



Programme

Chairman's Notes

Future Events

MSWA Meetings

December 4th
Mick Hanbury
Decorative Bowl Techniques
Ebonising, and much more

January 22nd 2016
Annual General Meeting

Future Events

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
Christmas Fair
November 21st/ 22nd

Club Competitions

December
Novice
Christmas Tree

January
Challenge
Square or Rectangular Bowl

Premier
A Teapot

The final MSWA Committee meeting of 2015 took place recently at a well known hostelry on the Chase. Not that we indulge in copious amounts of alcoholic beverages, it is merely a convenient location approximately midway between the far flung residences of the present members of that erstwhile group.

What did we discuss? Certainly not the fortunes of England in the recent World Cup. The financial affairs of the club were an early item on the agenda. The costs of Demonstrators, particularly those coming from afar remain an issue. More on that at the Annual General Meeting on the 22nd January 2016

Ted Gill reported on his progress with the development of next year's programme. Some new names, some more familiar ones, but a good spread. It is my intention to publicise the details in December. We still intend to retain the Hands-on Evenings but have some ideas on how to extend their attraction within the club and again we will put these up for discussion in January. I would still welcome any suggestions and proposals before that date. This is, after all, your club.

Final arrangements for our participation in the Christmas fair at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust were covered. We will have a lathe for demonstrations. I have already circulated an e-mail asking for volunteers to man the stand. There is no need to worry about being asked to demonstrate your skills on a lathe, although this is an opportunity to have some personal tuition. Your skills in salesmanship and engaging the clientèle in conversation would be equally valuable. Items of treen for inclusion in the club stock would also be appreciated. This fair has represented an excellent opportunity in recent years to augment the club's finances.



Wood 'n' things



Hugh Field very helpfully tabled a range of suggestions for next year's competitions and from these we formulated a programme which should provoke interest in both the Novice and Challenge categories. All we now need are your entries. Just a reminder that the Premier Competition to be judged at the Annual General Meeting is open to all. Recent articles in the Press suggest that the consumption of three to five cups of tea per day are the secret of a long and healthy life. All you need is a teapot to brew the medicine in. So why not make one?

Finally, various members of the Committee have served for considerable periods and feel that it is time for fresh blood to be introduced. Hence the notice below!

Philip Watts

Situations Vacant

Nominations are sought for the following positions on the MSWA Committee

Chairman – Prime function being to delegate all the work to the other members of the committee, at least that is how the theory goes.

Assistant Treasurer – To shadow the present Treasurer with a view to taking over the role in subsequent years.

Events Secretary – To shadow the present Events Secretary with a view to taking over the role in subsequent years.

Newsletter Editor – Production of the monthly Newsletter – an opportunity for somebody with literary aspirations and better typing skills than the present incumbent.

Website Manager – Development and maintenance of the MSWA website on an ongoing basis. Choose your software package or write HTML code directly.

Club Subscriptions

It is that time of the year again. So, on behalf of the Treasurer:-

"May I give a clear reminder to the membership that membership renewals are now due. I would be grateful if people could renew as soon as possible. Cash or cheque will do! Details below.

Fees:

- Individual membership of AWGB and MSWA combined = £33
- Family membership of AWGB and MSWA combined = £53
- Individual members of other clubs that are affiliated to AWGB = £15 (Please show your membership card)

Cheques to be made payable to 'Mid Staffs Woodturners Association'.



Wood 'n' things



Editor's Scribblings

I mentioned in my notes last month that I had read that Belgian professional woodturners were not in the habit of giving demonstrations of their art or craft to groups of amateur woodturners because this would give away jealously guarded trade secrets. This sounded like one of those urban myths but a brief discussion with Andrew Hall, this month's demonstrator, confirmed that this was indeed the case and was also true for Germany. Andrew regularly has demonstration bookings in the Low Countries, working with a local interpreter. This reminds me that my wife and I, when we lived in the North East where Andrew has his base, attended a First Aid course where the lecturer was a local man who occasionally used local dialect terms in his lectures, leading us to consult the dictionary when we got home thinking that we were being taught erudite medical terms. We now know, for instance, that a "spelk" is no more than a common splinter!

Philip Watts

Staffordshire Wild Life Trust Christmas

The MSWA intends to have its usual stand at this event on November 21st/22nd. This two-day event at The Wolseley Centre on the outskirts of Rugeley has in the past been well attended and sales have reflected this.. We need items to sell on the stand such as light pulls, mushrooms, miniature Christmas trees, Christmas tree ornaments.

There is also the opportunities to sell those turned items littering your workshop on the usual terms, 10% to the Wild Life trust, and 10% to the MSWA funds.

Photography and the Newsletter

Most of the photographs that appear in the Newsletter are perforce taken by the Editor. I will always welcome contributions from others, preferably taken with digital cameras not phones. It is probably more important to have good focus and lighting rather than incredibly high resolution images. I normally resize images anyway to keep the overall file size of the Newsletters small to reduce download times.

I prefer not to use flash, particularly during a demonstration so as to avoid disturbing the demonstrator. Instead, I use the option available on all but the simplest digital cameras to increase the effective film sensitivity. Sometimes as high as the equivalent of 6400 ASA. This permits the use of shutter speeds of the order of 1/15 to 1/25 of a second, at which speed a camera can be hand held without the use of a tripod.

This is obviously the opening for a piece of photographic humour:

"Two photographers met in a foreign market place. One says "Did you see that very colourful beggar?" The other replied "Yes, what did you give him" The reply "1/300 of a second at F4.5".

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.



Wood 'n' things



November Demonstration – Andrew Hall – Hatmaker



We welcomed back this month Andrew Hall, who first visited us in December 2013 when he showed us his techniques for making full size hats. His display table on that occasion included samples of helmets based on Etruscan and Corinthian designs and it was these and the fact that Andrew is an excellent demonstrator that had persuaded us to request a return visit. Andrew is based in County Durham so it is a significant journey to reach us in Rugeley.

