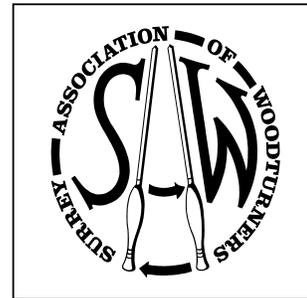


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter January 2007

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Donald Bell	Joy Bell
Bob Jenkins	Ian Lawson
George Nichols	Chris Hinsley
Steve Lait	

Paid up Membership – 90

Items for the Diary

Friday 9 th February	Julie Heryet
9 th , 10 th , 11 th February	Alexandra Pal.
Friday 9 th March	Practical
Friday 13 th April	Club Turner

Did you know that ?

The Patron Saint of Wood turners is Saint Catharine.

December Meeting – Christmas Special

When I arrived there was a lot of activity erecting and positioning tables under Paul's direction. Order soon came to this chaos as the demonstrator set themselves up.

Ray Taylor was using the Poolewood to make a bowl and had a large audience all evening. All the other demonstrators were using small Axminster or Carbatec lathes. Paul was making mince pies in oak which looked very authentic especially when in a foil container. Next working clockwise around the room was Ben making a hollow form. In the corner was our "on call" doctor,

Brian Wooldridge, this month dispensing advice to his stream of patients.

John Sherwood was making miniature bird boxes and angels. Jennie was making small thin walled bowls which she would later decorate with her pierced patterns. Further along Mike Morley was using Colin's small lathe to make spinning tops. In the corner was Geoff with the sales table, next to whom was Brian Rogers making toadstools.



The last demonstrator was Mick Pither making eggs from various timbers



Tea and Coffee were dispensed by Sylvia with help from Philippa. Mince pies were on offer for a donation to our chosen charity, The Beacon Centre. The charity theme was continued in the centre of the hall where Richard as well as running his table was looking after the pile of wood on offer for a small donation.



Roger the Executor of Vic Burge's estate had given me a bag of wood turning accessories to dispose of. These were offered to the members for more donations. Roger had also given me three boxes of Vic's smaller turned items which were added to those donated by members for sale by the Beacon Centre.

I don't know yet how much was raised but I saw lots of notes being put in the collecting box.

TOP TIP

If you want a small pot to keep your sanding sealer in why not use an old emulsion sample pot. This has a small brush fixed in the lid.

January Meeting - AGM

Jennie opened the meeting and we dealt with last year's minutes and matters arising.

She then gave her report listing all the activities we had witnessed in the hall and demonstrated at outside events had demonstrated at outside events. She was able to report that the Christmas collection for the Beacon Centre had raised £148.48. She thanked those members retiring from

the Committee for all their hard work, Basil as Treasurer, Margaret & Phil for the raffle and outings and Mel for his work organising the Open Day at Oak Farm School and sorting out some of the electrical equipment.

Basil gave his apologies but had to attend another event with his wife, so I read his report. He was pleased that the accounts showed a healthy profit of £2,013. compared to last years loss of £870.

Reasons for this were the successful Open Day, a reduction in the cost of the newsletter as a result of the change in postage and cheaper demonstrations.

We then discussed the rate of subscription for the coming year. By a narrow majority it was decided that the fee should be raised to £22.00 and not £21.00 as originally proposed.

The election of the Committee was more a question of confirming the volunteers in their new posts. Colin Spain as Chairman, Richard Davies as Secretary, myself, Peter as Treasurer and Jennie Starbuck to automatically become Vice President. Paul would no longer be Vice President but would continue as a Committee member as would Jennie, Ray, and Roy. Four new members were elected, Pete Evans, Neil Lofthouse John Sherwood and Nick Smith. Bill Thackeray kindly volunteered to take over the job of Postman from me, sending out the newsletters.

After tea we were entertained by a demonstration from Colin with commentary from Paul. The committee had discussed ways to encourage members who were happy to demonstrate at events such as Rural Life, to work in front of a larger audience. This evening was to be an experiment limiting the ordeal to only an hour or so.

Colin had given Paul his CV to give him something to talk about. Colin will be 60 next month, is house husband to his wife Gill, two sons in their twenties and a large dog, Bracken. He started turning when as a model boat builder, he needed some fittings for the four foot long MTB he was building.



