

Surrey Association of Woodturners



Newsletter January 2010

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

New Members

My sincere apologies to Doug Vesey. I spelt his name wrong.

Paid up Membership 67

Items for the Diary

- Friday 12th February Les Thorne
Sunday 21st February Hands on Day
Friday 12th March Practical Evening
11th 12th & 13th March Alexandra Palace
Saturday 20th March Princes Mead

ODIHAM EXTRAVAGANZA

At the last demonstration at Princes Mead a lady from the Odiham Parish Council asked if any one would be interested in having a stall at their Christmas Market.



Rodney and I agreed to go and if we had two adjacent stalls our wives would sell

cards and cross stitch. On the 2nd December we set up two gazebos in pouring rain in the high street which was closed off to traffic. There were a lot of French Market stalls. The rain continued nearly all evening. A power supply was provided by the lady who owned the jewellery shop. This gave us lights and power for our two lathes. Although we tried to fold and peg the join between the two gazebos the rain came in so much that the ladies could not display their wares.



In fact none of us recovered to cost of the pitches. Rodney and I have decided we will stick to indoor markets in future.

HANDS ON DAY



Paul commented on the day in his paragraphs in the last issue. 12 students and 5 tutors attended. I enjoyed myself even if we did produce a box open at the top and bottom! Where else can you get a days instruction for a tenner.

Christmas Evening

There is not as much detail in this report as usual as I was one of the demonstrators. I was using my underpowered Carbatec to make a Travelling Sewing Kit. I was hollowing out a piece of Box which would form the needle & pin case with the threads around the outside bobbin. Brass screw rings would hold the top on and also the outer case that would be of Spalted Beech. Next to me Colin was making pens on his lathe. Alan was using his little Carbatec to make bobbins. Phil was manning the shop with help from Bill and Pete. Neil & Co were in the centre. Tea and coffee was free with a mince pie, a collection box for the British Heart Foundation was there if one wanted to donate. The raffle did well, run by Ian and Harry. In front of the stage George was using the club lathe to make a toy soldier for the Christmas Tree and a bowl. While he was working Robert and Chris were experimenting with various forms of lighting.

They think the picture can be improved without too great an expenditure for the club. Good News. On stage the competition was again being judged by Jenny and Brian with Bernie doing the recording. As well as the donations for tea and coffee there was also an auction. The total raised was £308.01

Christmas Charity

"Those of you who attended our Christmas Special last year will recall that we were raising money for the British Heart Foundation.

This was kicked off unwittingly by John Clements who gave me some beach back in the summer. There was much to much

for me so I converted the lot into blanks and we had an instant sale for the pupils of the November Hands on Day. There were no prices just donations in the box. Ted Legg donated 2 tool boxes and sundry turning items and Phil Wolsoncroft and I donated timber blanks. Ollie Hardy donated a nicely finished Corrin pen. This lot was taken to the Christmas club night. The tools were auctioned by Paul aided and abetted by me whilst Albert George spent the evening selling the timber. Many of you also donated your tea money.

I am very proud of the club and of the members who spent so generously. You may remember that we did a quick count after the auction and said over the loud speaker that we hope to raise in excess of £200.00 in total. In the teeth of the worst recession that most of us can remember we actually raised the sum of £308.01.

Very well done and a big thank you to all who donated and spent so generously.

Richard Davies (secretary)".

Jim Goodman Pt 3 – that cut too deep

1st December saw me start my first day of retirement and it is now 4th Jan!! Where did that month go after planning to do so much?

I suppose getting ready for Christmas and having time to see more of the grandchildren took up a lot of the time. My ploy of leaving a woodturning Christmas list with the family paid off – I now have some gift vouchers to indulge myself

When I retired I had great plans to get in the workshop, head down and practice, practice, practice.

I realise now that I need to get up a stock of wood, as it soon dwindles away when you are

producing all those shavings but at least my grand daughter's rabbit is feeling the benefit!
I have had this old seat from a chair for a while and thought that I would have a go at making my first platter. After fixing it to the faceplate and quickly making contact between screw and gouge(!) I realised that I needed to use shorter screws!! That mistake remedied and the tool reground I soldiered on and felt I was making steady if slow progress until I made that "cut too deep"



I then realised just how thin my platter was and with the light shining through it, it reminded me of one of Jennie's decorative platters but without the skill and expertise!! So that put paid to my platter work until I have another piece of wood the right size. Having watched the DVD on spindle turning I quite liked the idea of turning a long stemmed goblet (with captive ring of course) The first attempt did not survive my heavy handed approach, the second one went quite well until I gripped it too tight as I was buffing up and the third one just broke in sympathy with the other two caused by that "cut too deep". With a bit of luck nobody will notice that I super-glued the top back on out of desperation!!



