



## programmeFuture Events

### MSWA Meetings

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Paul Bellamy

A Deep Bowl turned from a Plank

May 1<sup>st</sup>

Hands-on and Open Dat

### Other Events

### Club Competitions

April

Novice

Honey Dipper

May

Challenge

Laminated Bowl

June

Novice

MushRoom

### Chairman's Notes

I have just returned from a visit to one of the Hands-on Days that are a feature of the West Midlands Woodturners. Not that I am thinking of changing my allegiance, but purely in the interests of research or perhaps out of curiosity.

When I first visited that club and even joined it for a year, there seemed not to be any great difference between them and our own club.

More recently, however, they appeared to have undergone some form of renaissance. From an average membership of about 44, they have grown to one that reached 60 during my visit.

What are the reasons for this? They do not know. There is no immediately apparent cause. Their basic programme format of alternating demonstrations with Hands-on Days has not changed. The days that they meet, on a Sunday, have not changed. They demonstrate at a small number of external events such as those at the medieval gardens in Castle Bromwich as do we at the Wildlife Trust and at Alrewas and Kings Bromley Shows.. They also have a website, again as we do.

They do have a new Chairman, and have implemented a rule that he or she can only remain in that position for three years. (Note that. I am in my third year as Chairman and do not have any Putin-like tendencies)

They have managed to start placing reports into certain of the local papers, which is something that we have discussed in committee but have yet to locate the proper outlet to cover Rugeley and surrounds.

They do believe that the opportunity to provide basic tuition to would-be turners during their Hands-on Days is beneficial and there were a number receiving just that on the occasion of my visit. Indeed, a total of seven lathes were in use and the school hall where they meet was a hive of industry.

Our meeting in May will be the first of the two Hands-on Days in this year's programme. We will be planning to have as many lathes in operation as we can sensibly manage and are considering what will be demonstrated on each. Your inputs on what you would like to see would be welcomed.

Philip Watts



# Wood 'n' things



## **Editor's Scribblings**

I am well aware that there are dog owners amongst the club membership and that some even welcome them into their workshops. My thoughts on this subject are somewhat coloured at the moment by the present incumbent in the household. Jake, a five month old black Labrador puppy being socialised for the charity Dogs for the Disabled, is on a campaign to steal any object not nailed down or placed firmly out of reach. We have in the last few days just managed to retrieve the following before they were swallowed; one M6 bolt, the spare brushes for my power plane and a packet of screws.

This adds a new dimension to my workshop activities. A rustling (pardon the pun) sound behind me when working at the lathe followed by a swift exit on the part of the dog usually means that he has found something that he intuitively knows is forbidden, and therefore more interesting than any of the many toys provided for him

Philip Watts

## **For sale on behalf of the club.**

The club was recently given a Record Lathe to pass onto a member wishing to take up turning. After considering a range of options, the MSWA Committee decided that the most appropriate course of action would be to trade this lathe on and use the proceeds to purchase a smaller lathe that would then be available at the various craft fairs and shows that the club attends and at the Club Open and Hands-on Evenings.

This lathe is still available but is now being advertised more widely through local woodturning clubs. If you have any interest in this machine, now is the time to show your hand. As one well known store is fond of saying "When it is gone , it is gone!"

## **Record CL3- 36x30.**

This is a professional quality lathe with a capacity of 36 inches between centres and comes with a bowl turning attachment that permits bowls up to 30 inches in diameter to be turned. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  hp motor is fitted and the five pulleys fitted provide a range of speed between 425 to 2000 rpm. The lathe is mounted upon a steel stand. Both lathe and stand can be dismantled for transport.

The lathe is offered for sale to club members at a price of £350 for the lathe and £100 for the stand. The lathe is available for viewing at the Editor's garage in Sutton Coldfield and delivery over a reasonable distance could be arranged.

Please contact the editor at [editor@mswa.co.uk](mailto:editor@mswa.co.uk) if you are interested.

## **A Snippet for the Newsletter**

There has been an outcrop of "Fairy Doors" (miniature doors placed amongst the roots of the trees) in a wood near Crewkerne. So much so that the owners of the wood have asked for the practice to be stopped. A letter in the Daily Telegraph suggests, tongue in cheek, that this must be on the grounds of "Elfin Safety"

## **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.



# Wood 'n' things



## March Demonstration – Paul Jones – The practicalities of Spindle Turning

Ted Gill had selected this demonstrator on the basis of a demonstration that he had witnessed at the West Midlands Woodturners (Apologies for mentioning that club again.) He felt that a project based on spindle, or between-centres turning as some prefer to call it, would provide a balance in this year's programme.



Paul Jones is based in Bollington, near Macclesfield, Cheshire. On his website, Paul describes himself as a Woodturning Artist producing hollow forms, sculptural pieces and large diameter bowls and platters mainly, but not exclusively in Sycamore, Beech and Ash, sourced locally from Macclesfield Forest.

For his project, Paul had chosen a candlestick formed from three components, the base, candle cup and stem. The design would include the classical elements of coves, fillets, beads and ogee curves.

