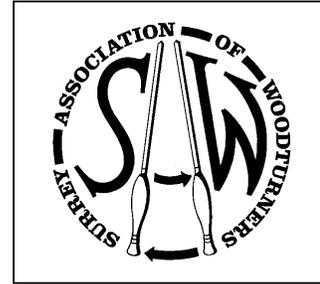


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter January 2006

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Mike Hoad John Rushetts

Jim Smitheman

Membership 87

Items for the Diary

- Friday 10th Feb Dave Reeks
- 17th, 18th, 19th Feb. Alexander Palace
- Sunday 26th Feb Hands on Day
- Friday 10th March Practical + Competition
- Friday 14th April Club Turner
- Friday 5th May Colin Simpson
- Sunday 21st May Reg. Thorne
- 5th, 6th May West's Wood Show
- Friday 9th June Simon Hope

HANDS ON DAY

There were 14 pupils and four tutors Paul, Ray, Phil, and Jim. Paul had been advised by some as to which subjects they would like to study. We were then split up according to our abilities and what we wanted to do. I was in the advanced group with Richard Davies, Don Mitchell and Tom Purcell. We started with a small wet log of Richard's which we used to make a vase. Paul showed us the correct way to use various hollowing tools. The ring tool is

magic when you know how to use it. I never knew that you used each side of the ring for a different purpose. Each of us had a go using various tools. We broke through the neck trying to make it thinner. We then continued to practice on a very wet Cherry log of mine. The intention was to create a natural edge bowl with a very thin rim.



All was going very well until our tutor demolished the outer two inches while I was out of the room!

After a snack lunch we changed around again and I was with Ray learning about grinding and sharpening. Most of the tools that we had brought, had the wrong profile which would need a lot of grinding to correct. As Ray had his Tormek it would have taken too long for him to correct the errors. I did learn that you need to adjust the jig for different tools. For the last half an hour we discussed the importance of finish. When to use sealer, oil or polish. Then it was time to tidy up and clear away. A very interesting and informative day. Where else can you get over five hours instruction for just £5.00, the cost of hiring the hall?

HELP

Ollie and June have moved. They always used to give Gordon Payne, who lives in Camberley, a lift. Is there anyone who could take over so that Gordon can get to club nights?

DECEMBER MEETING

Everybody was in a festive mood and several members wore suitable headgear. Colin is to be congratulated for devising such an interesting evening. The main event was a turn against the clock where the demonstrators were allowed ten minutes to produce a small tree using only one tool. This they could decorate with felt tip pens.



Paul used a 3 sided pointy tool and took 6mins 20secs. Bob French used a 3/4" skew and took 5 mins. Phil Jackson took 7.35. John Sherwood took 9 mins 50 secs but his tree did look better than some of the others.



Brian Woodridge did his in 6.45. Bob Weir took 8 mins 10 secs. Ray completed his in 6.05. It was an interesting bit of fun.

There was lots going on in the hall. Jennie and Chris were on the stage with the competition. In front of the stage Ray was using the Poolewood to make a bowl in Acacia. On the other side Mike Morley was using a Carbatec to make lidded boxes. He had a couple of examples one in Laburnum and one in Apricot, a wood I have never seen before. Ben Nesbitt was using an Axminster 330 to make snowmen skittles. When I first set eyes on two of them I thought they were flour sifters from the Homepride advert. John Sherwood was also using an Axminster 330 to make Christmas tree decorations. Geoff was on the sales table for polishes and sandpaper. Besides doing his usual job Richard was selling donated timber in aid of the Parkinson Disease charity. Teas and Coffees with a mince pie were dispensed by Jim and Sylvia (Paul's wife). Further round Claire and Rodney Goodship were