OK let's try something else I thought and as I had some small pieces of Silver Birch suitable, why not try a natural edged bowl? The patterns in the wood looked nice when polished up - but then the natural edge fell off!

Again the "cut too deep" also saw the bottom drop out. Hey ho

By now you can see a pattern emerging here can't you? Could it be that I am trying too many different things all at once or am I just too heavy handed? I put my name down for a mentor a few months ago and Jennie has told me who was available after Christmas - but has he been informed yet? So be afraid, very afraid it could be you and I hope you like a challenge!!

CHANGES OF E-mail address

Please note two committee members have changed their E-mail addresses. Peter Stent is now peter.stent@sky.com. Neil Lofthouse is cmn119@sky.com.

If you change your broadband provider do not forget to let Paul know. Otherwise you will not receive your newsletter.

A.G.M. evening

The system of E mails & telephone calls to advise members that the A.G.M. for the 8th January had been cancelled seemed to have worked In fact the Mytchett Centre was shut that day.

We were concerned that enough people would turn up for the revised date on the 22nd to make any decisions taken legal. Because there was a Scout Pantomime in the main hall we had to use the room behind the bar. There was just room to accommodate all who turned up. Attached is a copy of the Chairman's report, Treasurers report and the accounts. There was a query about the stock held by the shop. Phil had E mailed me with a list and I may have made an error in calculating the value of the abrasives. I will check with Phil and advise everyone in a future newsletter. There was one change in the committee. Phil Wolsencroft has stood down after 5 year of invaluable service, especially

booking our demonstrators. Many thanks Phil, you will be a hard act to follow. John Creasey volunteered and was voted on to the Committee. Then the question of the annual subscription was discussed. The loss of £2075 was mainly due to the equipment expenditure of £1,555. However we needed to recover the previous loss of £483. and allow for the increase in Hall hire fees about to be decided by the Centre management. An increase in the fee of £3.00 would produce £540.00. The increased fee of £25.00 was agreed with the proviso that the fee would increase each year by £1.00 per year.

Members who use E mail to receive their newsletters were asked to give their approval to urgent notices being sent by this system.

The club has been running for 20 years. The Committee wished to present the original members who are still with the club with a memento of the event. Jennie had turned some plaques which had the Saw logo on them plus a brass name plate. These were given to Bob French, Jim Thomas, Mike Morley & Jo Futcher.

After tea when lots of the members paid their subscriptions there was a talk about some of the tools we have for loan to club members. We had hoped to have a small lathe to demonstrate on but there was not room. Possibly this can be arranged at the next practical evening.

Robert Grant gave a detailed description of using the Rolly Monroe covered ring deep hollowing tool. The club has both the large and small versions. Robert finds the smaller version is sufficient for most of the projects he attempts.

Colin Spain then described the spiralling and texturing tool from Robert Sorby. A very difficult task when there was no spinning piece of wood to demonstrate on.

Chairman's Report 2010

The club has had yet another eventful year. The membership stands at 185 with 20 new members in 2009. We have continued to put the club out into the public eye and have through you the members had a very busy year at the

shows and venues that we use as a platform to promote woodturning and our club. These are Alexander Palace, The Rural Life Centre, Prince's Mead Shopping Centre, West's Wood Show and our own Open Day and a few other local shows.

Once again we have had a good mix of evenings here at The Mytchet Centre, our three Practical Evenings, two club turners, Brian Wooldridge and John Sherwood, then 5 top class demonstrators, Simon Hope, Mark Hancock, Phil Irons, Dave Reeks, Colin Simpson and not to forget the Robert Sorby road show.

We have had three hands on days that were fully subscribed. These continue to be successful and enjoyable for both the students and the tutors. With everyone learning something new.

Our Sunday seminar was with Mark Baker.

Those that did not attend I can confirm that you missed a really great day. As always something for every one at all levels.

The club table has played a big part in our evenings as an information point and of course the library of DVD's and books, which has continued to grow.

The club tool table had some more additions this year and I would like to see this TRY BEFORE YOU BUY used more by you the members and also for your ideas of what we can add to the table.

The club News Letter continues to be well published and I am sure enjoyed by all. We now have 103 members receiving their news letter via the internet.

The club has continued to improve our video and sound equipment through the dedicated team that operate it all. We have seen many changes this year to the quality of the picture presented to you and it is only by trying different ways and systems that we can find the correct mix to give the best picture to you the members.

The Club Competition has been changed this year to improve the judging. We have seen that the membership have great turning skills and this includes our newer members. We have also seen that people want to talk to the judges a lot more and ask about their work.

The Open Day followed the pattern of the previous years and was another great success.

So much so, that the trade stands have already asked to come back next year.

This next part I have just taken what I said last year, this is because there is no other way to say it.

