



West Midlands Woodturners

January 2018 Newsletter



Programme of meetings

Venue: Water Orton Primary School, unless otherwise stated.

21st January	Demo: Mark Hancock
18th February	Demo: Emma Cook
18th March	Hands On
15th April	Demo: Les Thorne
20th May	Hands On
10th June (not 3rd Sunday)	Demo: Rod Page
15th July	Hands On
19th August	Demo: Jason Breach
16th September	Hands On
21st October	Demo: Paul Jones
18th November	Hands On & AGM
16th December	Demo: Steve Heeley & Christmas "buffet"

Demonstration days start at 9.15 am and conclude around 4.30 pm.

(Setting up from 8.30 am)

Hands On days start at 9.30 am and conclude about 4.00 pm.

Don't forget your lunch and a mug!

**WMWT wishes you a Happy New Year,
making shavings.**

Programme of "outside" events

TBA usually last week April	Curborough Festival of Artists
Friday 11th and Saturday 12th May	"Woodworks" at Daventry
Saturday 16th June	Water Orton Carnival
Sunday 8th July	New Hall Mill. Sutton Coldfield
Monday 27th August (Bank Holiday)	New Hall Mill. Sutton Coldfield



Mark Hancock

Unfortunately the Demo meeting with Mark Hancock for December was cancelled due to very bad weather conditions.

We are pleased to say that Phil Steveson contacted Mark and he has arranged for Mark to join us at the January meeting for a Demo instead of the planned Hands on day

WMWT Committee

Chairman	Steve Simmons	Chair@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Vice Chair	Vacant	Vice@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Secretary & Director	John Hooper	Secretary@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Treasurer	Pete Blakey	Treasurer@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Programme and Events Manager	Malcolm Thorpe	Events@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Equipment Manager	Malcolm Edwards	Equipment@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Vacant	Membership@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Rob Huxley	Editor@wmwoodturners.org.uk

News from **AWGB**

Our chairman, Dave Atkinson, runs his own business and in recent months has found the demands on his time from that have been increasing, making it difficult to find time to attend to the affairs of the AWGB. With this in mind, Dave has decided to step down as chairman with effect from the end of December. Our vice chairman, Sam Webber, has also decided to step down at the same time. He was "persuaded" to stay on the executive longer than he had planned and is taking this opportunity to escape! Both Dave and Sam will be also resigning as trustees.

The officer posts (chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer) are chosen from within the existing trustees by the trustees and that selection process has culminated with Paul Hannaby being elected as chairman and Russell Gibbs being elected as vice chairman. These appointments will be taken up from January 1st 2018. We will also be co-opting two new members of the executive to fill the vacant posts. Paul Middleton will replace Paul Hannaby as webmaster and data manager and Roger Cutler will replace Russell Gibbs as trade and business liaison officer.

The AWGB executive would like to thank Dave and Sam for their contributions and hard work over the years they have been involved with the running of the AWGB. The AWGB wouldn't have become the organisation it is today without their input.

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Chairman's Comments

Well that was not a good start to my Chairmanship, having to cancel my first meeting. I would like to apologize for having to cancel the December meeting due to the snow. My first concern is for the safety of the members. I did not wish to risk member's safety so I hope that the members understand the difficult decision I had to make to cancel the meeting.

I would like to thank Malcolm and John for their help in contacting members to advise them of the cancellation.

This has highlighted the fact that not all members contact details are correct. Please ensure that you update us if any of your contact details change.

Just a reminder to those members who have not paid their membership fees, they need to be paid at the January meeting.

I would also like to thank Phil Stevenson for contacting Mark Hancock and advising him of the cancellation and for the speedy re booking of Mark for a demonstration on the 21st January to replace the hands on day.

I look forward to seeing you all at the January meeting and would like to take this opportunity in wishing you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Steve

Life Explained

God created the dog and said:

"Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who come in or walks past, for this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said:" That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?" So God agreed.

Then God created the Monkey and said:

"Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this I will give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said: "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?" And God agreed.

Then God created the cow and said:

"You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a lifespan of sixty years."

The cow said: "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years.. How about twenty and I'll give you back the other forty?" And God agreed again.

Thereafter God created humans and said:

"Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said: "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay" said God, "You asked for it" So that is why for the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family.. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren.. And for the last ten years we sit in the house and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

Thanks Cliff

A new Editor of the Club News Letter



Rob Huxley Editor@wmwoodturning.org.uk

After nearly 5 Years and 57 News letters, John Hooper has passed the Job of Editor onto myself. John Will remain the Club Secretary and Director for another 12 months.

John has produced an outstanding news letter month after month and I think it is something we all, myself included may have taken a little bit for granted.

It arrives, we read it and perhaps don't think of the work that goes into producing it. Well, sitting with John whilst he handed over the job certainly made me more aware of what he'd actually talked me into taking on. John has put a lot of work into the News Letter and has been supported by a core of club members who have contributed with reviews, photo's, news and information to make the Club News a success. Thank you to these members and I look forward to working with you on future News Letters.