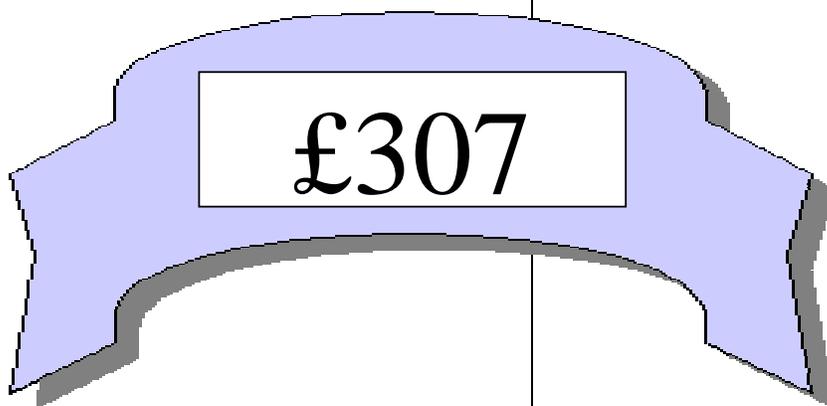
using another Axminster 330 to make pens from corrian.

The raffle tickets were being sold in the centre of the hall by Margaret June, Sheila and Joyce.

On another table there were two competitions. One to identify timbers from pictures and descriptions. And the other to identify the Latin names of different trees. Everyone had the chance to inspect the winning items to choose the Turner of the Year who was Chris Clarke with his Country Chair.

etc. Although he didn't know the whole reason why. The timber was cut and converted giving about 4 sized medium boxes, which I put aside for sale. I added to the stock with some of my own timber and thought that was that. I then sat back.

In November I got cold feet and thought that there was not enough stock. So I was going to bludgeon Phil Wolsoncroft into a donation from his sales stock. The gent came up trumps and said how many boxes do you want, 60, 100. I took ten dreading the threat that I would be stuck with any leftovers.



***This is how much you raised
for the Parkinson's disease
Christmas Charity.***

When Olly Hardy came to me and asked if we could lay on a collection for the charity on behalf of his wife June and for the local branch of the Parkinson's disease charity, I said of course no problem, just get a few collecting tins and I'll do the rest.

The tins duly arrived along with about a ream of literature to hand out and so the thing was kicked off.

I was given a load of timber from a Tree surgeon who used to be a member Clive (surname unknown), and so the thing began to snowball. Ray Taylor gave me some lessons on the chain saw and how to convert timber into blanks, what to look for

Although Phil was tied up at Hampton Court, the evening of the Christmas Club Night he was blackmailed into delivering the wood to Mytchett.

It was about now that Olly said "Oh by the way I'm bringing along the chairman and secretary of the Parkinson's branch concerned. My first thought was b----y h--l, I better do more than £30.00 here, still no pressure.

The snowball now started to get bigger now. Mike Rulton over heard the conversation between me and Phil at the committee meeting and did no more then went straight out to his car and donated a pyrography tool set valued at about £93.00 and said auction this.

Now I needed an auction as well as a sale.

The auctioneer was volunteered. Non other than our own Paul Nesbitt who did a Stirling

job considering he had no voice to speak of or with on that night. He also brought along a few members to the stand and kept them there until they had been relieved of all of their folding stuff.

I think it was at the club night that I finally told Bill Thackery that I had a little job for him. This was to man the wood stand with me, which he did without complaint in spite of missing most of a very good evening.

Other donations then materialised out of the ether in the shape of a vibro saw from Colin Spain and a huge Teddy Bear from Roy Edwards.

Finally the dregs of the wood were taken home by Phil and Margaret Jackson who went through it to see if it was of any use. They were also a great help by overseeing the cake raffle that was sprung on us at the last minute.

So a big thank you to all those above who made it possible, and apologies to any I've forgotten to name who put in either effort or donations.

Somewhere else in this News Letter appears a copy of the paperwork from the Parkinson's Charity that goes to show how well we all did.

Many thanks all.

Olly, June and Richard.

RICHARD DAVIES

COMPETITION

The winner of last issue's quiz about Celtic Birth Woods was Richard Davies with the answer Whitten. This I understand is a small shrub which has a horrid smell when cut.

The question this time is what timber was usually used for the gear wheels in

windmills? The first member to give me the correct answer will win a £5.00 gift voucher of their choice.