It is now time for me to extend my thanks to people for their help and assistance throughout this year. There are too many names to mention individually so I will do it by groups and hopefully that way I will not miss out anyone. Firstly the committee, who have been a great asset to me in this past year and for the running and business matters of this club. There would be no club without them.

Secondly, our evenings would not be the same without them, our refreshment ladies.

Thirdly, all of the members who have demonstrated at the three club practical nights, the judges / helpers for the competition.

Fourthly, to the sound and video team for there ever ending search for perfection.

Fifthly, all of the members who have been a tutor at the three hands on days.

Finally to all of the members that have taken part and assisted with all of our events this year, Alexander Palace, The Rural Life Centre, Prince's Mead Shopping Centre, West's Wood Show, Open Day and a few other local shows, and of course I would like to thank those members who have stayed at the end of our evenings and helped with the clearing up.

Lastly my thanks go to you all for making this club what it is today.

SAW Treasurers Report for year ended 31st December 2009.

Mr. President, fellow members, good evening. The layout of this years accounts is similar to previous years with the income and expenditure on the front and details of the stocks held on the back.

My thanks to John Marns for auditing the accounts and finding my errors which were three in total. You may be dismayed to see that we have made a loss of £2075.44. This was mainly due to more equipment expenditure than expected. This I have listed under equipment in the bottom right hand corner.

If we examine the expenditure in detail you will see that hire of the halls has not increased, however I understand that fees will increase this year.

Newsletter printing varies according to how many pages are produced. Postal rates have increased.

Phil has expanded the shop and now has to have help from Phil Jackson, Bill Thackery and Pete Evans. You will see overleaf that the current stock is £1,393.50. Thanks to them for their work.

The figures relating to the library are on the back. It is easier if Neil keeps the money , he receives and uses it to buy new DVD's as required, rather than giving me money one month and asking for it back the next. Thank you Neil for your efforts.

If we are to encourage members to improve we need competitions and have to pay for prizes.

The mileage costs of attending exhibitions looks a lot, but we do obtain many new members from such events.

I have to hang my head in shame for incurring bank charges. I could not get a connection to make an internet transfer between accounts and because I had altered my records forgot to make the transfer. If the account goes overdrawn you pay £8.00 a day.

We have to pay for our website but that fee is for 3 years. Many thanks to Chris for managing it for us.

On the income side, thanks to Ian Williams and his assistants for the raffle income.

You will see we have a good stock of future prizes.

Thanks to our tea ladies, Sylvia & Brenda for their contribution to our funds.

Open Day almost broke even but again we did pay two gentlemen to regulate the parking which worked very well.

Paul's Paragraphs



A happy new year to you all. I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas.

December club night

Another enjoyable evening with club members turning around the hall. A fine display on the stage of members work entered into the competition and of course the Turner of the Year table in the centre of the hall. The club admin table seemed to be kept busy. We also had an auction and with some collection pots around the hall we raised over £300 for the Heart Foundation

AGM

For the first time in the clubs history we had to cancel a meeting due the bad weather. Conditions were so bad that even the Mytchett centre has not opened all of that week. With some great help from committee members we were able to get hold of almost every one to inform them it was cancelled. Then we repeated the process to organise another date for the AGM. This time it went ahead in the slightly small back hall at the Mytchett Centre. We had over 60 members present, which I think was a pretty good turn out after such short notice. After the AGM a presentation was made to some of the eight members who are still members after twenty years membership. This was followed by a somewhat makeshift modification to the planned entertainment. We could not have a lathe in the hall so instead of demonstrating the club tools we had a talk through of how they are used. Thanks to all for attending.

February Club Night

This will be an evening with Les Thorne. Les has always given us an enjoyable evening and I certainly am looking forward to it.

Hands on Day

This will be our first one in 2010 and already there are names booked on the forms. This is always an enjoyable day. If you wish to attend you had better get your name down as spaces are limited. List on Neil's table.

March Club Night

This is our practical night and we should see our club turners demonstrating how to use the tools that we have for hire. This way you get to see them being used and can ask questions before you hire. It is also the first of our three club competitions, so get turning for your entries.

Alexandra Palace

This is one month later this year. SAW has a stand and we are looking for members to enter their names for stewarding and demonstrating. Most of those at the show on Friday will then have to get back to Mytchet for the club practical evening. List on Neil's table.

Princes Mead Shopping Centre

This will be the first of our two visits to the shopping centre. This has always been a popular event for the club and is our most local show. Again we are looking for volunteers for the usual help, list is on Niel's table.

Rural Life Centre

This year the event is for the three days over the bank holiday. My wife and I will be staying at the centre as usual. This is a very enjoyable weekend for all that attend. Again we are looking for volunteers for the usual help, list is on Niel's table.

