



Programme

Chairman's Notes

Future Events

MSWA Meetings

June 5th

Margaret Garrard

Thin-walled turning with piercing and colour decorations

July 3rd

Steve Heeley

Something Different

Not one that we have seen before

Other Events

Club Competitions

May

Challenge
Laminated Bowl

June

Novice
Mushroom

July

Challenge
Finial Box.

This month's meeting was the first of this year's Open and Hands-on Evenings. The attendance was a little disappointing. This may have been due to it being a weekend containing a Bank Holiday. One of the advantages of retaining the first Friday in the Month as the fixed date for meetings is just that. The day is fixed and there is no need to consult diaries to establish when the next meeting is due. The downside is that there will always be an occasion when there is a clash with a Bank Holiday weekend, or an important sporting event, or the like.

These evenings are predominantly social occasions but with opportunities to pick up those little tips on turning that make life so much more satisfying. They are what you make of them. Bringing your successes, and failures can benefit you in terms of improvements in your turning skills, but can also promote interest in others.

On a different note, we learned that Anne Hopkinson, a member on whom we have come to rely on for our tea and coffee supplies, had been taken ill and admitted to hospital. We send her our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

Philip Watts



Wood 'n' things



Editor's Scribblings

I first visited Auckland in New Zealand over thirty years ago on holiday as a break from working in Hong Kong. This was long before the days of the Internet, and equally long before I took up woodturning. It is an attractive city but one that spreads over a wide area. The central area in those days was relatively modest by comparison with UK cities.

Auckland has a population of 1,413,700, which constitutes 31 percent of the country's population and is one of New Zealand's three main cities. As a comparison, the population of Rugeley is 22,700 and that of Birmingham is just over 1,000,000.

Wandering through the Internet looking for club newsletters to compare with ours elicited the information that Auckland boasted no fewer than three woodworking clubs. Not only that but they appear to be extremely active and boasting of facilities of which we could only dream. One has a workshop with twelve lathes available for use together with three smaller lathes that could be loaned out for use at home.

New Zealand always had a reputation for do-it-yourself with many of the homes being self-built, mainly being of wooden construction but even so this level of interest is incredible.

This is not the place to be envious and I am not suggesting that we should take that stance. It is not surprising, however, that we should benefit in this country by the import of woodturning tools such as Woodcut from that country.

More recently I have been watching a series of programmes on the BBC Four titled "Handmade". Part of the channel's "Go Slow" series and inspired by such as a Norwegian Television programme featuring a five hour train ride, the programmes were without any commentary. Covering the themes of Glass, Metal and Wood, the latter programme covered the making of a Windsor chair. A brief view of a pole lathe showed it being used for the turning of the chair legs but some explanation would increase the interest.

Philip Watts

A Snippet for the Newsletter

A recent visit to the Maritime Museum in Chatham, much recommended by the way, revealed how the Royal Navy dealt with the problems caused by wood moving in mysterious ways as it dries out. Once the basic frame of the ship was complete, it was left to "season in frame" for a period ranging from six months to several years. This allowed the timbers to move before the hull sides were planked in oak 6-8 inches thick.

Fir logs were seasoned in large salt water ponds, rather than dried in air. This allowed the sap to leach out without drying out the timbers natural resins. Logs treated in this way were believed to remain supple and capable of bending without breaking under the weight of the sails in strong winds when made into masts.

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



May Hands-on and Open Evening

The meeting was enjoyed by those who attended but numbers could have been greater. What did we have for those who came? Since pictures count for more than words, here are a few pictures from the night.

Ted Gill had some interesting discussions on mushroom turning. I am not sure who was giving advice to whom!



Dawn Hopley showed the use of mini-texturing tools on pens.





Wood 'n' things



Paul Bellamy gave the benefits of his long experience of tool sharpening and showed the many jigs and tools that have been designed to make this process easier. Here he shows the benefits of using a sharp skew in planing down a rough section.



Ron Dixon quietly worked away sharpening a saw, a dying craft in these days of budget price saws but one that attracts attention whenever he demonstrates the skill.





Wood 'n' things



There was a small but select display of member's work.



We also had the club's CCTV equipment out and set up over the club lathe in order to give members who had volunteered the opportunity to try their hand at being the camera operators during subsequent club evening demonstrations.

And last, but certainly not least, David Winter had an impressive display of timber for sale, all at very reasonable prices.

And of course, there was the competition.

The Challenge had been the production of a laminated bowl. Appropriate, as Paul's demonstration last month had been the manufacture of such an item by the Marrison method with sections of a plank being cut and stacked to make a deeper bowl. In the event, only one of the entries used that technique. Such is the perversity, or should that be the versatility of MSWA club members.

Vance took the honours with a dramatic piece laminated from plywood sections, with a trial piece figuring amongst the display items. Ted Gill followed with a kidney shaped bowl, leaving one, as is often the case, wondering how he evolved the shape on a lathe.

Your Editor took third place with a bowl in beech with a birch ply band sandwiched between the slices taken from a single bowl blank and Jane Russ provided a more conventionally shaped bowl turned from a blank laminated from a variety of contrasting woods. Pictures on the next page.

Just a reminder that the Novice Competition for next month is for a mushroom, so there should be a variety of entries for that one. The more experienced should be polishing up their spindle work for the Finial boxes that are the Challenge for July.



Wood 'n' things





Wood 'n' things



Club information

Your club committee for 2015 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – Dawn Hopley

Email: secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer – Vance Lupton

Email: treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Assistant Treasurer – Hugh Field

Events Secretary – Ted Gill

Email: events@mswa.co.uk

Abrasives -

Newsletter editor – Philip Watts

Email: editor@mswa.co.uk

Webmanager – Philip Watts

Email: 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.

Recommendation from Vance Lupton

Great Barr Sawmills (1139-1141 Aldridge Road, Birmingham, West Midlands B44 8PD) to anyone that doesn't already know of it and can get to it.

They have a good supply of mainly homegrown softwood and hardwoods like Ash, Oak, Chestnut, Walnut, Beech etc but also Sapele mahogany in various widths, thicknesses (but not often more than 2-1/2" thick) and squares of up to 3" thick. *The BIG plus is that machining costs are INCLUDED in the prices which are very reasonable anyway.*

Message from Roy Fallows

I have been given some branches of Yew. They are from a tree that was felled some 10 years ago. They are approx 5" diam, one is straightish and about 3'0" long and the other is a fork shape of a similar size. I'm not doing much turning nowadays but I wasn't going to so no to an offer like that. If any of the club members would like a piece they can come and collect it from my home, if they give me a call first.
01543 491826 or 07980375239.

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

Record CL3 Lathe with Bowl Turning Attachment
£350 or nearest reasonable offer
Stand for CL3 Lathe £100 ono

The lathe is being sold on behalf of the club

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