the North of England Woodturning Show in Harrogate: a stall holder earnestly explaining to a customer, 'With this tool you'll never get a dig-in!'

"Pass us yer tool, mate - you aren't really trying!"

## **Talk about carving the Turkey!**

From an American club magazine,

"Our President set the challenge, anything except wood, use bone, plastics, aluminium, etc... So I used a piece of dried out buffalo meat. A correspondent in Belgium thought that this was gross! No sense of humour, there."



## A Final 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.

#### Note

The Constitution of the club requires that you pay your subscriptions before the A.G.M. in order to be able to vote.

There are a number of important finance issues to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting so it is important that you are up to date.

#### 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.



## December Demonstration - Mark Hancock

Mark Hancock has visited the club before and obviously had made a good impression, resulting in this invitation to return. On the last occasion he had shown the club how to turn one of his specimen goblets with a long stem. This time he chose as his project one of his “rocking vessel” designs.

The majority of Mark's work is what he describes as “parallel grain turning”. He dislikes the term “between centres” and considers it misleading since it is possible to place a wood blank between centres when the grain is running across the bed of the lathe. So parallel turning has the grain of the blank running along the bed of the lathe. He also has a preference for working with green or unseasoned wood. It is easier to cut and is far cheaper than buying in prepared seasoned wood blanks. Contrary to what some turners believe, Mark's view is that it is not necessary to turn down to very thin levels, it is only necessary to ensure that a uniform thickness is achieved throughout the piece. This allows the piece to dry out evenly and thus reduces the risk of cracking.



For this project, his base material was a piece of cherry, still relatively wet. It was mounted on the lathe between centres, that at the tailstock end being of the cup variety to avoid splitting the blank when tailstock pressure is applied. This blank was then turned roughly to the desired exterior shape and a long spigot formed at one end. Remounting the blank in a chuck was undertaken off the lathe with gravity helping to seat the blank centrally in a chuck that had long nose jaws fitted. Rough turning only for the first stage because concentricity in the chuck could not be guaranteed due to the flexible nature of unseasoned wood. The exterior shape of the vessel could now be formed using a 3/8 inch bowl gouge described variously as ground in the Celtic, Irish, fingernail, swept back style. (take your pick – as all these terms have been used for what is essentially the same shape and grind)

As on the previous occasion, Mark showed how he uses small cabinet scrapers to clean off the external shape and remove any residual tool marks. These are sharpened on a grinder and held on the work such that they are in a trailing direction and thus acting as a negative rake tool.

Having refined the exterior profile, Mark now drilled out the centre. This could be achieved in a number of ways, using a Forstner bit, sawtooth bit or with a gouge. Mark used a spoon-shaped bit that is not normally available in this country. Will Rose's keen eyesight detected the trade name WIGO engraved on the shaft. Intriguingly, putting this name into an Internet Search Engine came up with a German company specialising in modern cutting tools. The name of the company was Leitz, a name more usually associated with Leica cameras.

The interior of the vessel was then hollowed out using a shielded hollowing tool. An articulated head was used to hollow the sides of the vessel, presenting the tip of the tool rather than the side. Hollowing was undertaken from the top, retaining the strength at the base of the piece as long as possible.

The profile, both internal and external, having been established, Mark attacked the outside to produce the distinctive features. A fingernail tool was used to turn circumferential grooves at regular intervals. A mini Arbortech fitted with a chainsaw type cutter then cut in the longitudinal grooves. Marking out these grooves used the chuck jaws as the basis of the indexing, with the intermediate grooves being established by eye. The lathe tool rest was used as a support throughout these operations .



## *Wood 'n' things*



It is Mark's practice on the majority of his pieces to commence with the work between centres, to have it in the chuck during the middle phase and to complete the work back between centres. A wooden cone gripped in the chuck provided a friction drive. This enabled the spigot that had been used to hold the work to be turned down to complete the profiling of the exterior.

