



Editors Scribblings

You'll have noticed a few changes to the Newsletter I expect! New fonts, a slight change to the layout, and hopefully looking a bit fresher than before. I've expanded the "Events" section as it's sometimes been a problem fitting it in to the narrow column alongside the "Chair's Chatter". Let me know what you think!

An unplanned change is the lack of a "Chair's Chatter" this month. Dawn has a few problems at the moment so has asked me to issue the Newsletter without her usual contribution. Hopefully "normal service" will be resumed next month.

We were delaying this issue pending the outcome of discussions to be held at a Committee meeting on 18th April; that however had to be cancelled when Dawn became poorly. As you will be aware, we do not have an Events Secretary at present and normally by now we would be well ahead with demonstrator bookings for next year. We have made a booking for the February meeting only, after that, in the absence of a volunteer to take up the committee position, the future of the club must be considered to be uncertain. None of the remaining committee members feels able to absorb the activities of the Events secretary. Many of the well known demonstrators will, by now, be fully booked for 2018. The position of Treasurer also still remains open. You have been warned!

Is wood expensive? Some would say "What isn't?" More specifically do you think prepared turning blanks are overpriced? Well, yes I did as well did until I was recently tipped off about an apple tree about to be felled, did I want any? Well, yes, but perhaps not to much as I don't have much space to store it, but I thought well, a bit for me and some to donate to the Club. Then, only a few days later our neighbour decided that his laburnum tree had to go, and asked if I wanted any, silly question! So all of a sudden I had more wood than I really needed. In the end I accepted a total of probably 25 feet or so of timber in various lengths. Obviously they needed to be trimmed and cut to manageable pieces, end sealed and labelled and it was this aspect of the job that made me decide that, in fact, prepared blanks are not expensive, considering the time taken to mill, season, and prepare the pieces. It took me several hours just to do what I needed to do, the work needed to process a large tree to make bowl and spindle blanks would be much greater. So, next time you're pondering the cost of turning blanks, just remember how much work, and wastage might have been involved!

I brought some of the logs to the April meeting (requesting donations to Club funds) and will bring some to a future meeting.

This month we had Gary Rance as our demonstrator. He is a very fast worker, which made my job more difficult as he was hardly ever still! I took 315 photographs during the evening, which yielded 65 useable ones after a bit of post-processing - what you see in this issue are the best of those - many of the originals were just a blur! One of the problems at demonstrations is, of course, that there is only one chance - no re-takes are possible! The view I get is not as good as the audience experiences via the CCTV system, but taking photographs of the screen is not particularly successful. So, once again, apologies if the standard of photography is less than good in places.

Gary covered a lot of ground in his demonstration so this is yet another big issue! I hope you enjoy reading it.



A final note - I will, unfortunately, not be able to attend the May meeting, which will be a hands-on/open evening, so I would be grateful for any photographs and comments for inclusion in the Newsletter. Hopefully the CCTV system will be set up for any members who wish to have a "play" with it. We need more people who are able to set it up and operate it, so please give it a try.

Hugh Field

*To the optimist, the glass is half-full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty.
To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be...*

April Competition



This month's competition, for a ring stand, was for the novices and again there was only one entry, from John Meers. His intriguing double ships wheel design was well executed and a worthy winner but he would have appreciated some competition from other members....

Hugh Field

April Display Table



Small goblet turned from spalted gorse by Ron Dixon (left).



A selection of my painted and resin coated blanks and finished bowls (right), experiments following on from a demonstration by Gerry Marlow at the Derwent club.



Vance Lupton at Royal Birmingham Society of Artists 'Open All Media' exhibition

A short while ago Vance submitted two pieces to be considered for entry into this years RBSA 'Open All Media' exhibition. One item - shown in the photo, right - was selected and was on exhibition in the RBSA Gallery alongside over 150 other items of both two and three dimensional work. The exhibition which started on 16th March, and ran until 8th April 2017 was held at the gallery in Birmingham's Jewellery quarter. In case you were wondering, although similar, this is not Vance's winning piece in the MSWA Challenge in September 2016.



Forthcoming events

Club Meetings

5th May
Hands-on/open evening

2nd June
Mark Sanger
Lidded Hollow form

Club Competitions

May - Challenge
An Abstract

June - Novice
A miniature bird-house

Other events

Saturday 22nd April 9am - 5pm
Spring event at Turners Retreat
Faraday Close, Harworth, Notts. DN11 8RU

Roger Foden (RPT) will perform three turning masterclasses during the day. Blind turner Chris Fisher will also be demonstrating his amazing skills. Pyrography will be demonstrated by Bob Neill and Lisa Shackleton with opportunities to go "hands on". Stick maker Colin Hickman and grandson Marc Cotterill. Trade stands with Jet Machinery, Chestnut Products, Camvac and Robert Sorby. Show offer discounts of up to 50%, free parking and entry, refreshments.

