



Wood 'n' things



Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue – May 2014

Editor: Philip Watts

Editor@mswa.co.uk

Future Events

MSWA Meetings

June 6th

Martin Lawrence
Enhancing your turnings

July 4th

Sue Harker
Deconstruction and offset turning
A Wall Plaque

Other Events

July 19th

Alrewas Show

July 26th

Kings Bromley Show

Club Competitions

June

Novice – Door Wedge

July

Challenge
Pagoda Style or Stacking Boxes
Minimum of 3

Chairman's Notes

An encouraging number of members and visitors came to the Open Evening. We welcomed two new members and introduced a new entrant to the teaching profession to the art of wood turning.

We move forwards to the summer season of shows. Time to put your thinking caps on, get your turning tools out and produce items for sale on the club stand. Small items such as mushrooms, spinning tops and garden dibbers usually go well but sales of larger items on commission can be made. An opportunity to clear your workshop shelves and recoup at least some return for your work. The usual terms apply, a percentage to the show if required and a percentage, normally 10% to the club for our funds.

Philip Watts

Volunteer Needed

Last month, I published the following to which I have received no response. Am I to assume that there is no interest?

“Those members of the club who visited the recent Axminster “Ten Turners Turning” weekend could not fail to have been impressed by the clarity of the camera/flat screen television set-up used at the demonstrations.

We have been looking at ways of improving the visual side of our demonstrations and this is one way forward. We are investigating the additional storage that would be required at the Village Hall. The cost of the equipment would be in excess of £500.

Some members have bemoaned the fact that we do not use a raffle on club nights to raise funds. We could do this if there was a demand and if a volunteer came forward to organise prizes and run it on each night.

Two questions for you:

1. Do you want a raffle?
2. Would you be prepared to organise it?

Answers to me at chairman@mswa.co.uk or by phone.”



Editor's Scribblings

Wood turning is a relatively safe hobby but there are inherent risks. One that I would not have previously considered was that of acquiring a splinter in a thumb, then it becoming infected, requiring a visit to the local A & E Department on a Saturday afternoon. An initial comment that "we do not those here now because we have a specialised clinic on the other side of the city" caused me even more worry because we were holding tickets for a flight to Turkey early on the Monday morning. My concern was noted and a junior surgeon took out a Swann-Morton scalpel (the same as my wife uses for marquetry!), made an incision, swabbed it out and called for a dressing to be applied. I left for Turkey with a hand bandaged up such that it looked as though I was about to tackle a 15-round boxing match. This certainly caused comment when I met the rest of the party in Dalaman. Fortunately, all was well and the dressing came off early in the week.

I usually look for evidence of wood turning in the local markets. Surprisingly, the only turned objects found were a range of spinning tops. However one of the local attractions is the gulets or motor yachts that offer cruises along the Mediterranean shore. These are not built in specialised boat yards but wherever there is some available space, even several hundred yards from the sea. Launching of what might be quite large 50-50ft long boats then requires the use of all the local farm tractors to drag the completed hull over rollers to the water.

Equipment in the yards is rudimentary, to say the least. A large band saw usually figures, with other power tools also employed. Health and Safety definitely does not rule here!

Philip Watts

At the A.G.M. Our treasurer promised to publish a fully signed off set of accounts for last year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2013

INCOME

SUBS AWGB	£633.00
SUBS MID STAFFS	£693.00
DOOR	£982.00
DONATIONS IN	£394.90
AWGB GRANT (Demonstrator)	£175.00
DVD RENTAL	
SALES (ABRASIVES ETC)	£90.00
SUNDRIES/OTHER INCOME	£26.00

TOTAL INCOME	£2,993.90
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EXPENDITURE

SUBS AWGB	£613.00
AWGB INSURANCE	£135.00
HALL RENTAL	£224.50
CANTEEN	£13.06
DEMONSTRATORS	£1,678.83
EQUIPEMENT/MATERIALS	£5.90
SUNDRIES CASH	£29.05
SUNDRIES CHEQUE	£112.81

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£2,812.15
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Balance brought forward on 01-01-2013	£2,513.47
Total Income + balance	£5,507.37

Balance c/f 31-12-2013	£2,695.22
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(Total Income + balance less Total Expenditure)

Accounts prepared by the treasurer

signed
Mr J V Lupton

date 25th April 2014

Accounts checked by

ANTHONY HUBERT
signed

date 25th April 2014

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.



Club Open Evening and Hands-on Session

The Display Table at the Open Evening with contributions from Vance, Ted, John and the Editor.





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Club Competitions

The May Competition was part of the Challenge Series and called for a Decorated Platter. Ted Gill took overall honours with Vance in second place and Hugh Field in third.





Club information

Your club committee for 2014 is:-

Chairman - Philip Watts

Email: chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel. 0121 308 7838

Secretary – John McElroy

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

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.

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

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