



*Mid-Staffs Woodturners
Association*

Affiliated Branch of
**Association of
Woodturners**
of Great Britain

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2018

Wood 'n' things
News Letter

Chair
Dawn Hopley

Editor
Phil Williams



*Novice Cup Winner
for an Apple or Pear
goes to.....*

Editors Workbench

As many of you are aware our October meeting was brought forward because of the Annual AWGB Event which clashed with the clubs monthly meeting. Although it was held on 25th September, it was the same demonstration and format as planned for the October meeting. I am delighted to say, despite being one week earlier, we still had a good attendance for the demonstration and talk on sharpening your tools and getting the best out of your grind stone.

On the other hand, it was brought to our attention that not all members may not have been informed, so some did turn up to Etchingill Village Hall on the original date. To those members, I must apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Phil Williams

Meeting Calendar

December

Fri 7th - Demonstration by Dave Atkinson - A Surprise

Dave has several interest in life from fishing, to playing his accordion and wood turning. He demonstration in December is still a mystery, but if I find out before you, I promise, it will be in the next Newsletter.



January 2019

Fri 11th - Annual General Meeting & Presentation of Awards

A new year starts and the election/re-election of officers of the club. We will be looking back on how the club has done during the last financial year and to the future. The Demonstration Calendar is filling up and the push to recruit more members continues.

Forth Coming Competitions

December

Novice Cup - A Christmas Decoration

Below are a few examples to help you in our Novice Cup competition.



January

Challenge Cup – An Apple Shaped Lidded Box

Premier Cup - A Reconstructed, Deconstructed Item

Two competitions, that will be something to see, especially what you come up with for the Premier Cup.

At Our Last Meeting

AWGB Annual Event

(5th, 6th & 7th October 2018)

Way back in the Spring I was contacted by John Montgomery, the AWGB South West Regional Rep, if we, as the local club, might provide 6 volunteers (2 each day) to act as stewards at the forthcoming Seminar on 5th, 6th & 7th October. Primarily to help with the Gallery, assisting to book pieces in, setting up, ensuring the safety of the exhibits (no touching!) and helping to clear away on Sunday afternoon. Vance Lupton, John Hulse, Ron Dixon, John McElroy, Dawn and myself volunteered. Brian Shaw was a delegate for all three days.



In return, as a thank you, we would be able to attend a demonstration, to visit the trade stands, and receive free lunch and refreshments. A very fair exchange!

The pieces in the gallery were excellent and very varied. Here are a couple of photos I took. The pierced bowl was quite amazing for the precision. Hopefully the next issue of *Revolutions* will include many more. Visiting the gallery & trade stands was open free to all

AWGB members and friends.

I was able to see an excellent demonstration by Gary Rance turning a humming spinning top. He also made available for a small charge a drawing of the project. Something to keep for our grandson when he is older.



An interesting extra was the "Critique" which if you don't know consisted of a selection of pieces from the gallery whereupon three experts commented subjectively on what was right or wrong with each piece. Valuable but they seemed to have an obsession with the finish of the underside of bases. By all means nicely finished but surely the item should be viewed as the turner intended. I ponder on Josiah Wedgwood's response to his pots being so examined & criticised!

The seminar was well attended and from the comments I heard, well organised, facilities excellent, so was the food. I won a Gary Rance Hook Tool in the raffle...yet to be tried out.

It was my first time visiting the AWGB Seminar. I shall go again especially as the organisers were talking of using the same venue and it being on our doorstep. I commend it to all members.

Will Rose

Paul Bellamy - Sharpening Techniques

(Friday 28th September)

Paul had been booked for our October meeting, so when we had to re-schedule that meeting to the last Friday in September, we were delighted that he was able change his diary to accommodate the fact it would have clashed with the AWGB Annual meeting, in which MWSA had been invited to attend and supervise the Gallery.

Paul's demonstration and talk was of particular interest to me as he was demonstrating the use of several different jigs, with their limitations and techniques to sharpen tools, one of which I have purchased, but not yet set-up.



Grinding angles, hints and tips all to help the turner get the best out of each different tool, from bowl gouges, to scrapers and lots in between. Tips on where to locate your grinder and how to maintain and keep your grinding wheel in good condition. Also, how different grinds are used for different jobs. He even went to the trouble to produce handy information sheets.

How to grind scrapers and keeping that burr. The way to keep your tools sharp and when to grind off the heel of the bevel and/or secondary or micro bevels. This will give you a great finish. It will make it easier to turn, they will cut in the wood better and save time (less sanding).

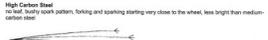
How to identify the various types of steel your tools are made of by looking at the colour and type of sparks which are produced when sharpening.

Steel Testing

Spark testing is used to identify different types of steel. Turners are always working tools on materials or cutting tools passed down through generations. Sometimes it is just a tool that has been used, observed and then you favour. Whatever the case, there are tools you would like to be able to work. In order to do so, you must know the steel. This is the one way to know tools properly over the ages. Different steels have different characteristics and methods for heat treating and using the right angle will only make the matter worse.