Volunteers Wanted

Jennie in her report thanked those who help set up and clear away at meetings. We would like a few more helpers so that the rotas could be expanded so that one is not on duty quite so often. There is a gap as one of the sound equipment helpers has left. Any offers to me or Margaret.

NO BUS TO ALLY PALLY

The small number of members wanting to go on the coach would have caused a loss for the club. Therefore we have had to cancel this trip. Deposits will be refunded.

JANUARY MEETING

This was the AGM which was attended by 86 members. Jennie's report was lengthy as a lot had happened during the year especially lots of demonstrations at various events. The Treasurer Basil was not able to be present so I read his report which only produced one or two queries. Jennie and Basil had produced details of the finances for the coming year and the need to increase the membership fee by five pounds. This was accepted by the members present. So the membership fee is now £20.00.

On the question of the new Constitution, a proposal was raised concerning the need for only half the committee to be re-elected every two years with the view of stopping a hostile take over. It was felt that this was not needed and the new constitution approved.

When it came to the election of officers and committee, Colin agreed to take over from Margaret as Secretary. After seven years work the longest serving member Mike Rulton stepped down and his place taken by Roy Edwards. Our thanks to Margaret and Mike for their hard work.

There was no A.O.B. so I started collecting members subs during the tea break. I am not saying that Basil was keen to get his hands on the money, but he telephoned just after 8.30 on the Saturday to arrange to come and collect it!

For the second part of the evening our three competition judges, Bob French, Bob Weir and Mike Morley took it in turn to explain their approach to marking competition items and how lots of the common faults could be avoided. Design, sanding and polishing. This was illustrated by items of their earlier work.

A very interesting and informative discussion. There should be an improvement in standards.

A Day Trip Out by Vic Burge

During the summer namely July a friend and I paid a visit to Broadlands in Romsey, the home of the late Lord Mountbatten. In the extensive grounds there was a Craft Fair sponsored by Echo Power Tools. There was a good mix of country crafts and pursuits.

Our own Phil Wolsoncroft was in attendance busy turning his burrs, in various timbers. The Hampshire Woodturners had a marquee all to themselves, with some very good examples of their work. Several members were demonstrating their handiwork. The public were invited to participate in crafts in a set time. There were some terrific creations and these were then offered for auction. On the whole the day was very enjoyable with a very pleasant journey home to end the day.

Chair's report of the year 2005-6

2005-6 has been a very busy year for the club. Following the well attended AGM last January, members were given a unique opportunity to take part in a discussion evening a couple of weeks

later to help the committee plan future events. 53 members attended that meeting and although the general consensus was 'If it ain't broke - don't fix it', some excellent ideas were suggested and the committee has been trying to incorporate them into the programme for the year.

We have had 6 interesting professional turners - it is necessary to remind members that finding 'big name' turners who are prepared to demonstrate for a couple of hours on a Friday evening is getting much harder to do. Preparing, packing and unpacking equipment and travelling make a 2-3 hour demo take up most of 2 days. If the turner can produce £500 worth of 'stock' by spending 2 days in the workshop, getting £120 or so from us is not very attractive. We will continue to try to get a range of first rate turners for you - but it is not easy.

Our seminar gives us an opportunity to persuade a professional turner from further away to spend a day with us. This year we were very fortunate to get Mark Hancock for a day in May. Although there were a reasonable number of members present, we hoped to have fitted in at least 20 more and therefore made a loss on the day! Please look out for the adverts and take advantage of the seminar if you can. We have booked Les Thorne and he promises an exciting day with a chance to look at the vacuum chuck and the new bowl saver.

This year has been the first when teams of club volunteers have taken on setting up and putting away for club evenings. It has worked extremely well and we are grateful to everyone who has helped. There are too many to list, but please

accept our thanks for your efforts. If you feel you could be added to that rota, please volunteer - the more people we have on the team, the less we all have to do!

Colin Spain has taken on the organisation of practical evenings from me and I am sure you will have been delighted with the range of demonstrations and items of interest he has managed to include. We have 3 more practical evenings this year. I hope that some of you will use them as opportunities to start doing demo's for the club and I will be giving you all a chance to volunteer in the second half of the evening.

