



## Programme

### Chairman's Notes

### Future Events

#### MSWA Meetings

September 4<sup>th</sup>  
Ted Gill  
Stylised Figure Theme

October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Hands on Evening

#### Other Events

August 31<sup>st</sup>  
National Forest Wood Fair  
Loughborough

#### Club Competitions

September  
Challenge  
Hollow Vessel  
with decorated  
rim or lid

October  
Novice  
Stylised Figure Theme

November  
Challenge  
Firework Theme

The next meeting on this year's programme will be a demonstration by Ted Gill, our Events Secretary, He has promised to use a future competition challenge as his subject for the night. Ted is one of our more experienced, and successful, turners as demonstrated by his results in both of our competitions and those of the West Midlands Woodturners. I would recommend that you attend and support Ted in his first demonstration. I do this with a slightly guilty conscience in that I will not be present for family reasons. Somebody else will have to write the report on the evening's activities.

The October meeting will be one of our Hands-on Sessions. Your committee is anxious to increase the popularity of these meetings as we believe that they can play an important part within the club programme. Let us know what you want most from these evenings.

It may be the chance to have some tuition in an area giving you difficulty, an opportunity to see a particular tool in use, perhaps whilst you are thinking of purchasing one, or to watch a mini demonstration of a particular subject.

Your ideas and requests can be made to me by phone or e-mail at the usual address in the club information page at the end of this Newsletter

Philip Watts



## **Editor's Scribblings**

I have recently had to turn some plastic, high density polyethylene to be more precise, albeit on a small metal turning lathe. Easy enough using standard metal cutting tools. The problem is the swarf. Wood shavings may pile up and require frequent sweeping away. Plastic swarf on the other hand comes off as a long continuous shaving which then wraps itself around the rotating workpiece. This can only be freed by cutting away with a craft knife.

Then I moved onto some segmented work. The accuracy that one has to work to is demanding. Consider twelve segments to a circular piece. Each segment must contain an angle of 30 degrees for them to fit together without gaps. An error of only one tenth of a degree when multiplied by the number of joints becomes more than one degree and will result in a discernible gap. My admiration for those people who undertake this work regularly has increased

Philip Watts

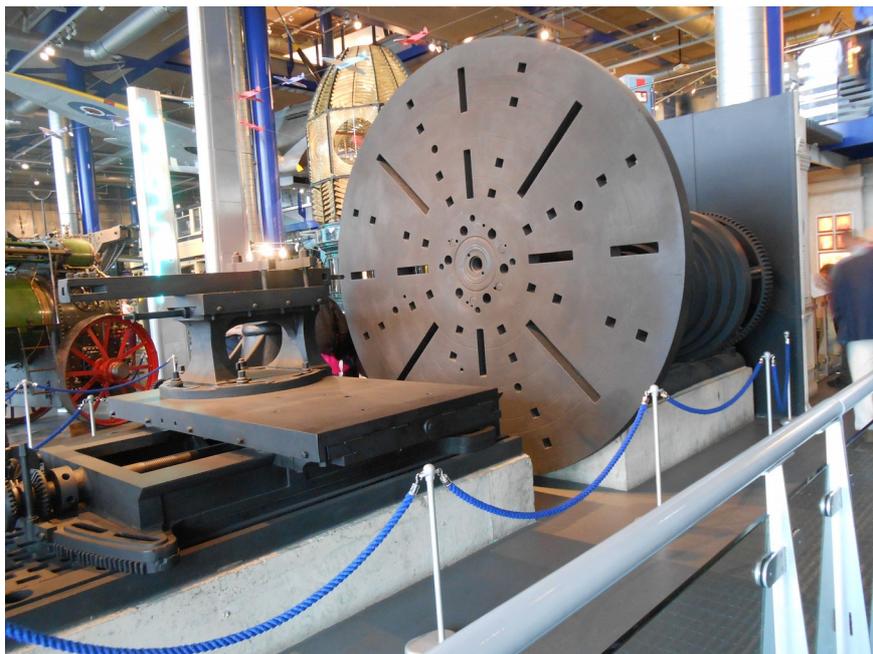
## **Newsletter**

The Newsletter is for your and the club's benefit. If you have something to say then write it down 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.