Spark testing used to be a slow, quick and accurate way to determine the type of steel. There you could conveniently read a book that the reader would have to read. Now, there are many methods that will change the type of steel from sparks to sparks. This makes it virtually impossible to properly identify the type of steel. Therefore, spark testing is not used as a final test, but is used to give a rough indication.

Sparks will fall like rain when at the grinding wheel and each spark itself produces a different color and volume of sparks. The volume of sparks depends on the carbon content. Carbon steel, which has the low carbon content, will have sparks. High carbon production means sparks. Here are a few examples of what to look for when spark testing.



Sharpening - Paul Bellamy

A sharp tool will make your life easier and give a better finish so remember to sharpen them frequently, especially when they are finishing out.

1. ALWAYS WEAR EYE PROTECTION!

Put safety goggles or wear in the eye area if you are NOT a good feller. And you only have two eyes. Look after them.

2. THERE ARE YOURS!

Remember the price you have on YOUR tools are there to suit YOUR style of turning. There are lots of suggestions and recommendations from books, DVDs and demonstrations but first be sure that what you are looking at is based on these suggestions.

3. Location of angle

It is often recommended to have the grinder close to, and at the same height as the lathe. This is more relevant when you are hand grinding, without a jig, as you will have greater recovery of the angle of the tool and get the appropriate bevel. It is still a good idea to have the grinder close to the work, you are using a jig but it is not critical as the jig will determine the angle.

4. Do NOT use the side of a grinding wheel

If you wear the edge of a grinding wheel, you run the risk of disintegrating, with harmful consequences.

5. Checking grinding wheels

Before using a new grinding wheel, inspect it closely and try the edge with a screwdriver. A good grinding wheel will ring, the least crystal glass. If you just get a dull thud, the wheel is probably cracked and should not be used.

6. Grinding wheel mounting spacers

Spacers are used to space the wheel as it is mounted but they are not there to keep the wheel centred. Used two strips of Duct tape either side of the wheel for the steel washers to hold the wheel securely.

7. Removal of steel from the tool

Look at the level with the workpiece. Put the tool in a jig and rest the grinding stone. Rotate wheel by hand. Look at level. If level is level a shiny, but to be clean by wheel and bevel edge more often, another angle. If grinding edge of level is shiny, look to be from wheel and bevel angle in more detail. Larger angle. If the tool is at the correct setting, you will see a shiny line across the whole bevel.

8. Maintenance of sharpening

It is important to know the surface of the wheel is in good condition. As you grind tools, metal particles will get introduced to the stone. This will stop the stone from doing its job. If you use a sharp tool, you will generate a lot of heat and possibly change the steel. Also, wear on the grinding stone is a risk to the metal of the wheel. Keeping a groove in the surface. This will cause problems when you want to sharpen a wide tool such as a chisel.

To avoid this, you need to keep the wheel sharp at regular intervals. There are various forms - wheel, diamond and oil stones. The aim is to remove the surface of the wheel to reveal a fresh, clean cutting surface.

9. Different angles for different jobs

It is not possible to sharpen the tool angles and grinds depending on the job in hand. However, if you are looking at the grinding wheel, you are looking at the angle of the wheel and the angle of the tool. It will be most cheaper to buy a second hand tool and grind that to another profile. Sharpening will be fast, but not repeat grinding.

It may be worth buying some cheaper tools to try out new grinds before grinding your favourite tool.

All in all, a most interesting demonstration and as a fairly new turner myself, one that will help me for years to come. For those who are more experienced I am sure that Paul's demonstration and talk gave a great deal of food for thought.



Thank you Paul. The demonstration was very interesting and informative. Keep up the good work.

Phil Williams

Members Showcase

(September/October Meeting)

From time to time, it is so nice to be able to showcase some of the work brought into the club by one of our members.

The two pieces of work below are from Ted Gill, a more experienced member of the club and as you can see, the hollowed out bowls look stunning.



Must have a word with Ted to get a few tips!!



Phil Williams

Competition Results

Novice Cup - An Apple or Pear

(October Challenge)

This month's challenge was for the Novice Cup and competitors could choose between an apple or pear. Below our results were as follows:-

In 2nd place was A (John Meers) and in 1st place is B (Jane Russell).

Congratulations to those who took part and to our winner Jane.

A



B



Phil Williams

MSWA Contacts

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Come & Join Us

We usually meeting on the first Friday of the month between 7:00pm and 10:00pm. Visit our website www.mswa.co.uk and click on the Meeting Calendar to confirm the dates.

We Meet At:-

Etchinghill Village Hall
East Butts Road
Etching Hill
Rugeley
WS15 2LU

How to Join

MSWA encourage new members to develop their skills of wood turning. To obtain a Membership Application Form, visit our website and click on the Contact Us in the menu bar and download an application form.

Advertisement



Mike Taylor likes working with Alder Wood. If you would like to try this hardwood or have tuition on Pole Lathe Turning then contact Mike on 07871 994959 and mention MSWA.

Past Chairpersons

Ken Allen	1990-1997	Peter Worrall	1997-2005	John Smith	2005-2010
Dawn Hopley	2010-2012	John Smith	2012-2013	Philip Watts	2013-2016

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