



Wood 'n' things



Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue – July 2014

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Future Events

Chairman's Notes

MSWA Meetings

August 1st
Dawn Hopley
Our very own!

September 5th
Tracy Owen

Other Events

Club Competitions

August
Novice
A Cup and Ball Toy

September
Challenge
Fragmented/Reconstructed
Turned Item

With the summer season on us, the MSWA attended the summer shows at Alrewas and Kings Bromley.

The former show appears to be jinxed as far as the weather is concerned. The show-ground was flooded two years ago and the show cancelled. The show this year was affected by poor weather and attendances were down.

On the other hand, the Kings Bromley show has a long-standing record of fine weather. Too fine perhaps. This year the temperatures were into the thirties centigrade. Too hot perhaps. Interest was limited at both shows. The weather at Alrewas was a cause. At Kings Bromley, the majority of visitors were more interested in locating a source of shade and cold drinks than in the noble art of wood turning.

The MSWA stand on both occasions was staffed by members of the committee and one more stalwart, despite appeals from me. This is a pity for a number of reasons and a wider representation would have been welcomed.

We had some interest from potential new members and it will be interesting to see if this turns into reality.

Once again, the MSWA members provided the vast majority of the entries for the woodworking and woodturning classes in the large marquee at Kings Bromley. Not just a re-cycling of previous club competition entries but a wider one to meet the competition requirements. A full report on this with photographs will undoubtedly appear in the next Newsletter.

I will present my apologies here for my absence at the next club meeting. I will be on my way to Denmark to join the good ship Tenacious on her way back from the Tall Ship Races.

Philip Watts



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Editor's Scribblings

Just an update on the Competition Results, so far. Thanks to Hugh Field for this information.

There is still time to enter for this year's competition, and to prepare for the Premier Trophy in January.

Stop hiding your lights under the proverbial bushels and join the fray.

Philip Watts

2014 MSWA Monthly Competition Results

NOVICE

Surname	Forename	February	April	June	August	October	December	Total
Field	Hugh							0
Gill	Edward							0
Hatton	Leslie	2						2
Hopley	Dawn							0
Lupton	Vance							0
McElroy	John							0
Payne	Geoff							0
Russell	Jane	3		4				7
Watts	Philip							0

CHALLENGE

Surname	Forename	March	May	July	September	November	January '15	Total
Field	Hugh	2	2	2				6
Gill	Edward	4	4	3				11
Hatton	Leslie							0
Hopley	Dawn	1	1					2
Lupton	Vance	3	3	4				10
McElroy	John	3	1					4
Payne	Geoff	1						1
Russell	Jane		1					1
Watts	Philip	1		1				2

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.



July Demonstration – Sue Harker

Sue Harker visited the club in 2008 and demonstrated some of her techniques in open segmented turning. On this return visit she chose to show case two projects, the first for a decorative wall plaque reconstructed from a simple turning, the second for an offset turned candle stick.

The material for the first project came from recycled oak skirting boards, planed and thicknessed before gluing together to form a flat square blank. To this had been added a chucking point turned from scrap wood. This allowed the blank to be mounted in a chuck for turning on the lathe. Turning itself was a relatively simple process, facing of the blank before turning a number of beads, coves, and groove details using a bowl gouge and a spindle gouge reground to produce a beading tool. The number of beads and the detail is entirely the choice of the individual turner.



The beads were painted with a black acrylic paint and the turning cleaned up to leave clear black rings as shown in the picture below.



Then came the Blue Peter moment when Sue produced what had been made earlier. A blank turned in a similar manner had been cut into slices using a band saw. The cut edges had then been cleaned up with a thicknesser/planer. With these slices placed on a flat board, Sue showed how these could be arranged in an almost infinite number of ways to provide a decorative pattern. The final part of the process would be to glue the segments together to form the plaque.





Wood 'n' things



The second project after the tea break produced a candle stick featuring some offset turning. Most woods would be suitable for this. A piece of home harvested cherry was used for the demonstration but woods such as yew and laburnum would provide some very attractive contrasts between the heart and sap woods.