When completed this weighed 2 stone! He now works in a purpose built chalet style shed known as "The Old Manky Workshop". Besides the Carbatec bought on E Bay that he was using this evening he has a Record CL3 which has been upgraded to a CL4. His website is Spinwood.com. He enjoys making hollow forms.

The Carbatec was mounted on his modified Stanley Workbench. A piece of Cherry was mounted between centres The intention was to make a beehive shaped box with a brass hinged lid. He had one already made to show us together with a plain hinged box made of alternative ivory. When the cylinder was smooth the sizes of the top and bottom were marked and spigots cut at each end after cutting off the waste wood. A saw was also used to separate top and bottom. Using a parting tool would have created a larger gap and caused the grain not to match.

A lip was cut for the brass hinge before he tried to drill out the inside with a forstner bit. However the motor was not strong enough. So Colin resorted to using a small twist drill bit to drill to the correct depth before opening out using a long handled hollowing tool. The hollowing was finished with a scraper after the wall thickness had been reduced to the width of the hinge. A coat of sanding sealer would have hardened the wood and reduced the chance of tear out in the next process The grooves to decorate the outside were made using a fluted parting tool.

To make the lid, this was mounted in the jaws using the spigot. A lip was cut for the hinge and the inside shaped. The piece was reversed in the chuck and held on the

lip. Time then caught up with us and Colin explained that the dome shape would be turned and the grooved decoration applied. An entertaining demonstration.

AGM Report of the Chair for 2006 - and a big 'thank you' to everyone who helped make the year such a success.

I am a little bit sad that this is the last time I will be doing a round up of the year for the AGM - but I keep telling myself I will have more time for turning - but I don't believe that is actually what happens. I'm sure the busier you are, the more you actually get done - and if you look at the SAW calendar for 2006 you can see that we all did an awful lot!

We had 9 committee meetings, mostly held in member's homes, thus saving the cost of hiring a space at Mytchett. My thanks go to those committee members who shared their homes, their tea and coffee, sausage rolls and other savoury snacks, and- of course - the cakes!

Three practical evenings were arranged by Colin, culminating in the Christmas 'do' - where there was so much happening that there nearly wasn't enough space for members to walk around!

Roy has been running the Club Competition on these evenings and it has been very pleasing to see more people entering. Another useful development has been the addition of the 'surgery' where members can take one of their pieces for an individual critique by one of our more experience members.

My thanks go to Colin and Roy for all their hard work on practical evenings and to all of our members who demonstrated or organised tables at our practical evenings.

We had five professional turners and one illustrated talk this year. Because of an injury, Tom Pockley was not able to do his demo and we were very grateful to Colin Simpson for standing in at the last minute. Nowadays we are asked to send the Register of Professional turners a critique of the performance of their members when they demo. The committee have been doing this on your behalf but it may well be something we could pass on to a small group of members - so if you are interested, come and volunteer! We also had a great all-day seminar with Les Thorne.

Two members demonstrated for us this year, Philip Wolsoncroft in April and Alan Hazel in October. I am very grateful to them for doing these demos. It is a considerable effort to prepare for an evening - and quite daunting - and of course, members do not even get paid for their time! It has been getting more difficult to persuade new people to have a go. About 40 members have done some demonstrating at practical evenings or at events - but only a few are prepared to stand up in front of 100+ members. This year we will be trying something new to us, but something that happens in some other clubs - in that the two members' evenings will be shared by 3 or 4 turners, all demonstrating one or two techniques they are comfortable with rather than one member trying to keep going for 2 hours! We will have a compere to link it all together and to take some of the pressure off the turners. We are hoping that about 8 members who have not yet tried a full demo will have a go and we will be contacting those of you who have done practical evenings and events and doing some arm twisting.

We managed, at last, to put together the handbook and get a copy out to every member. The handbook will be reviewed every year and amendments will be printed in

the newsletter so that members can update their copies. It may also be possible to keep the updated handbook on the website as a PDF file.

