



# Wood 'n' things



Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue – September 2014

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## Future Events

## Chairman's Notes

### MSWA Meetings

October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Gerry Marlow

Hollow and pierced Christmas  
Decorations

November 7<sup>th</sup>

Hands on and Open Evening  
Celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

December 5<sup>th</sup>

Mark Hancock  
of crooked goblet fame

### Other Events

### Club Competitions

October  
Novice  
Candlestick

November  
Challenge

A pair of salt and pepper grinders

December  
Novice

A small three legged stool

Not a very productive month in terms of wood turning this month, as my unfinished entry in the month's competition demonstrated. This was down to an influx of cases from my REMAP work and a two week voyage on Tenacious, one of the Jubilee Sailing Trust tall ships, from Esbjerg in Denmark to Southampton via Bruges and Dieppe. The latter has now been added to the list of Channel ports in which I have been gale-bound.

The highlight of the trip was being in charge of a watch bringing the ship into Southampton and giving the Southampton Pilot the added complication of working with a blind helmsman. To add to that fact, the said helmsman or rather helmswoman was being interviewed by the BBC at the same time.

The end result was a brief excerpt that comprised part of an award presentation from the National Lottery. I doubt very much that any of the club members spotted me in my supporting role in the background.

My REMAP work involved machining a new seat for a commode from a 25mm thick plastic sheet. My advice to anybody faced with the same challenge is not to do in that material but to employ something like m.d.f. and to use a painted finish. Even the use of a simple power tools such as a jigsaw on plastic have the tendency to produce a molten mess, with the plastic busy re-welding itself together behind the saw.

Philip Watts



## Editor's Scribblings

Hugh Field has been preparing an article that we hope will feature in a future issue of the magazine Woodturning. Hugh spoke to Paul Bellamy, a previous Editor of the Newsletter, and Paul was able to give him scanned copies of Newsletter dating back to 1995.

This gives me the opportunity to dip into the same archives and engage in the noble art of recycling. For some, our recent review of Health and Safety became something of a "bête noir" but the Newsletter of June 1995 records that a "very interesting" talk on that subject had been given by a club member. The August Issue then reports on a very successful Open Day at the house of the then Chairman, Ken Allen. Surprisingly, to me at least, many of the demonstrations at that time appeared to be on a Sunday, in the Village Hall, and at a cost of £10 including a buffet lunch! This charge had been reduced to £5 by 1997 but with members bringing their own lunches.

Ken Allen, who had founded the club held the post of Chairman until 1997 when Ron Barnsley volunteered for this role and took over in 1998. A different venue in March 1998 saw the club holding an exhibition and Open Day at Brownhills Comprehensive School and on a Saturday afternoon.

Regrettably, Paul's collection of Newsletters lies blank until he took over the Editorship himself in 2006. I would be interested to hear from anybody who has any of the other copies and who would be willing to loan them to me so that I can scan them and complete the collection.

Philip Watts

## 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.



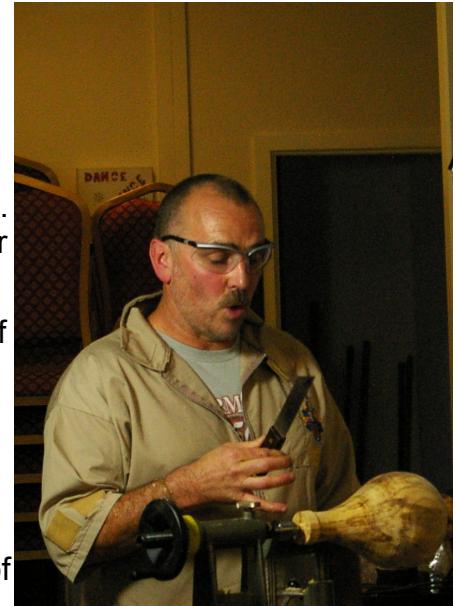
## September Demonstration –Tracy Owen

Tracy Owen has visited us before, an occasion when he managed to drop a chisel and sever a power cable. A feat he did not intend to repeat on this occasion. Tracey is not a frequent demonstrator and it had taken all the powers of persuasion possessed by our Events secretary to bring him back to the MSWA. We were not disappointed.