That all sounds too good to miss!

Go to <http://www.turners-retreat.co.uk/> for more information,

Saturday 29th April 10am - 4pm
Mark Baker at Cheshire Guild of Woodturners
Plumley Village Hall, WA16 0TR

Mark (editor of Woodturning Magazine) will be demonstrating several projects during the day. Contact John McElroy, if you are interested in going to this as pre booking is advisable and a discount is available if enough members go. Includes refreshments and light lunch. Price £15 (£12 if booked in advance).

Thursday 11th & Friday 12th May
Woodworks@Daventry 2017
Daventry Leisure Centre, NN114FP

This will be the 8th year this has been held and is always an excellent event with many clubs having stands. There will be many trade stands and also professional demonstrators. The AWGB will be judging items for their Travelling Exhibition on the Friday.

Those who have been before will not need encouragement to go again this year. For those yet to go - you don't know what you've been missing!

Go to <http://www.tudor-rose-turners.co.uk/page36.html> for more information.

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th June 10am - 4pm
Open Days at the Toolpost
Didcott OX11 7HR

Professional demonstrators Jan Hovens, Ronald Kanne & Les Thorne will be there along with Bert Butterfield (pyrography) and Simon Clements (wood carving and sculpture). Also representatives of key suppliers. Free event including refreshments.

These events are always excellent and an opportunity to browse Toolpost's extensive range of products and turning blanks. Well worth going!

Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th July
UK & Ireland Woodturning Symposium
Hilton Hotel, Coventry CV2 2ST

This is a large, friendly event centred solely around woodturning. The 2016 was very successful and this year promises to be even better. There will be at least 5 public demonstrators and Masterclasses from professional demonstrators. Many trade stands will be there. This is an advance booking event. go to <http://www.ukiws.co.uk/> for more information and booking.

Saturday 22nd July
Kings Bromley Show

MSWA is planning to have a stand again this year. Further details to follow.



Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th September

European Woodworking Show

Cressing Temple Barns, Braintree, Essex, CM77 8PD

Over 100 exhibitors representing a diverse range of woodworking disciplines. A long way to travel but well worth it, and the location is wonderful.

Go to <http://www.ews2017.com/> for more information.

April Demonstration - Gary Rance

To quote from Gary's website:-

"In 1975, at the age of 16, Gary started a three year apprenticeship with a small woodturning company in Chesham called Joseph Reynolds. After 18 months he was put on piece work turning mainly peppermills and kitchen ware. This experience was to help enormously when he became self-employed in 1987. However, prior to this was a 10 year period with another woodturning firm turning stair balusters and chair parts. It was at this point that Gary became involved with Stewart Linford of High Wycombe who makes the famous Windsor Chair and exports world-wide. It is since becoming self-employed that Gary has made his mark on the woodturning scene, with success in competitions, articles of his work in various woodworking magazines, and demonstrating for trade companies. One of these being Rascal, where Gary demonstrated their respirator for several years and was involved heavily in its promotion at woodworking exhibitions. Exhibitions include the National Exhibition Centre Birmingham, Wembley, Axminster in Devon as well as woodturning clubs all over Great Britain, Belgium, France, Channel Islands, Ireland, Norway and two Utah Symposiums in Provo, Salt Lake City and Iceland. Gary has also demonstrated twice at the AWGB International Seminar at Warwick University. Gary is also on the Register of Professional Turners Gary is considered one of the fastest and most accurate production woodturners in the U.K and is one of only a few whose income comes solely from woodturning."



With that background it promised to be a welcome return of Gary to demonstrate for us at MSWA, after an absence of many years. We were not disappointed!

Gary had promised to turn three pieces, and albeit with a rather later than normal finishing time (no-one was complaining, it was Gary who had the 110 mile drive home!), this was achieved. Technically, and counting the introductory masterclass, he actually turned 5 pieces as one item was made in two parts.

The usual Health and Safety advice was given at the start of the demonstration - no loose cuffs (ideally a short sleeved smock), safety glasses or visor, safety shoes and dust protection when required; and only use callipers with rounded ends on revolving work.