West's Wood Show

Yet another event that we enjoy ourselves at. A chance to see other clubs, tools, timber and other crafts with wood. Again we are looking for volunteers for the usual help, list is on Niel's table.

Tools

The tools seem to be going out regularly on loan. Don't be afraid to hire these out for a try or a particular job you want to do. It is a very reasonable price for a month's hire on a try before you buy basis. Even though we will be demonstrating these tools at the March practical night, they are still for hire and

you can take them home after the evening finishes. We are always looking for possible suggestions from you the members for additions to this collection.

Update from the Audio & Video Team

Some of you may have noticed we have been experiencing a number of technical hitches with the audio and video at recent club nights. We wanted to explain the reasons for the problems and what we will be doing over the coming evenings to improve things.

As you will have seen we have a new projector screen permanently installed in the Mytchett Centre hall. The club purchased this screen because the previous projector screen was getting old and was difficult to set up and dismantle each club night. The new projector screen is a great improvement as it is operated by remote control.

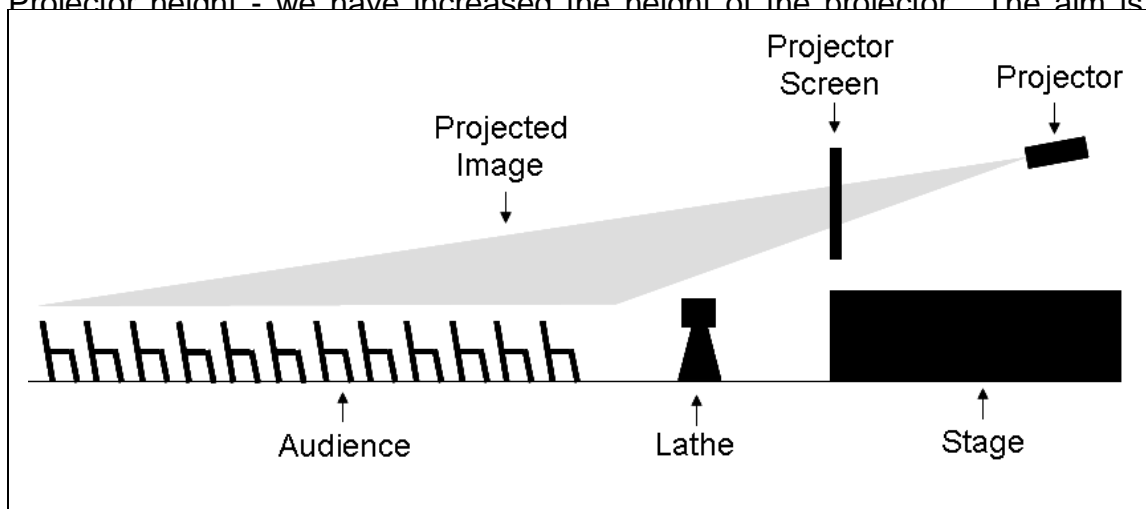
The new screen does however seem to be showing a darker image, especially for those sat nearer the back of the hall.

We have been working to improve the brightness of the image over recent evenings and rather than try several changes at once we have been systematically adjusting one thing at a time in an effort to improve the image.

We can be sure the issue is based around the projection of the image onto the screen rather than the other equipment as none of these other elements have changed from when we used the original projector screen and the image was acceptable.

What we have done so far...

Projector height - we have increased the height of the projector. The aim is to ensure as



New Bulb - the next step was to replace the bulb in the projector as the previous one had been in use for some time and could be nearing the end of its life and not emitting as much brightness as when new.

What we plan to do next...

Lathe Lighting - as part of the video and audio equipment purchased with the lottery grant we have some diffused lights. At the next club night (Christmas) we will trial these lights over one of the lathes to determine if the general lighting conditions are improved and what, if any, shadows or reflections occur that would distract a turner or hinder the camera's focus. If the trial is successful then for the next demonstrator evening we will use the lights to see the overall effect on the brightness of the projected image.

New Projector - if the lathe lighting does not achieve satisfactory results then the most practical thing to do next is to try a newer projector. Our current projector when new was a good model but technology moves on and modern projectors offer more - a larger picture and due to the capability to use brighter bulbs an overall brighter image. We hope to be able to borrow a new projector and trial it prior to any purchase.

Background Lighting – finally, if all the above do not produce the results we all desire then the plan is to reduce the amount of background light by turning off the hall lights and only have lighting on the lathe and demonstrator. This is not ideal as it will put the audience in darkness and will limit the demonstrator's ability to interact with the audience. We think the audience will be less inclined to ask questions and interact.

Feedback

As always we appreciate all feedback the members provide, the whole purpose of using the Video and Audio equipment is to enable everyone to get the most out of the demonstrators who visit the club, so please let us know your comments.