He commenced his project by placing a sycamore blank between centres on the club lathe and turning it down to a cylinder using a standard roughing gouge, highlighting the merits of presenting the tool to the work at an angle. This cut is very similar to that achieved with a skew but without the attendant dangers of a dig-in. A tenon was turned at one end with a diameter to suit the chuck. A reminder from Andrew here that the best grip from the chuck is obtained when the jaws close to within 3mm of each other. Also the need before holding a blank in the chuck and providing support from, or using a drill in a Jacobs chuck in, the tailstock of ensuring that the head and tailstocks are aligned correctly. This advice obviously only being relevant to a lathe with a headstock that can be swivelled from its normal position.

About one third of the blank was parted off and retained for later use. The portion remaining in the chuck was drilled out. For this, Andrew used a hand held drill chuck and bit but the same operation could have been performed with a standard Jacobs chuck mounted in the tailstock. Further hollowing continued with the aid of a swept back ground gouge. During his previous demonstration, Andrew showed the technique of using a light to illuminate the inside of the work piece and, by judging the brightness of the light showing through the wood, monitor the thickness. The blank that he had selected for this project was partly seasoned and this technique could only be employed when turning the top of the helmet. Gauging the thickness of the side walls had to rely on the use of callipers.

Turning complete, Andrew outlined the processes that he would use to finish the piece, not wasting time during the demonstration. His preferred method was to use a cloth backed abrasive allowing him to dip it in water and wet sand, thus keeping the wood moist. One tip for sanding the interior safely was the use of a ball-ended stick to which Velcro pads had been attached.

The work piece was then reversed onto the jaws of the chuck and the top of the helmet finished. An alternative here was to leave a 3mm dowel on the top to which a helmet crest could be attached. Templates were then used to mark out the eye and cheek pieces and a small Proxxon jigsaw employed to make the cuts. A fretsaw could be used here as a cheaper alternative. A little bit of audience



Wood 'n' things



participation took place at this point, with the helmet being passed around with a piece of abrasive and an encouragement for members to inspect, sand, and pass on.



A quick demonstration on how to form a crest by turning a disc from which the crest could be cut was then given.

Moving on, Andrew produced a stand for the helmet starting with a base akin to a miniature bowl blank and mounting it on a short screw chuck. After first rounding down with a bowl gouge, a recess was formed with a dovetail to match the chuck. A coat of sanding sealer and work with abrasive finished the base such that it could be buffed up. Reversed and remounted on the chuck, the upper face of the blank received treatment. The central mounting recess was drilled out with a sawtooth bit held in a Jacobs chuck mounted in the tailstock taper socket. The shape and finish of this face could be whatever the turner fancied but one possibility was applying an orange peel texture in a band, cleaning and delineating the edge of the band with a fine gouge.

A demonstration of spindle turning followed with the blank for the upright being held between centres. Rounding down with a roughing gouge, a tenon was formed at one end to fit the mortice previously drilled into the base, undercutting the blank adjacent to the tenon to ensure a clean joint. A selection of coves and beads finished the turning of the upright, followed by the usual run-through of the ever finer grades of abrasive. The best method of assembly of the stand would be to use the lathe as a clamping device, leaving the adhesive to cure overnight.

All that had been completed by just after nine-o'clock so Andrew gave us value for money by providing an up-date on how he turns the miniature versions of the full size hats for which he is famed. He has been trying a new technique for this work using wood that has been felled for about six months, where previously he had only used wood from trees felled a matter of days before. Once again, he commenced by mounting a blank of Ash on a screw chuck and shaping with a bowl gouge. With his larger hats, he takes the opportunity to remove a ring of wood at this stage by cutting in from the end of the blank and from the side with a parting tool. The rings are then available for use as a mirror frame or surround. For the purposes of this demonstration, he just removed the wood to leave the upper portion of the hat and the brim formed. At his point the top of the hat is left thick with a tenon formed to match the chuck. Finishing would use wet abrasive before marking in the coloured band around the hat with wax based drawing pencils from the Lakeland Sepia range.



Wood 'n' things



Reversing the hat onto the chuck jaws, the underneath of the hat brim is faced off before hollowing out the inside using normal bowl turning techniques. Once again, the hat is reversed onto the chuck jaws, or mounted on a jam chuck, to allow the top of the hat to be finished. Andrew does not take these small hats down to the fine thicknesses of the larger hats.



A feature of Andrew's hats has been the way in which he bends the brims after turning using a jig and rubber bands. This was only possible because of his use of freshly cut and, therefore, green wood. With the partially dried woods, as used in this demonstration, he now steams them in a pressure cooker for 20 minutes. This represented a considerable improvement against merely boiling them in water, that taking 2½ hours to achieve the same effect.

His recommendations for the best woods for bending were Ash, Sycamore, and most of the fruit woods. Oak was definitely not on his list.

Andrew showed once again his skills both as a turner and a demonstrator, providing an evening both educational and entertaining.

Here are some other examples of his work as displayed on the night.





Wood 'n' things



And more:





Wood 'n' things



November Competition

The Challenge called for an item with a firework theme. Vance Lupton once again led the field with a spray effect. Jane followed with a miniature and your Chairman trailed the field with a robust Roman Candle emitting bursts of red and white flares.



December Competitions

The December Competition is one for the less experienced and calls for a Christmas Tree. Perhaps one looking like these from the Axminster site.





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.

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

SIP 10" Table Saw 45 to 90 degree cutting angle
Also provision for mounting a router

Available to view in Barton under Needwood

Brian Smith Tel 10283 716566

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