We also had two excellent demos from club members and thank Paul Nesbitt and Philip Wolsoncroft for their entertaining and informative evenings.

Margaret has organised 2 very good outings again in the year. The first took a coach load to Alexandra Palace. This venue is not far away, but it is a nasty drive and parking is miles from the Hall - so the coach really makes sense! We are running it again this year if enough members sign up - and we need names and money now! ***(Not enough members have signed up for this outing so it has had to be cancelled - deposits will be returned)***The other trip was to the Yandles show. Again, this trip nearly didn't run. We need at least 40 people - preferably 45 before we are sure a trip will break even.

We have been very happy to welcome a number of young turners to SAW this year. We clearly need to encourage younger members if the club is to survive. Numbers of members are dropping and it seems to be that the surge of interest generated by the

redundancies of the early 90s means that quite a large proportion of our members are in the 70 to 80 age bracket. Unfortunately, ill health and restricted mobility take their toll and prevent active participation in club events.

We need to plan ahead for a smaller club and keep trying to attract new younger members.

One of the ways we can do this is to be very proactive about demonstrating our skills and advertising the club at public events.

This year we have taken a club stand to the following events:

- The Alexandra Palace Woodworking Show. (3 days)
- The Rural Life Centre's Wood Crafts Weekend in April. (2 days)
- WL West & Son's Show in early May (2 days)
- Turn Essex on May 15th (1 day)
- The Frimley Lodge Park Show in July (1 day)
- The Rural Life Centre's Steam Weekend in September. (2 days)
- SAW Open Day in October (1 day)

Having 7 events to provide exhibitions, turners and stewards for has stretched us considerably and I am very grateful for the volunteers who make it all possible and to the committee members who have taken on the organisation of each event.

One other massive task that has been undertaken by the committee this year has been the revision of the Constitution. Over the years a number of 'what ifs' had been raised at committee meetings and we have tried to reflect society's emphasis on risk assessment and the law

by changing little sections of the Constitution year on year. This year we felt that we needed to look at the whole document and ensure every section was as clear as it could be and that we had covered everything that we felt was important to 'spell out'. We feel that it now covers requirements for our insurance and is a sensible response to the current need for safety consciousness. You will be asked to accept the new Constitution later in the meeting. My thanks go to the sub committee who did the majority of the work, Basil Gridley, Peter Stent and Richard Davies. ***(Constitution agreed at the AGM with no amendments)***

Another development that has been simmering throughout the year was the preparation of a handbook for new members. It is not quite ready for publication, but I hope to send it out to a sample of members for constructive criticism before it is printed for general circulation.

It would be a lot cheaper if we started to do some of our mailings electronically - so email addresses for those of you on line would be very helpful. We will however still send the newsletter out by snailmail for the foreseeable future.

I hope that you all look forward to your newsletter. I am very grateful to Peter Stent for all his hard work in putting the newsletter together. It provides a forum for sales, information about events, descriptions of club nights and a range of useful and informative articles. I would also like to thank our postmaster, Vic Burge, for arranging the copying and sending it out every time.

One of the items which I repeated in Jennie's pages throughout the year was

the need for the whole club to support the Open day in October. What I said in September was:

Because you, the members, said that you wanted Open Day to include Trade stands and professional turners, we have a huge investment in this Open Day. It is a bit worrying that so few advance tickets have been sold to members. I know that everyone who comes along will have a great day. There will be at least 6 professional turners demonstrating their skills and where else locally can you see so much turning talent for £2 (or £1 if you bought an advance ticket).

So, no excuses, I will expect to see absolutely everyone at the show with Mums, Dads, children, Aunts, Uncles, cousins, people you have grabbed off the street and the postman!

Unfortunately, this did not happen. Just over half of the members attended, but few brought visitors. We needed another 200 to 250 people to break even on the day. In the past, we have had 400 visitors to an Open Day, so it was not an unrealistic target. I am glad to report that, for the majority who attended, it was a very good day. The range of turning skills on offer was stupendous and there was a wide range of trade goods available with people to advise on their use. The down side is that it cost the club a lot rather than breaking even, which was our aim. I must thank the sub committee for all their hard work in organising such a good and well balanced event - so thanks go to Mel Martin, Colin Spain and Philip Wolsoncroft also to our President, Bob French, who came to a number of the meetings to offer advice.

