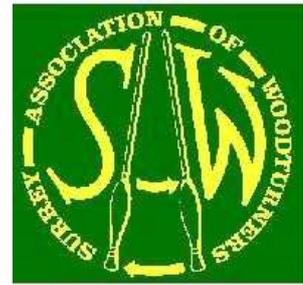


Surrey Association of Woodturners



Newsletter January 2008

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

New Members

Jim Gaines Ian Chaplin

Paid up Membership 171

Items for the Diary

Friday 8th February Tom Pockley
8,9,10th February Alexander Palace
Sunday 24th February Hands on Day
Friday 14th March Practical Evening
Saturday 15th March Princes Mead Centre
Friday 11th April C/T – Paul Nesbitt
2nd & 3rd May West's Wood Show
Friday 9th May John Johnson
Sunday 18th May Seminar
24th & 25th May Rural Life Centre
Friday 13th June Jason Breach

LOTTERY FUNDING

By now most of you will know that we were awarded the grant of £ 6329.00 that we asked for. If you were at the AGM you will have seen the Wivamac lathe that we have

bought with some of the money. The rest will be spent on audio and video equipment. The lottery fund have requested that we display their logo on correspondence hence the change to the heading of this newsletter.

Hands on day - 18th November

An E-mail sent to Paul which says it all.

Its just a note to say how much I appreciated the hands on day that you organised and all the help I got from Brian, Jim and yourself.

I am now fired up to clear out my garage and build a workshop within. Then I can assemble the lathe, tools, dust extractor etc etc which are all dying to be used!!

This is scheduled to be finished in Feb. Meanwhile I have got a lot to learn and I am just keen to get started - your day has given me the first step.

Thanks again
Regards
Paul Sternberg

December Evening

This was our usual festive evening with lots of club demonstrators making yuletide decorations. On the stage Roy was supervising the competition judged by

Jennie. In front of the stage Brian Wooldridge was using a Delta lathe to make Bonnie Clyne style spinning tops with decoration applied by felt tip.

In the corner the on call wood doctor was Mike Morley, who did not have many patients. I think it was only two.

John Sherwood was using an Axminster 330 to make tree decorations out of tulipwood with felt tip decoration.



Next was Jim Thomas, again using an Axminster lathe to make whistles out of Beech. Some were quite tuneful.



George Nichol was using a Carbatec to make a nesting bowl out of Iroko.

In the corner Phil Wolsoncroft was manning the shop and in the new year hopes to increase to range to include Zap superglues etc. He hopes to have Phil Jackson as his assistant.

Ollie Hardy accompanied by June was using his Carbatec to produce small spinning tops in pine.

Richard Davies was using an Axminster to makes baby's rattles and if time allowed some whistles.



In the kitchen Sylvia and Paul were serving teas and coffees plus mince pies with "assistance" from Alfie

The competition in the centre of the hall had been devised by Jennie and was 12 anagram of well known turners that you had to solve then match up with their photograph and also a picture of a piece of their work. Quite difficult for most of us.

Brian was looking after Neil's table as he is still away in Australia.

The raffle table had a touch of the Wild West about it.



Ian and Harry did a very good trade. Because Chris Wallace was using the Poolewood, he was tuning big spinning tops made with a wipcord attachment to make them work. All the items made as well as others donated were to go to the Friends of the Beacon Centre.

Letters

There has been some response to the letter by Confused in the last issue. This is from Charlie Cunningham.

Dear Peter,

It was with interest that I read the letter from confused in the recent newsletter as I had a similar query a few years ago. At one of the Xmas meetings the best piece from the first prizes from the year was being chosen by members and I was confused enough to query the choice with a member of the Committee.

The reason being that the top prize was turned on an ornamental lathe which to my mind was against the ethos of the club. How can a piece turned on a machine be considered alongside hand turned entries? The way to rectify this anomaly is relatively easy, create a separate category but its not so easy with decorative work as when or at what degree of decoration do you separate the item, there are many variations from colouring to piercing and decorating of stems of goblets for example with barley twists.

Confused is correct in express his concerns and to a certain extent I agree with him but cannot see any easy answers except maybe raise our own standards and if you can't beat them join them.

regards



This is from Basil Gridley.

Dear Peter,

Mr. Anon-y-mous appears to possess a very narrow view of woodturning. Variety is the

spice of life and creates and holds one's interest. There is a lovely book 'Turning Wood into Art'; and why not, its time to recognise it can be art. Where better to exhibit and compete than in a woodturning club or at a show.

I see no reason to exclude any of the techniques and methods being tried and developed, (I am aware that Committee have outlawed 'ornamental' turning from our competitions and that is catered for elsewhere). Let us consider some of the techniques to which our friend finds exception.