## **My lathe isn't big enough!**

Have you ever used that excuse?

A rainy Sunday and the need to entertain the grandchildren provided a reason the visit the Thinktank Science Museum in Birmingham. This eight foot diameter faceplate lathe, belt driven, is one of the featured pieces of machinery to be seen on the lowest floor.



-  
Methinks, that should do most jobs but it is not in the Axminster catalogue.



# Wood 'n' things



## July Demonstration – Steve White

Steve White first visited the club two years ago and kept the attention of members present throughout the evening with his insights into the art or craft of wood carving. Steve's full time occupation is a furniture repairer and restorer, so he has experience of turning and cabinet making which makes it possible for him to identify the similarities and to highlight the differences between the two crafts.



Rather than give a full description of the night, I am going to pick out the highlights.

1. The need to hold the work piece firmly. There are proprietary devices available but Steve does not rate them highly and prefers to use ones that he has made himself. The one he demonstrated for use with turned items utilised tenons on each end of the piece and clamped them in wooden brackets that were themselves firmly clamped to his substantial work bench.
2. Using two hands on the tool. This is for safety in holding. Both hands are behind the cutting edge. Useful to develop a degree of ambidexterity as this facilitates cutting to match the grain of the wood.
3. Many of the carving tools are fluted and a slight rotation of the tool whilst in use provides a cutting action at the tool tip.
4. Need for sharp tools. Read the earlier newsletter for detail but tools sharpened on a stone not a grinding wheel, followed up by a honing on a strip of leather mounted on a wood backing. This has one side flat and a rounded edge to hone inside of gouges. The bevel will present a dull finish after grinding The use of a polishing compound during honing will produce a bright finish.
5. Wood carving tools are generally a single bevel with an angle of 15 to 20 degrees, depending upon the type of wood but some have in internal bevel, such as a spoon type. These were often used on tracery type of carving.
6. Find the older tools if possible. Names such as Henry Taylor, Pfeil, or Marples were mentioned.



# Wood 'n' things



7. Do not fall into the trap of buying a ready made set of carving tools. There will be some that you never will use. Better to buy ones as you find out those that are right for what you are carving.
8. No use for Dremel or other powered tools, creating noise and dust. Steve is a traditionalist and excessive sanding sanding loses the crisp detail achieved with sharp tools.
9. Sharpening again, the use of 3 in 1, WD40 or lighter oils to wash grinding dust away. Stone cleaned only occasionally.
10. Demonstration of simple relief work including cutting across the grain to avoid the breakout that can result from cutting with the grain.
11. Stabbing cut for lettering, not use of a vee-shaped tool that might appear to be the obvious choice.
12. Transfer of design using light green carbon paper to avoid dye leaching down into the wood..
13. Finish. No use of oil on the lighter woods, only on dark woods. For light wood, use transparent shellac, or a cellulose sealer, with perhaps some wax. Avoid a gloss finish.
14. Preferred wood is lime. Oak and walnut more difficult.

A good evening spent with Steve and a reminder of why we asked him back again. A significant amount of questioning from the small but select group of members present.



Some of Steve's work in progress and the clamps that will be used to hold the work steady during the work of carving.



# Wood 'n' things



## Club information

Your club committee for 2015 is:-

**Chairman - Philip Watts**

Email: [chairman@mswa.co.uk](mailto:chairman@mswa.co.uk)

Tel. 0121 308 7838

**Secretary – Dawn Hopley**

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**

**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.

Suppliers used by Margaret Garrard

NSK Presto 11 Hand Piece  
Website NSK England  
Phone Alex or Tony 01438 310670

Cutting Burrs 1.6 size for NSK  
Dental Sky  
Phone 0800 2944700

Artool Ultra Mask  
Graphic Air  
Phone 01423 522836

Golden Airbrush Paints  
Copic Pens and Airbrush System  
Graphic Direct  
Phone Paul 01423 359730

Compressor  
Machine Mart  
But do look around for other suppliers.

Micro Machine and Cutters  
Woodart Products  
John 07770226640

## 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

### 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)