The design of the website changed this year as a result of several discussions at committee meetings attended by Ross Nesbitt, our webmaster. Our thanks go to Ross for his time, effort and expertise. Unfortunately, the work he has to do for his course leaves him little time to monitor the site and respond quickly to changes, so Chris will carry on with it (now he has retired) - but if any member has a burning wish to run the website for us, please come and volunteer.

Paul ran 2 hands-on-days again this year and 2 more are planned again for 2007. These are lovely days, when it is possible to share expertise and eliminate some bad practice. These days are not supposed to take the place of professional courses, but can be a useful way of 'refreshing' and developing skills you have already tried. Many of the more experienced turners are only too happy to share their experience - if you feel that you need help, contact the committee and we will try to team you up with someone in your area who could give you advice - either on the phone, or by popping round to your workshop. Thanks go to Paul and his team of experienced turners for giving up their time for hands-o-days.

Margaret organised another outing to Yandles again this autumn. The coach was full, which was an improvement on the past couple of years. I'm sure that everyone who went will want to thank Margaret for her efforts on their behalf. If there is a member out there who would like to take on a job without being on the committee, outings organiser is going begging - please let me know if you might be interested.

Last year, Margaret also organised the helpers rota for setting up and putting away the equipment on club nights. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered (or had their arms twisted) and did this for us. Ideally, we need a fit team of at least 5 to set up and put away the lathe as well as people to clean up. The lathe is a heavy beast, and although we have tried to design a system that reduces the chance of back injury, it still needs fit people. Most months, the rota worked well, but at the end of the December practical evening we were struggling to put the lathe away.

There will be a new rota next year. Please volunteer if you can - the more people we have, the less times you will be asked to help. A big thankyou from the committee to Margaret and her team of helpers.

The raffle had a bit of a dip last year, and for a time it looked as though it might have to stop and the subs go up accordingly. Margaret and Phil have put a huge amount of time and effort into running the raffle over the years. They will be supporting the new team of Ian Williams and Harry Snelling but really do deserve some time off for good behaviour and I know that everyone will want to thank them both for their efforts on our behalf.

Another major change that happened last year was the retirement of our tea team. After 15 years of making tea and coffees for us all, Eric Morgan finally handed over the urn and turned in his tea spoons. We are very grateful to Sylvia Nesbitt for taking over for us. I feel she should get a 'hero - first class' award, for becoming a member and doing this job when she is not a turner (yet) but I hope that she will just accept our thanks for a job well done and much appreciated.

The club shop continues to provide members with the abrasives and finishes that we need

from time to time. This service is provided by Geoff Hughes (ably assisted by Frank Findlater). I would like to remind members that Geoff does this for us, buying stock for the club and selling it at a big discount and that it is totally separate from his shop. I don't think I know many shopkeepers that would go out of their way to undercut their own businesses!

I know that a number of members are regular visitors to Geoff's shop at Vermulens Garden Centre near Heathrow, But I hope that those of you who have not found it yet, will read the advert on the back of the newsletter and take a trip over to see what he has on offer.

Thank you, Geoff and Frank for providing this service for the club.

Finally, a word about the special events that we have taken part in throughout the year. In February, Paul organised a SAW team at the Alexandra Palace International Woodturning Exhibition. We had an exceptionally good time and look forward to doing it again in 4 weeks, this time with our friends from Cheam Woodturning.

In April and September Paul's team moved to the Tilford Rural Life Centre to provide an opportunity for us to really bring woodturning to the general public at the Woodcrafts weekend and the Steam weekend. Both of these weekends are in the diary again this year but on slightly different dates.

In May, we were invited to take part at West's Wood Show, which I organised. The two days were very enjoyable and everyone taking part had a good time. This event is also happening this year, but we have a slight problem in that the second day of West's is the first day of Rural Life - but I'm sure we will manage!

Finally, we had an extremely successful Open Day at the end of October, when we invited other clubs to take part and tripled the number of people coming to the event.

Obviously my thanks go to everyone who took part as stewards, demonstrators or exhibitors for all these events. Thanks to the organisers, people who helped pack the vans, people who put up gazebos and tea makers - most of all, thanks to all the members who came along and supported the event so perhaps we all need to give ourselves a pat on the back!