I have been saving up one concern for the year which I hope that you will all forgive me for raising. The turning competitions this year have not been as well supported as in previous years. The standard of items entered has been wonderful and, overall scores have been higher.

Some members may consider competitions to be unnecessary, and I respect that - but there must be some of you who are just too apprehensive to take part, others who don't quite understand what happens and yet others, dare I say it, who have become a trifle apathetic.

One of the club's main aims **has to be** to develop the skills of its individual members. Paul and his team have run 2 excellent hands-on days this year and I think that it is fair to say that those who have attended have gained enormously in confidence and in skills levels. Very few members take advantage of these practical sessions.

The competitions are in the programme so that members can see what they need to do to develop and improve their work up to National Competition standard.

We hope to start addressing this tonight, when some of our noted judges will be showing you how their own work has developed and how they score a piece of work in the competition - then you will have a chance to judge a couple of pieces for yourselves - which is why you need a pen or pencil! We will also be adding a 'surgery' on practical evenings run by members with a lot of turning experience, where you can bring items for 1:1 critiques. More of that in the newsletter.

Also in the second half of the evening - and while I have a captive audience you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire before you leave which we hope will answer a lot of our questions and further aid our planning.

Now to end with some very positive items. We have supported two charities this year and I am very proud of the outcomes. The tsunami at the end of 2004 focused you all on the need for tools for countries affected by the horrendous devastation caused by the tidal wave and this broadened to an awareness of the need for tools for Africa. At times, Bob Weir was overwhelmed by the number of tools you found for him - and the number of handles you turned. Well done to everyone who brought in items and our thanks go to Bob, who made it all happen. It was good to feel that we were doing something practical to ease the suffering in the devastated areas.

We also had an excellent response to the Christmas charity appeal for the Parkinson's Disease Society. Olly and June have written to thank you all and we received a letter from the society thanking us for the total of £307 that we raised and donated. It will be used to support the local branch in its 'hands-on' work in the area. Thank you all for your efforts, donations and contributions.

As I said in the newsletter, our tea and coffee team are retiring after 14 years of making hot drinks for us at club nights and events. Our heartfelt thanks go to Eric and Jim for all their hard work. I would like to welcome Sylvia, Paul's wife, who has agreed to take it on for us.

My thanks also go to Geoff for continuing to provide members with a

range of basic turning items every month with profits coming to the club.

One final thank you - this time to our Vice President, Paul Nesbitt. Paul has continued to be a highly active member of the committee and organises the Rural Life Centre weekends and our Alexandra Palace stand, amongst other things. As I was putting together everything for this evening though I realised how difficult it would have been without the database. Paul has continued to develop the club database this year - and I think it now merits the 'work of art' status. Do try to look at it on a Practical evening. I swear he will get it to sit up and beg next!

So - as you can see, it has been a full and very busy year for SAW.

Thank you to everyone who has made it possible.

Jennie's Pages



Dear Club Members,

It is the start of yet another busy year for SAW with lots of exciting demos planned and the opportunity to take part in a number of shows.

My thanks go to all members who attended the AGM and helped us to set the direction for the club and allowed us to raise the subscription to £20 so that we can try to get our finances on a healthier footing.

To those who did not get to the AGM and therefore did not see the accounts and the

projections of basic costs for next year, I will try to summarise.



We do not know how many members we will get this year but the maximum is likely to be 170 based on previous years. Our basic projected expenditure to run the planned programme is **£4520**.

The average income from raffles on club nights is £1420. Income from club sales etc for the year 2005 was £454 and we hope to keep that level going. The maximum income from subscriptions at £15 per head and £7.50 for junior members would be £2512.50

Income is therefore likely to be £4386 and expenditure £4520.

It is quite clear that we would therefore make a loss on the year and eat into our small reserve with subs at £15.



The basic expenditure has very little in it to cover repairs on equipment and none for development or emergencies.