Colouring- I have seen Stuart King use a mix of vinegar and iron filings to 'colour' a piece; Phil Irons can turn an uninteresting piece of white wood into a beautiful hollow form aided by using several coatings of coloured wood stains. There are many other examples but where is the problem. Its open to everyone there is no secret. Segmental work using small pieces of wood suitably glued together and turned, a lot of fine work off the lathe but it can be beautiful.

Our Mike Morley's laminated wood, again fantastic and beautiful, and I may add if it is good enough for the Worshipful Company of Woodturners then who are we to argue.

Hand cutting a twist, would our friend consider this carving and unworthy to form part of an entry to a woodturning competition. Look at Stuart Moritimer's bowls and forms incorporating twists.

Texturing and decoration can take many forms, we need inspiration and imagination to use what is available and turn a nice object into something special and desirable.

For most of us turning is a hobby and enjoyment must be the end result, turn that which you wish and enjoy but we should open our minds to the unending possibilities. Novices compete in their own section and surely need to see something to which they can aspire. We have often seen apparently simple turned items win competitions, however, examine the form, the line, and the finish. Remember Dave Reeks advice good form, finish, finish and finish.

Life would be dull without variety and if the Club's constitution were to outlaw all the wonderful possibilities in enhancement of turning then I would be turning my back.



TOP TIP (From the last hands on day)

With a new pair of callipers always grind off the points to a rounded tip, otherwise if used with the lathe revolving you will suffer a dig in.

January AGM Evening

Nearly 90 members met to hear the Chairman's report from Colin. This is printed later on in this newsletter. I gave the Treasurers report which shows a healthy state of affairs, especially as we have received the Lottery Grant. Part of the money has already been spent on the Wivamac DB6000 vario-CB lathe which was on display. Audio and visual equipment will be bought in the coming months.

Changes to the Committee. Due to family commitments Colin has stepped down and Paul has taken over as Chairman. Colin becomes Vice Chairman and Jennie an ordinary member of the Committee. Because of the death of Ray and Roy leaving the Committee, we have two new members, Robert Grant, who not only wins prizes in competitions but has far more knowledge of audio equipment than I have. He is taking one of our faulty speakers to be repaired. Don Mitchell is the other new Committee member. I am pleased to learn that Roy Edwards will continue to look after the competitions and co-ordinate the events at Princes Mead. The full list of Committee members is on the back page. Because of the financial state it was decided that the membership fee for this year would remain at £22.00.

We then had a very enjoyable buffet which had been prepared by Sylvia, Jennie and Ray's wife Maureen.

Paul demonstrated the new lathe by turning an off centre garden candle stick.

RULE CHANGE

The Treasurer requested the following change to the rules to overcome confusion about when reduced membership fees are payable. " From the 1st August a new member may pay half the annual fee. From 1st October a new member may pay the full

fee to cover them for the remainder of the current year and the whole of the next year."

VIC BURGE Trophy

Vic's nephew Roger wanted the club to be able to remember Vic in some way. He has provided a shield which will be awarded to the unsung hero of the club each year.



This year the committee decided the shield should be awarded to Brian Rogers. Here Brian receives the trophy from Roger.

Paul's Paragraphs

Well here I am again as your Chairman for another term of office. It is an honour to be the first person in the club's history to be the chair for a second term. Colin has done a splendid job this last year and has, through a great deal of work managed to get the club the National Lottery Grant for which we will be benefiting from for some time, and it is partly this that has taken it's toll

on him and his family. I know this coming year will also be difficult for him, but I am pleased that he can still find enough time to continue helping the club by staying on the committee.

The A.G.M.

Another well attended A.G.M. thank you all for attending. I hope you all enjoyed the celebrations and buffet. My thanks go out to Jennie, my wife Sylvia and Maureen Taylor for putting on such a lovely spread. I know they put a lot of time, effort and hard work into it all.

Subscriptions

Don't forget that subs are due and remain the same as last year at £22.00.

Wivamac Lathe

What a privilege! The first person to use our new lathe. This is a fantastic addition to the club. I was asked to turn something big that would show off the capabilities of the

lathe, so I did. Only 30 minutes to turn so a bit restrictive but I hope you enjoyed it. There are so many good points to this lathe and I do not want to start writing a review. Let's just say that it was a delight to use and I look forward to using it again.

Woodturning Show at Ally Pally

8th, 9th and 10th February

Well we did not get much notice of this event and the date draws ever near and if we are to put on a good show we need to get our stewards and demonstrators organised, plus our exhibition pieces. If anyone can volunteer to help please contact me as soon as possible. The set up day is Thursday and the show days are Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There will be a mad rush by those of us at the show to get back for the evening's demonstrator Tom Pockley. (apologies in advance). Tom has been to the club twice before, February 2003 he did involuted turning

and in November 2005 he made a natural edge pod and a fob watch stand, so I am sure he will surprise us again.