Turning commenced by rounding off the raw blank between centres and turning a tenon at one end to suit the chuck. Once in the chuck, and retaining a measure of support from the tailstock, one end of the blank was selected as the base and left in the round. The cup and a collar detail below were turned at the other end. A Forstner bit was used to drill out the hole for the candle holder.

Reversing the blank in the lathe and holding it between centres but with the candle end offset by about 12 mm, the portion of the candle stick between the base and candle cup was turned into a narrow section. Sanding and finishing completed the project, remembering that the offset portion can only be sanded practicably with the lathe stopped.

Further examples of Sue's work are shown below.





For this month only, a two for one offer!

It is not often that the monthly demonstration is for something that I have already tackled but this month that was the case. I produced a free-standing version of the decorative wall plaque made by Sue as my entry for the competition last January. There were significant differences in the approach that I used, so here is my take on this project.

The design was not mine as I always have to look for inspiration elsewhere. The choice of wood was again driven by what wood I had in store rather than by any deliberate choice of timber. I had two pieces of mahogany bought when a workshop had been cleared out. They had been thicknessed and had one edge that was clean and square to the faces. I glued these together with a PVA glue and left them clamped up overnight. A paper joint was not used because I knew that I would cut through the block after I had finished the turning phase.

The first challenge was how to hold the laminated block in the lathe. Sue glued a turned block to the centreline of her blank. I chose to hold my blank in a cradle or sandwich of soft wood on a large diameter plywood disc screwed to a face plate. This wooden faceplate is one that I use regularly when finishing the bases of bowls and the like. I clamp the blank to the faceplate using the tailstock centre and fit softwood blocks with one edge cut to match the external profile of whatever I have turned. In this case the blocks completely enclosed my blank were of square section. I cleaned off the outer edges of the softwood blocks purely because the faceplate is close in diameter to the permitted by the capacity of my Record lathe. The picture below shows the faceplate and softwood blocks.

How to hold the blank within the cradle? One solution if you have a very light touch is to rely on double sided tape. A safer solution perhaps is to use the tape and reinforce it by bring up the tailstock centre. I have a live centre that has a replaceable centre. I used this with the normal centre replaced by a turned small diameter wooden spigot. There was sufficient room around this spigot to turn the face of my blanks and incorporate concentric rings. The centre was withdrawn whilst the very centre of the blank was finished. The blank was then reversed in the cradle to allow the back to be similarly faced off and the grooves turned. Simple measurements were used to ensure that the grooves on one side of the blank were offset from those on the other, to avoid turning through the blank and producing a set of wooden rings!



Careful use of the bandsaw reduced the blank to a series of strips. I do not have a thicknesser so each sawn edge had to be carefully sanded to remove the saw marks and maintain the square cross-section. Now the fun could commence, except that strips could be turned end for end to display the other side. Just as Sue demonstrated but with the potential for even more combinations. Twice or even four times the possibilities. Having selected a combination that was approved of by my personal artistic and creative consultant, you know who I mean, the strips were glued up and clamped together. Mounted on a simple base, the result is an item that graces a hearth. Having two sides means that it can be reversed from time to time to display a different pattern.



July Competition.

A Challenge calling for a set of stacking boxes, a minimum of four was that set for this month. Four entries were received. Vance Lupton came in first, beating Ted Gill's combination box set and jewellery stand into second place. Hugh Field took third place with a miniature set turned in a burr. Even the "two for one" offer of a pagoda box in the style of Ray Key that could also masquerade as a light house style bedside lamp could only maintain a lowly fourth position for the Chairman.



Readers wishing to see more of the detail of Ted's work should visit the West Midlands Woodturners' site and call up their latest newsletter.

The August Challenge is one for the Novices. A Cup and Ball Toy. Anybody still looking for ideas should visit the Woodturning Online Site for a Project design.





Club information

Your club committee for 2014 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

Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

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Abrasives -

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

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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 £2.20 for a set of 7 sheets - 120 -600 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.

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

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