Tracy's reputation is in the field of hollow turnings and this area together with that of texturing constituted the subject for the evening's demonstration. A piece of wet elm started its journey between centres on the club lathe. Using a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch bowl gouge, this was roughed down and tenons turned at both ends of a suitable diameter to match the club chuck. The blank was then parted into two using a  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch parting tool. The larger portion would comprise the base of the final piece, the smaller would become the top.

Tracy prefers to turn wet wood finding it easier and quicker.. Selection of a suitable wood and from where in a log it is cut minimises the risk of later movement. Elm is satisfactory but yew is probably the best.

The base of the blank was then remounted in the lathe using the chuck and the turned tenon. An alternative would have been to use a face plate with screws into the end grain. Hollowing commenced with the centre being drilled out with a large diameter twist drill. The next stage of hollowing commenced with the use of a Hamlet tool held in a swivelling mount on the tool rest. Such rests can be either home made or purchased from stores such as Axminster. The design of these rests provides a turner with a greater degree of control, taking out some of the physical stress as well.



The base of the vessel is left thick at this stage to provide additional support during the hollowing phase. Initial roughing out of the interior is followed by working down in 2" (50mm) steps taking the thickness down to just over  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (4mm). Remember that all this work is being done in an end grain piece. Tracy switched to a tear drop scraper for the final finishing of the interior.

The smaller portion of the blank was now placed in the chuck (ideally a second chuck but the club only has the one). This was drilled out using a  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch spindle gouge and the neck opened out before the top was replaced in the chuck by the base portion. The two parts were then glued together with superglue, the joint being a simple butt joint without a tenon. A club member queried the integrity of a glued joint on wet wood but the pundits opined that this would actually increase the strength rather than the converse.



## Wood 'n' things



It was now possible to refine the outer profile of the piece and to conceal the existence of the glue line by turning in a series of beads as features. Earlier, Tracy had talked about the alternative texturing techniques that he had used and developed. These included sand blasting, either with silica sand with a grade of 60-80 grit or crushed glass. In each case an area was blasted to highlight the grain before final finishing. An interesting evening with an alternative approach to hollow vessel turning.

The final product of the Evening's demonstration.



Some further examples of the work of Tracy Owen.





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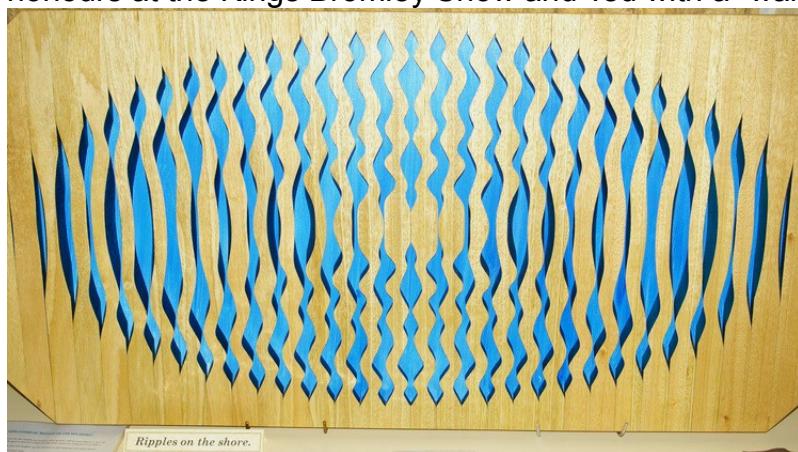


## September Competition.

The August Competition was for the more experienced and called for an item constructed from a turned piece. Hugh Field took the first place this time with a reconstructed bowl.



Vance Lupton and Ted Gill tied for second place. Vance with a large piece that had previously taken the honours at the Kings Bromley Show and Ted with a "walking bowl".





# Wood 'n' things



## Results Update

*2014 MSWA Monthly Competition Results*



## 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**

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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](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)