We can also be justifiably proud of our contribution to charity this Christmas. The collecting tins for the Beacon Centre contained £143.48 and Roy was able to take boxes of turned items for them to sell. A club is about taking part - and I hope that you can see from this report, just how many members do take part actively in running the club. This is just as it should be - and I hand over the running of SAW today knowing that it is strong and healthy - and well prepared for anything the future might send.
Jennie Starbuck

Colin's Columns

Well here we are my very first item as Chairman of SAW, and keeping on with the general theme instead of Jennie's Pages its Colin's Columns.

Firstly I must thank Jennie for handing over the Chairmanship of SAW with the club in a strong and healthy position, Jennie you will be a hard act to follow.

I aim to maintain, and hopefully improve the clubs standing in the field of woodturning, we have, I know a strong and dedicated team in the newly elected committee, some long standing members with a wealth of knowledge, and some new but dedicated members, and over the coming months whilst I get to grips with being Chair we will be organising the year ahead and indeed beyond.

Subscriptions

The decision at the AGM to set the subscription at £22 was good, I had voted earlier to support a raise to £21 but the extra £1 makes a lot of sense. The rising cost of hall hire, possibly insurance and inevitably the professional demonstrator costs, it all adds up, also there are a few pieces of equipment that will need updating in the near future. I feel this was a wise move in the current climate.

So please do not forget if you have not already done so, to give Peter Stent your subscription, either at the club night or post it to him, not forgetting to give him your name and also membership number this makes his life easier.

Alexandra

Palace

Woodworking show

We have an interesting and varied program booked throughout the year, starting with Julie Heryet on 9th February. This is the weekend of the Alexandra Palace Woodworking show 9th, 10th and 11th February so Friday night for some of us is going to be manic getting from north London to the Mychett Centre. If anything happens that when you get to Mychett and there is no one there please at least make a start at getting the chairs out, we all know what Friday night traffic is like. If you get this in time please remember to contact Paul Nesbitt if you can offer your assistance at the show. It is also a very good venue to have your work displayed so that likeminded people can see what you are capable of. Our clubs reputation

gets us the invite each year let us maintain that reputation.

Hands on Day

This is always a good event and very good value for money. If you wish to learn how to use a particular tool or a technique this is the place to go.

It is my understanding that there are still a couple of spaces left for the forthcoming one so Contact Richard if you wish to book your place.

If you are disappointed that you have not been able to get on this one then there is another on the 18th November.

WL West and Rural Life Centre

It is a shame that WL West and The Rural Life centre clash on the Saturday but it should be no major problem. Paul is organising The Rural Life centre and Jennie and I will organise WL West's, we will then be able to support The Rural Life centre on the Sunday and Monday. Please do not forget we will need items for display and people to demonstrate and steward therefore please put your names down, forms will be available at the club nights.

Stiles and Bates

As I mentioned at the AGM, I am considering a coach trip to Stiles and Bates Spring Show preferably 28th April so have a think about it and I shall be asking for a show of hands on the February club night, I prefer the Saturday purely because I do not relish getting caught up in Friday night traffic on the M25. If there is enough interest then tickets will be available in

March/April from club table. In Stiles and Bates own words" *This year we will have more trade stands and more demos!*

We will cut more planks and have more planks on display.

We the same excellent caterer as last year (see below) doing a range of tasty food and will be laying on our usual free tea and coffee with plenty of seating so you can rest and yarn a while The same excellent weather we had for the last two years is on order. . ."

Practical Evening 9th March

This is when the clubs 2007 competition starts, so get turning let us see all those wondrous pieces. Seriously though we are a woodturning club and I would hope there is some of that competitive spirit out there. Even a fairly plain piece can score points if the finish is good and is aesthetically pleasing. Last year I was in panic mode I had in my mind what I wanted but it just was not to be, either the Sycamore was a really dirty grey or I mucked it up. One day to go I picked up a bit of spalted beech and turned a simple bowl in a discus shape with a small hollowed area, I finished it on the morning of the club night and took a 9.5, just goes to show. HAVE A GO!

Finally

I do believe in sharing our expertise, thoughts and ideas and I am looking at ways to improve on this, maybe a closed user group on the internet, we will see. Do not forget I live in Yateley if you wish to talk woodturning over a coffee give me a call, number at rear of newsletter.

Colin your Chairman