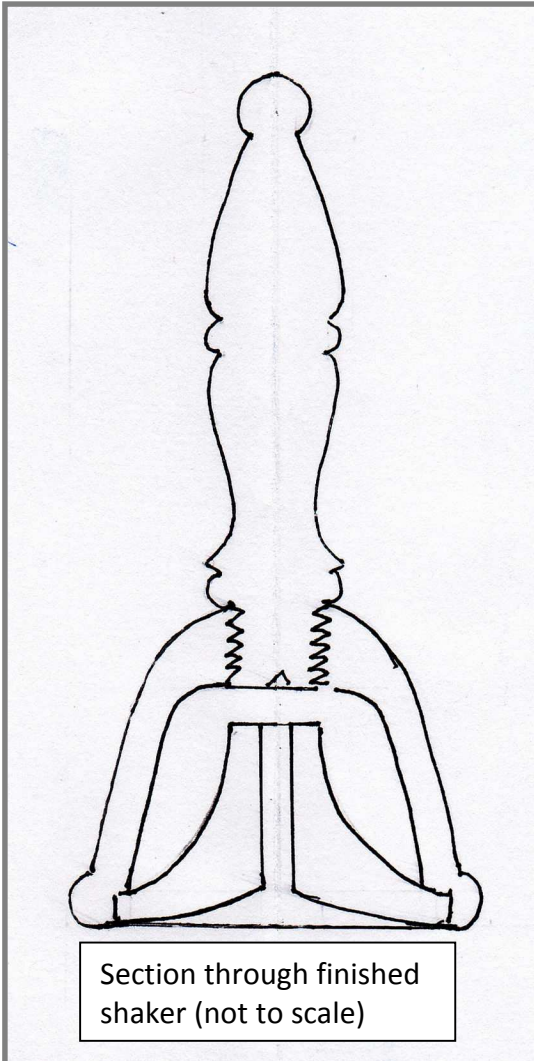
The first part of the demonstration was a masterclass in spindle turning using a piece of softwood and demonstrating basic techniques such as establishing a pommel, roughing down, turning beads and coves and the combination of the latter, the ogee curve. This was using the spindle gouge and round skew (with only 3° skew) which he favours as it moves more smoothly on the tool rest and gives better control. Gary stressed the importance of regularly practicing these basic cuts (how many of us do that?) and emphasised the importance of using body, rather than arm and hand movement when performing them; and transferring the





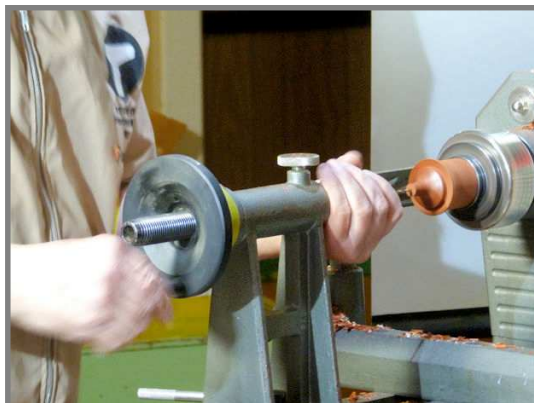
weight from one foot to the other. This might mean positioning the feet for the completion, rather than the start of the cut.

Then came the main part of the demonstration, which had been promoted as being a pepper mill but which in fact turned out (pun intended!) to be a shaker, equally suitable for either salt or ground pepper, in the shape of a bell. Initially these were made in one piece, but Gary now makes the handle as a separate piece and threaded to fit in the bell body. The salt or pepper comes out through a hole in the base of the bell but a cunning internal design stops it leaking out when not needed!



The materials chosen were a piece of Padauk, 65mm octagon x 75mm for the body; and a piece of Ebony, 22mm square x 91mm long for the handle. The use of hardwood is important for the threading to be successful.

The body was trued up between centres and a chucking spigot established using a skew to “peel” the wood (like a wide parting tool). A tip from Gary when using this method is to make a “scratch” line with the long point of the skew to reduce tear out. Slightly rocking the tool helps to speed up the peel cut. The piece was then mounted in the chuck and re-trued prior to roughing out the outside of the “funnel” shape. The 3mm outlet hole was then drilled using a twist drill mounted in the tailstock chuck to a depth of about 25mm or so. Next, the funnel shape was refined



and the end face cleaned up and a shoulder established. The width of the shoulder was wider than the finish dimension required in order that a “witness” diameter would be left after parting off. The funnel piece was to be reversed and glued into a recess in the body and this

witness diameter would assist when hollowing out.