The base of the candlestick was made from a sycamore blank mounted on a screw chuck. Having turned to round, Paul formed a tenon on the outer face in order for the blank to be reversed and held in a conventional chuck. A hole to receive the stem was drilled using a Forstner bit and the shape formed with a bowl gouge, this section of the work being turned cross grained. Paul's technique is to form the shape but having a little "fat" to allow for shear scraping to remove any tear-out of the grain.

The cup for the candle was turned between centres with the grain running parallel to the bed of the lathe. Tenons were turned out both ends before the blank was mounted in a chuck. A hole of the appropriate diameter was bored to receive the stem tenon, the depth of the hole allowing for waste wood to be turned away after the cup had been formed. Reversing the blank in the chuck allowed the upper or candle end of the cup to be formed. The candle hole was bored in the normal manner. The lower portion of the cup required some delicacy in completion as the tenon holding it in the chuck was hollow.

The final piece of the project was the stem, again turned between centres and with the grain of the wood running along the length of the lathe. The ends of the blank were turned down to form the tenons matching the holes already drilled in the base and cup. A tip here was to turn these slightly undersize and then to form circumferential grooves with the tip of a skew chisel. This technique should produce a good push fit with any excess glue finding a home in the grooves.



# Wood 'n' things



The final act before assembly of the candlestick would be to apply a chosen finish to the turner's individual taste and the reverse the base onto a simple jam chuck to remove the tenon.

There were many tips and hints on tool control and finishing given during the demonstration such as the damping of the piece after turning but before sanding. This raises the grain and is a step towards a superb finish. A particular recommendation was given to a Rhinogrip abrasive available locally from Allan Calder. Speak to Vance Lupton for further information for further information on this supplier.



The project as completed in the demonstration but awaiting final finish.

## Editor's Note

We are refining our use of the new cameras and have yet to find the perfect one for every individual project. It was difficult for this demonstration to display adequately the nuances of design that characterise good spindle turning. Placing small fillets between coves and beads makes such a difference, even when these fillets are very small, a millimetre or so (about one/sixteenth of an inch, say). This places a premium on careful sanding in order not to remove the crisp edges in the design. A diagram would have been useful in the presentation but ones showing the different features can be found in books such as that by Richard Raffan. Copyright restrictions prevent me from reproducing it here.



## A Simple Clock Project

Having turned a miniature clock for a previous competition piece, the domestic management (HIWMBO) deemed that it was too small to match her failing eyesight and demanded a larger one. This was the result. Some might say that the design is slightly old fashioned but the client always has the last word.

One attraction as a project though is that it has three elements of woodworking practice to follow. Conventional woodworking is required in the rectangular base and a router could be used if it was felt that more than a simple rectangular block was required. The clock body is a cross-grained piece and the two “cushions” are examples of simple spindle or between centres turning. The level of ornamentation is purely a matter of taste. The mechanism used here is one of those available for Axminster. Woods are whatever you have available.

The clock centrepiece may be turned firstly on a screw chuck, there are other ways of holding a blank and boring out the recess for the clock mechanism from one side only but this easier approach is to bore a hole halfway through from what will be the back of the clock and use this as a recess to hold the reversed blank in a machine chuck or on a simple jam chuck whilst the clock recess is turned out. This will require a further piece to be turned to finish the clock but this can be made a feature if a contrasting wood is used.

Turning of the two cushions is a simple process. Turn a blank to a constant diameter before parting off each section. The sections may then be held in a chick or jam chuck for finishing of the ends which can be simply grooved with a thin parting tool as in the illustrated example or another decoration such a chatterwork applied.

The easiest way to assemble the pieces of the clock is to dowel the centre piece and cushions to the base. I would not attempt to try and also place dowels between the centre piece and the two cushions unless you are intent on demonstrating your prowess at precision marking out and drilling. I drilled the holes in the round pieces by making up a v-shaped support, centralising this under a bench drill and clamping it to the drill table. Some might prefer to use the indexing feature and drilling on the lathe.





# Wood 'n' things



## Competitions

This month's competition was for the Challenge Cup and called for an example of involute turning as demonstrated by Ken Allen the previous month. For a variety of reasons, all the usual suspects failed to complete their entries on time. Jane Russell, a newbie in this class, produced a worthy winner with her candlestick. Vance's part completed entry on an arboreal theme attracted interest and we look forward to seeing the completed piece at a later date.



The next Challenge Cup Round is in May when the requirement is for a laminated bowl. Time to start selecting the wood now!

Next month's competition is for the less experienced and calls for the production of a honey dipper. Ted's competition notice shows an example but if you want a more comprehensive description and one telling you how to tackle the problem, then I would suggest a visit to either of the following websites.

[http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning\\_projects.php?catid=113](http://www.woodturningonline.com/Turning/Turning_projects.php?catid=113)

or

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Honey-Dipper-on-a-Wood-Lathe/>



# 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 – 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**

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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 £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.

## 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)