Now to add colour and texture. Having watched an American woodworker meticulously carving every segment, an alternative and quicker process presented itself. Ebonising with a Maxgas torch serves the double purpose of burning of all the sharp corners left from the turning and simultaneously provides the ebony texture forming the basis for the colouring to follow. A polishing brush removed any loose dust and particles. Do not be tempted to use a dust extractor. The combination of hot dust, any residual embers and large quantities of air is a potential recipe for combustion. The ebonising was cut back with a rasp or abrasive paper wrapped around a dowel to permit highlights in the subsequent colouring process to appear.

For this, mark used an air brush and Chestnut Spirit Stains from the Rainbow range, starting with the darker colours and topping it with a coat of yellow. This has the effect of highlighting all the base colours. Final finish would normally be with a spray coat of satin acrylic lacquer. The inside finish would be a colour coat over either a smooth cut, one ridged in a controlled manner.

Another excellent demonstration from Mark Hancock and one that was well received by members.

### The finished piece.







## **2015 Programme – Demonstrators and Competitions**

All meetings are on the first Friday of the month unless otherwise stated

Month	Demonstrator	Competition
January 9th	Annual General Meeting	Premier Competition 2014 Judging and Award of Prizes
February 6th	Ken Allen - Involute Turning	Novice - Plain Bowl or platter- under 6 inches in diameter
March 6th	Paul Jones - The practicalities and design principles of spindle turning	Challenge Cup -Involuted Turning
April 3rd	Paul Bellamy - A deep bowl turned from a plank	Novice -Honey Dipper
May 1st	Hands-on and Open Day	Challenge Cup -Laminated Bowl
June 5th	Margaret Garrard - Thin-walled turning with piercing and colour decorations	Novice -Mushroom
July 3rd	Steve Heeley - Something different - Not one that we have seen before	Challenge - Finial Box
August 7th	Steve White - Back by request - Steve will expand on the principles carving on a turned vessel	Novice -Whistle or flute
September 4th	Ted's first demonstration - Stylised Figure Theme	Challenge -Hollow vessel with decorated rim or lid
October 2nd	Hands-on Evening - More in-house activities	Novice - Stylised Figure Shape
November 6th	Andrew Hall - By request - Andrew moves onto his Etruscan helmet and stand	Challenge -Firework theme
December 4nd	Mick Hanbury - Decorative bowl techniques, ebonising and much more	Novice -Christmas Tree
January 8th	Annual General Meeting & Competition Awards Meeting	Challenge - Square or Rectangular Bowl Premier - Coffee or Tea Pot

Time to get your thinking caps on!



## A Little Christmas Extra

Vance makes an offset turned Christmas tree at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Christmas Fayre!

Hugh Field had made a few of these Christmas trees and they sold very well on the Saturday, so Vance decided to make one.

First a piece of pine, about 1.5" square (but 2 x 2 would be better) was turned between centres and a chucking spigot established. Reversed in the chuck and with tail centre support the coned shape was turned but with a larger diameter left at the "pointy" end as shown. On this end were marked three centres, offset by about 3/16" (5mm) equally spaced at 120 degrees (this need only be approximate).

Then pencil lines were drawn round the cone spaced equally at about 3/8" to 1/2" (10 – 12mm).

Using the true centre at the headstock end and one of the offset ones at the tail end shallow vee grooves were cut into the cone shape starting at the point at the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, etc marks) so that the grooves were about 2/3rds round the cone (take particular care near the tip, it is easy to cut the top of by mistake!). Note, you can create the offset at either end. Experiment to see the different results!

This was repeated on one of the other tail centre marks to cut grooves at positions 2, 5, 7, etc.

At the remaining centre it was repeated at positions 3, 6, 8, etc.

Now the cone section was sealed with a couple of coats of lacquer (this will stop the paint bleeding at the next stage) the piece put back in the chuck on true centres.

Then the grooves were painted (acrylic paint is fine) and allowed to dry. The gold is better if a darker wood is used, green or red look good with pale wood. One lady wanted a purple one!

The cone section was then re-turned and sanded.

Then the base of the tree was finished and couple of coats of finish applied.

Finally it was parted off and the base tidied up off the lathe.

Job done and another one on sale at £5!





## 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'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)