The members at the AGM agreed with our assessment and accepted the need for a rise in subs. We think that we are still by far the cheapest woodturning club in the region - and very few things in life provide 6 magazines, 12 evenings of entertainment plus numerous other opportunities to enjoy our hobby for so little!

So, you are currently a member until January 31st. Thanks to everyone who has paid already. Please make sure Basil gets your

cheque or cash at the February meeting or send it to him as soon as possible.

Volunteer Helpers for club nights

We will assume that all of our current helpers are prepared to continue helping out on club nights. (Please see Margaret if you want to come off the list).



Alexander Palace Show

February 17th - 19th 2006

We take one lathe to the show, set up an exhibition and have stewards on hand to answer questions from the public.

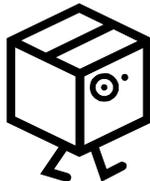
Members who agree to set up, steward or turn will be given free entry into the show.



Please make sure your completed forms are given to Richard or directly to Paul by the next club night. We still need volunteers to steward and turn and we need exhibition pieces which need to be given in to Paul at the next club night.

Alexandra Palace Turning Competition

If you are interested in entering a piece for the show competition and want us to take it up to the show for you, please bring it in a stout, labelled box and leave it with Richard on February club night. You will need to get entry forms from Highbury Leisure (Woodworker magazine), follow their instructions about packaging and labelling and let them know that we will be bringing your piece.



They will send you a complimentary ticket for the show. I do hope that some of you will

try entering. One of the problems about entering competitions is the hassle to get the piece to the judging before the show and collecting it at the end. If we do that for you, you have no excuse!!!!

Practical Evening - March 10th

This year's club competition starts tonight! Remember - this is a woodturning club and we should all be trying to improve our turning by actually doing some!!!!



I really hope that more of you will bring items along to the stage for the first round of the competition. There are no restrictions on what you can make - but you can only enter 1 item each round of the competition and it should have been made in the past 6 months.

If you have competed at Open Level in our main Open Day competition or have won 1st, 2nd or 3rd at Intermediate level your piece has to be entered in the **OPEN** category. Otherwise it should be entered in the **STANDARD** category.

The judge will be available afterwards to talk you through a critique of your piece and let you know how your score might be improved should you wish to talk to him about it.



We will also be running a surgery at the practical evening where you can bring as many pieces as you wish and look at them

with a judge against the judging criteria so that you can see what you need to do to improve the standard of your turning.

Please bring some turning along!

Judging criteria

Technical Challenge - Degree of difficulty, originality.
Execution - Craftsmanship, Tooling, Crispness of Detail
Design - Form and proportions
Finish - Choice and quality of finish
Timber choice - Suitability and exploitation.
General appeal - Do I Like it?

I have included in this issue my review of last year for those of you who did not come to the AGM.

Happy New Year and Happy turning!

Jennie

STOP PRESS

You may have heard that Highbury Leisure have been having financial difficulties and that the Alexandra Palace show might have to be cancelled. Nick Hunton, editor of 'Woodworker' has been in touch and has confirmed that the new group 'Encanta Media' that have taken over the hobby publications from Highbury last weekend will be supporting the show and the ticket hot line is now open (see magazine for details). Nick welcomes all items for the competition and has set aside a large stand for SAW.

Jennie

STILES & BATES

A visit has been arranged to Stiles and Bates for Saturday 11th March. Space is limited to 20 SAW members. The special program starts at 9.30 and ends at 4.30. It will follow timber from being felled, cut up, seasoned and turned into blanks for wood turners. Unlimited tea and coffee will be

available, but because the Pub is many miles away it is suggested that everyone takes a packed lunch. Initial enquiries indicate that the hire of a small coach could be expensive so it may be a case of car sharing with passengers making a contribution to the driver towards the cost of petrol etc. If interested give your names to Richard.

Newsletter Distribution

At the AGM the cost of posting the newsletter to all members was raised. The Committee have been discussing solutions, such as sending copies by E mail. This is a possibility for those who use Broadband. We may be contacting you to establish if you have broadband and would like to receive your newsletter this way.