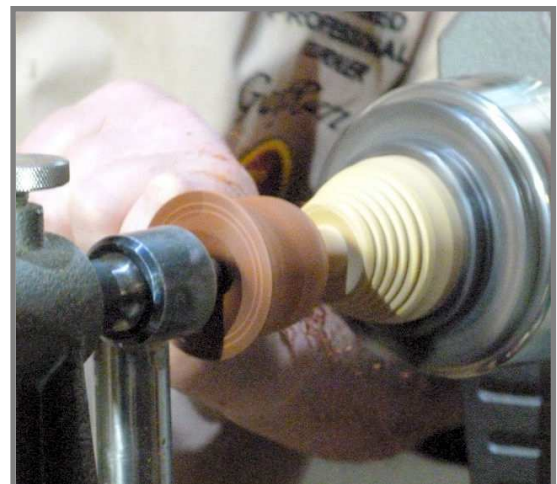
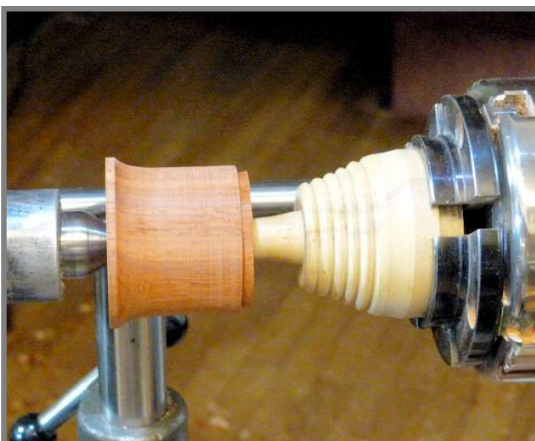




The hollowing out was performed using a spindle gouge, using a pull cut from the centre out. The depth of the hollowing out was taken to about 5mm deeper than the funnel piece. The handle was to be joined to the body with a screw thread but the size would



be too small to chase a thread in the body so Gary used an engineering hand tap, 1/2" UNF x 20tpi, as this would match the thread pitch of his external thread chaser. A hole was drilled right through the bell body (drill size 29/64" would be correct, 11.5mm near enough!), prior to creating the internal thread with the tap. Then the internal shape was finished to the internal shape of a bell and by adding a location recess of the correct depth and diameter to suit the reversed funnel. This was carried out using a small round skew. Using Titebond II Premium Wood Glue the funnel was then glued into the body. This has a fast initial tack so with a fairly tight fit Gary was able, using very light cuts, to immediately tidy up the face. A shallow vee groove was used to disguise the join. This was necessary as it is impossible to achieve a perfect grain match between the reversed woods. The face was then sanded through grits 180 - 600. The outside shape of the bell body needed to be





finished next and to do this Gary used a jam chuck, locating on the internal thread, and gentle pressure from the running tailstock centre. Awareness of the internal shape was necessary to avoid going too thin. Tapping the wood with a tool gives an indication of the thickness. Sanding was next, 180 to 600 grits. As a production turner time has to be saved whenever possible and one way this is achieved is by not moving the tool-rest more than necessary. Sanding can be safely performed at the back of the workpiece, well clear of the trap point between the work and the tool-rest.

The handle was made next. As thread chasing was to be carried out this needed to be turned from a hard, dense material. Ebony, Box, or African Blackwood are ideal. Softer woods can

often be used if thin CA glue is used to stabilise the fibres the first. The blank was turned to a cylinder between centres and a reduced diameter to match the tap diameter created at the tailstock end. At this stage some rough shaping was carried out.

Gary uses what he describes as a “scratcher” to mark key features of items he knows he will produce many times



in the future. This is a rectangle of wood with sharp pins projecting from it at key lengths (the end one is longer, to act as an end datum) and with diameters marked on it for each feature. This held against the rotating cylinder to scratch the positions in. Alternatively a small piece of board with lines marked on it (or notches as Richard Findley recommends) allows positions to be transferred using a pencil.



Before starting to chase the thread, Gary added a chamfer to the end nearest the tailstock and a groove to the right of the shoulder. This would permit easier starting of the thread and an area to “run into”. The main thing when chasing threads is to be relaxed and let the chaser follow it’s own pace. Lathe speed must be slow, 200 - 300 rpm is best. Gary prepares his chasing tools prior to use by hollow grinding the top face against the edge of a grinding wheel and removing any half thread that might be present at the end. Chasing is performed by a “circular” movement, starting at a slight angle and moving parallel as



the thread establishes, taking care to withdraw the tool before it contacts the shoulder. Once the full thread profile had been created, a trial fit was attempted. The thread was too tight and Gary noticed that it was had a slight taper so a little material was remove with a gouge to correct this and a few further passes with the chaser produced a nicely fitting thread.