Hands on Day 24th February

These events are proving to ever popular and we have now arranged for a third one this year. At this moment though we are only taking bookings for February. So get your name down early and you 'TUTORS' watch out I may be calling on you for your help.

Princes Mead Shopping Centre 15th March

This was something that Roy Edwards got us involved with last year and he did such a good job that we have been invited back for two dates this year. I have asked Roy to continue as the organiser for these events and he will be looking for helpers and demonstrator. The theme for this date just before Easter is eggs and egg cups. This is a great local event to show off

our club and the skills of woodturning.

March Club Night

This is a practical night and that means competition time. Last year I was involved more with the club competition and that was a great eye opener in many ways. One of the things that I was amazed at was the number of members who entered something on the first and second occasions, built up a reasonable score and then did nothing for the last one. As the lottery says 'you have to be in it to win it'. So come on a new years resolution from you all to try and enter the competitions. It is not about how good you think you are it's about taking part and learning from what you make and how to improve from it.

Paul Nesbitt

SAW - Report of the Chair for 2007 - and a big 'thank you' to everyone who helped make the year such a success.

As a club we had a busy year and I would like to thank the committee for all they have done, I am indebted to all those members of the committee who gave up their time and in many cases their home, tea, coffee and biscuits. Also Bracken my dog is indebted to those who fed him tidbits when at my house. Yet again all meetings were held in members houses thus saving money on hall hire.

My thanks also go to all those who helped at club events to steward, set up break down and generally help, without that running your club would be very difficult if not impossible.

There were 3 practical evenings which were well attended 2 of these were organised by myself and the March one by Jennie so I could have a go demonstrating, it is a light hearted evening and I think we enjoyed ourselves. We are still running the "Doctor on Call" critique service manned by our more experienced turners, for which I have had a lot of positive feedback, it is there for us all to use. I also managed to get some new turners involved as it is a great way to learn your Demonstration/Presentation skills in a friendly atmosphere, and of course show your skills as a turner. It is also the evening where we ran the three legs of the Turner of the Year competition. Yes I did say three, we have dropped the Open Day leg, more of that later.

At the Christmas Practical night all turners were asked to turn toys to a saleable finish so that they could be donated to charity and again there were some lovely things which were sent to the Beacon Centre at Guildford Hospital and thanks to all who donated pieces.

We have had 2 Hands on days run by Paul, both very well attended, February had an attendance of 15 pupils all learning a great deal. November was equally well attended by 14 members. Although not one to one, every one has the opportunity to get some hands on experience, and to learn some very useful skills and safety practices. A very good day's tuition for just £5.00. Next year we are planning for three hands on sessions by popular demand.

The May Seminar was David Springett who gave us a very interesting and entertaining day. Apart from showing us his jig for making spheres there was very little from previous demos such as his Chinese Balls.

We have had 5 professional turners this year, in May professional turner Paul Riddler had to pull out at the last minute due to family illness, and our own Phil Wolsencroft stood in and gave a demo. Then to be fair to members we changed the October club turner night and booked professional turner Guy Ravine.

For our club turner evenings this year we tried something a bit different in April we had 2 members having half the evening each. Mel Martin was up first showing us his miniture work followed by John Sherwood who demonstrated how to make an old fashioned style candle stick. This format went down very well and made an interesting change. In May Phil stepped in to the breach and demo'ed the finishing of his rough turned bowls. I had a go after the AGM with Paul giving the commentary I only had an hour but managed to show the principal of making a beehive box.

Shows attended were Alexandra Palace in February, organised by Paul in which we shared a stand with Cheam Woodturners, W L West's Wood show organised by Jennie, and the Rural Life Centre in May again organised by Paul, in actual fact in May they both clashed by overlapping on the Saturday but it did not cause a problem we had so many willing helpers and demonstrators we were able to give a good display at both events with some members doing both shows. In June we had been invited to the Limpsfield Grange Fete a school in Oxted where we helped raise money for the school. Peter Stent and I attended and had a great day out and what with the items donated for sale by club members which alone made £32.50 and with the percentage from our own sales it meant that we gave the school the sum of £61.75

We then had the Rural Life again in September these shows are always great events in our calendar.

Then something new to the club we were invited to the Princes Mead Shopping Centre to give a demonstration, an excellent venue where it gave us a chance to meet the public and show what the club is all about. We could even sell our wares. This was organised by Roy. My thanks go to all those who helped and demonstrated at these events.