If anyone has anything that they would like me to consider to be included in the News letter, please feel free to come and talk to me or a committee member about it. You can usually find me with Dave and Mary at the Tea and coffee station during the breaks, (yes my other job is a tea makers assistants mate !) you can of course drop me a quick e mail.

Rob

A few words and statistics from John on the News Letter

I started as editor with the April 2013 newsletter, after the AGM, which was held in March.

That one was 4 pages long, including a review of Nick Agar's demo. The average length of the newsletter has increased to about 10 pages, with some being 14 or more pages when there had been a lot to report. Perhaps this doesn't sound much, but 57 newsletters, means 570 pages or so, roughly the size of an academic text book. I would like to bet that more people have read our newsletters than have read some of the academic textbooks that I came across when teaching.

I have taken a lot of photos, finding that I had to take about 250 photos per demo day to ensure that I had a picture for the points raised by the reviewers. Only a small number (about 600) were "published", but for 30 reviews, around 7500 photos were taken. In addition, more photos for the display table, chairman's challenges, Daventry and outside events, mean that something in the region of 9000 photos have made their way on to my computer. (I use RAW format, which means each photo starts as a 40mb file – so I have around 3.6 terabytes of WMWT photos!)

It is difficult to say which was the best demo, or best newsletter – and perhaps that is for others to say, however, probably the most memorable day was the one where the demonstrator failed to appear, and this also happened to be when the caretaker had been taken ill, and I had to wake up the school's head teacher so that we could get in to the school. Three of our members gave impromptu demo's and kept the club engaged and entertained for the day. In my mind this will always be the one that I remember, despite having enjoyed demo's from some of the best turners on the circuit. (Steve the caretaker made a full recovery although he was on sick leave for over 6 months)

John Hooper

West Midlands Woodturners demonstrations at Packwood House.



Outside Christmas event December

Over recent weeks we have had three days out exhibiting our woodturning at our favourite local National Trust property, Packwood House. Malcolm Thorpe, Tom Badger and Phil Stevenson have been turning, chatting, selling (and occasionally freezing) over the last three weekends and have had a warm and very friendly reception. We get a broad mixture of visitors ranging from families with small children to the more mature members of the public - some nearly as old as we are! We are definitely getting more experienced at engaging with the public and judging what catches their eye, and why. We have had many conversations on a wide range of subjects and our visitors certainly appreciate our explanations of what we do, and why and how we do it. It's always good to link the timber we use, especially yew, with the local National trust properties. Our sales have been very encouraging and we have been able to contribute both to our club funds and Packwood House. What has sold best? It's Christmas - guess!

By Phil Stevenson



Phil at work



Membership Fees



Just a gentle reminder to those members who have not paid their membership fees, they need to be paid at the January meeting.

If you have already paid, thank you and please ignore this reminder.

Subscriptions have been maintained at 2017 levels, and the annual payment discount scheme is to be continued.

Outside Events

We now have most of the dates for outside events, if you would like to be involved with assisting at any of the events please speak to Malcolm Thorpe and let him know which event you would like to assist with. The events are great fun and we get to speak to the visitors about the various aspects of woodturning. The demonstration lathe is always very popular as this brings the art of wood turning to life in front of the visitor and is complemented by the display and sales table.

Sorry no display table this edition as we did not meet in December

Some of Mark Hancock's work



Please continue to bring items for the display table as this gives inspiration to some of the other members.

Chairman's Challenge: January

Novice Group

Spurtle



Intermediate Group

Yarn Bowl



Advanced Group

Bowl On 3 Feet



Chairman's Challenge : February

Novice Group

Plain Bowl (150 mm)



Intermediate Group

Carvers Mallet



Advanced Group

Cup and Saucer



Ancillary

West Midlands Woodturners Sanding Sealer and Cellulose Thinners

I will have fresh supplies for sale to club members at our January meeting. Sanding sealer is £6.50 per 500mls and thinners £4.50. Make sure you see Phil Stevenson asap at the meeting if you want some. Alternatively drop Phil an e mail with your order phil@stvnnsn.co.uk

SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that we have to advise that Margaret Ford, a past member of the club, and wife of member Peter Ford, sadly died at Good Hope Hospital on 28th December 2017. Whilst a member of the club, Margaret was involved in a many activities until ill health prevented her from continuing. WMWT offers its condolences to Peter and his family.

The Chairman and Committee
Would like to wish all members
A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year
lets Turn 2018 into another great success for the club



- Can we collect the Trophy at Daventry again this year?
- Can we inspire people into the joys of woodturning?
- Can we support club funds with our ongoing success with sales from outside events, pick a peg and raffles?
- Can we learn new techniques an skills and become even better turners?

Most of all lets have some fun and enjoy our woodturning