The handle was then re-mounted and finish turned and sanded. Parting off was achieved by leaving a small portion of wood to retain drive whilst going as thin as possible with the skew to leave a thin section that could be

carved off and hand sanded. Gary did not apply any finish to the parts, but would normal use a spray finish later.



Two examples that Gary had turned previously (left), the one on the right has the handle integral with the body.



Finally, Gary filled the shaker with salt though the exit hole (it can also be filled by unscrewing the handle) and demonstrated how the shaker works by shaking it up and down.

The next demonstration piece was an apple, one of Gary's specialities (he turned, and sold, 3,500 of them in 2016, and can produce up to 100 a day once the timber is prepared!). He chose a piece of spalted beech for this demonstration and 2 3/4" diameter is his preferred diameter. The blank was already drilled with a hole to suit his



screw chuck and sawn to an octagon section. After turning to a cylinder with the spindle roughing gouge he marked the high point about 1/4" offset towards the headstock, the end towards the tailstock would be the bottom of the apple. A spindle gouge was then used to put the shape into the bottom of the apple, leaving about a 1" flat at the base. A small hole (to suit the screw chuck, and later the clove) was drilled in the base, and a smaller gouge was then used to create quite a deep dimple in the bottom. This depth is necessary to protect the clove which would be later used to represent the





remnants of the apple's flower bud. Sanding to 600 grit was then carried out on the finished half followed by several coats of friction polish. After reversing the apple on the screw chuck, using a piece of card as a washer to protect the finished surface, the top half was turned, sanded and finished in the same way as the bottom. Finally a buffing wheel was used to polish the piece, with the apple allowed to rotate on the wire spoke. Normally Gary uses a 2 coat spray finish, mounting the apples on pieces of bicycle spoke so they can be left to dry overnight standing up in a perforated board, prior to buff finishing the next day. Pieces of hazel twig are used to represent the stalks, these are blackened by placing many of them at time in a jam jar with a small quantity of ebonising fluid which is shaken from time to time. This produces a durable finish. A clove glued in the bottom completes the apple.

Next came a brief static demonstration of how Gary freehand grinds his tools (an enviable skill in my view!). He favours a CBN wheel (as I also do) and does not rely on the burr from grinding his scrapers, preferring instead to hone off the burr with a diamond slip and then adding a burr with a HSS round bar. This gives a sharper, more consistent burr than that from the grinder.

To complete the evening Gary turned a "Tippee" top. I won't go into the details here; there is much information on the internet about these. Suffice it to say that they are great fun to make but don't always work first time. For the uninformed these little tops actually invert whilst spinning and end up like spinning mushrooms. The one Gary made didn't turn over quickly enough so he quickly turned a jam chuck so he could slightly flatten the face. It then worked perfectly.



Above (left), the pieces Gary turned during the evening, and an apple with a smile that he brought with him (apologies for poor quality of photograph, taken from projected image)

A most enjoyable demonstration by an entertaining and expert demonstrator.

Hugh Field

Gary's display and sales tables (right).





Hints and tips

This section is for any tips or advice you would like to pass on to other members. If you have discovered something you found useful that you think may benefit others, please pass it on.

Members sales items

This section is for listing any turning or woodworking tools or related items you have for sale.

Any submissions to editor@mswa.co.uk, please.

DVDs

The club has a selection of Woodturning DVD's for use by registered club members use only. You can borrow them for just £2 per month (some are free)! If any members have DVDs which are not on the list, but which they would like to donate to the Club, they would be most welcome.

David Brearley has taken over the responsibility for these items and may be seen at Club Meetings.



Abrasives and other items

Mirka Abranet 70 x 125mm Sheets:

5 x Mixed Grit Pack (120, 180, 240, 400 and 500) = £2.00 per pack

Mirka Abranet 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £1.50 per pack

Rhinogrip 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £0.90 per pack

Flexipad Sanding Pads (for above discs):

50mm Velcro Conical Spindle Pad with 6mm shaft = £8.82 each

J-Flex Sanding Paper:

5 x 1m lengths mixed grits 120, 180, 240, 320 & 400 = £9.50 per pack

Screwdrivers:

Various sizes donated to club = £1 each

BondFix Superglue:

50g Bottle of Medium Viscosity = £3 per bottle

Donated Items:

Various Books and Magazines = 50p to £2 each



Club information

Your club committee for 2017 is:-

Chairman – Dawn Hopley

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Treasurer – Vacant

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Please use phone numbers only if absolutely necessary.