To me the culmination of the year has to be the open day. It is that chance to show the world what you can do and invite a bit of friendly competition as well. It was a great success not a lot of profit but at least we stayed on the right side of in the black. This year we plumped for 3 professional turners, mostly because we wanted the competition judging to be slick, therefore getting the judging over with so that the public could see the displays sooner. We had also slimmed down the competition by dropping the leg of the SAW competition which goes towards Turner of the Year. My thanks go to Roy Edwards and Jennie Starbuck for an excellent job in running these competitions, and to all those that stewarded and demonstrated. Yes I know some things went wrong, mainly with parking, but lessons have been learnt and we will have to learn from what we now know.

During the year the club purchased a banner with the SAW logo on it to use at shows like the Ally Pally, and Rural Life Centre, it advertises the club, and you can find us a lot easier now.

We now have an Honours Board, where each year those members that have aspired to become Turner of the Year, won the Presidents Platter, or the Vice Presidents Platter

will be immortalized on the board. We have been given permission by the Mytchett Centre to display it by the stage for all to see. It can also be taken down to enable us to take it to shows. Thanks go to Roy for organizing this.

The club shop has provided members with the abrasives and finishes for longer than I can remember. This service had been provided by Geoff Hughes assisted by Frank Findlater until recently, but Geoff has now decided to call it a day, so our thanks go to Geoff and Frank for all they have done. Moves are afoot to ensure that there will still be a shop in the future.

The raffle Ian Williams and Harry Snelling have done a sterling job after taking over from Phil and Margaret. Even allowing for the costs of prizes they have slightly exceeded the figures for the previous year. So well done to them both not an easy task but very important to the club, thanks. Harry has decided to stand down from doing the raffle, Harry has other commitments that force his decision. So if there is anyone who would like to volunteer to help Ian, please go see him or Paul or myself, it is a very important job for the club.

Neils Table/Admin Table, this year we have done away with videos in favour of DVD's as they become more popular. The money raised selling the videos has gone towards new dvd's The club is gradually buying new stock, so if you know of any dvd's worth having let Neil know when he returns and it will be considered. I would like to thank Brian Rogers for standing in for Neil whilst he is on holiday, you are doing a grand job.

In May we launched a new service with Chris Starbucks help, enabling members to receive notification of the newsletter by email, and then with a password, downloading it off the website. This has saved us money and allowed members to get it in colour.

I was a bit sorry that we were not able to get enough members interested in the coach trip to Stiles and Bates, but with the number of members interested it would have been a very expensive trip at £21 pounds plus per head. The 32 seat coach cost £450 and I could only fill 21 seats.

During 2006 the committee decided to go for a lottery grant, so taking the bull by the horns I set up a sub-committee to pull it all together. So with initially myself, Jennie and Peter we looked at how we should proceed with the wording of the application. We also put together a questionnaire, that a good percentage of you filled in. This gave us the information we needed for the form, helping us to decide on what the club needed. Chris Starbuck also experimented with various setups of the video equipment; this gave us a grounding of what we wanted. We enlisted the help of an outside professional video company but after many weeks they could not better what we had already put together, they did not charge us thankfully for their services, I think they were embarrassed not coming up with anything better. I think that Chris should be proud of what he has suggested we buy. During this time David Bracken approached us and offered his

knowledge of lottery bids. His knowledge has made all the difference, he was able to guide us in our application and made many suggestions which I am convinced won us the grant. So special thanks to David for all his help and to Jennie and Chris. It has been a long haul but well worth it. All we have to do now is spend it.

At this point it is with some regret that I have to announce that I intend to resign as chairman. This decision has not been taken lightly, a lot of thought has gone into it. Personal circumstances within the family are dictating this to be the right move, things have happened that I could not predict when I accepted the post last year. I am finding it harder and harder to fit everything in, and 2008 is looking like it could get even worse.

We have achieved a lot over the past year and I wish to thank you all for what you have done in helping to achieve this. The lottery grant is a great boost to the club and I am proud to have been a part of that, the open day was a great success and lessons can and have been learned from it. In general though thank you to all those who supported me with verbal encouragement.

I feel that next year I will be more suited to assuming a supporting role as Vice President rather than a driving role. This should also give me more time to concentrate on my family commitments.

Colin Spain

A Woodturner's New Year Sudoku Puzzle

		K	H			S		
D			T			C	K	
E	A					H		
K	S	C		A				
				K		E	S	A
		E					D	O
	C	O			E			S
		H			S	K		

But with a difference

Instead of using the numbers 1 to 9, this puzzle uses nine different letters

As in normal Sudoku, each row must contain all the letters once only, each column must contain all the letters once only and each of the nine 3x3 grids must contain all the letters once only.

When you have finished, the grey middle row (which at present doesn't have any letters) will spell a word or phrase which is very familiar to woodturners

Happy solving!

If you want someone to cheer or hate for this it is Donald Bell. Many thanks. Answer in the March newsletter.