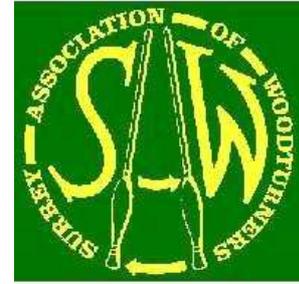


Surrey Association of Woodturners



Newsletter January 2012

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

New Members

Heike Allen

Paid up Membership 93

There are Three wood shows not taking place this year:-
Alexandra Palace – Warco & W L West.

Items for the Diary

Friday 10 th February	Paul Hannaby
Sunday 19 th Feb.	Hands on Day?
Friday 9 th March	Dennis Keeling
Fri.9 th /10 th March	South East Show

DECEMBER EVENING

This was our usual Christmas Practical evening organised by Colin. The theme was Christmas Decorations. On stage was to competition being judged by Paul.



To the left of the stage Rodney was using the Club's Wivamac to make large snowmen.

In the front of the stage Dennis Finlay was using his Axminster lathe to make a variety of small decorations to go on the Christmas tree.



First down the side was Bill Riley using his Perform lathe to make small snowmen. He had to take a lot of stick from two of his fellow Berkshire members!

John Creasey was making table decorations on an Axminster.

Phil was able to get to the Club this evening and because he was missing at the last night, the shop took a bit more than usual.

At the far end of the hall Robert had a large audience watching him demonstrate sharpening on a Tormex wet grinder and a Perform machine. Members had

deliberately not been told about his demonstration, or he would have had everyone wanting their grinding mistakes corrected.



In the centre were three tables. Neil and Co. looked after the DVD & book library. On the second Clare Grant was getting members to vote for the Turner of the Year item.

The third table was laden with items that members had donated for our chosen charity, which this year was the South West Thames Kidney Fund. The local organiser Angie Morrow had come along to tell us a little about the charity and took away two Tesco shopping boxes and a large cardboard box of items for the charity to sell.



I believe the coloured bowls were by Linda. Many thanks to all the members who gave pieces.

Rather than pay for their teas, coffees and mince pie, members were invited to make a cash donation. I was able to give Angie a cheque for £66.61. That is more than three times the amount that Sylvia usually collects.

The Turner of the Year was Rodney Goodship for a large candlestick.

A.G.M. 13th January 2012

The evening followed its usual format with a good attendance. The Chairman gave his report followed by the Treasurer, details attached. On the question of Annual Membership Fees, the treasurer advised that although the Mytchett Centre was not planning to increase the fees for hire of the hall, with a loss of £80.00 for the year and the need to build up our stocks for the shop and the raffle prizes we would need to increase the fee by £1.00 thus the Membership Fee for 2012 would be £27.00. The members of the committee were re-elected. There were no volunteers of new blood or members wishing to give up their posts.

After tea Mel gave an illustrated talk on how to build a very cheap dust extractor for just £27.00

Chairman's Report for year ending 31st December 2011

Mr President, Vice President and members this is my first report as Chairman of SAW. SAW is a busy club, this year has seen us outreach through local events at the Princes Mead, Rural Life, WARCO, and Wests' Wood Show; as well as shows further afield, such as the Southern Woodworking Show, and The Alexander Palace Woodworking Show. As well as the highlight of our year our own Open Day Event.

We had two sessions in the woods with members experiencing pole lathe turning, the annual seminar was a day with Stuart Mortimer and both of these were excellent events.

None of the club activities would be possible without an active Committee. I am the Committees' new boy and have been helped by all its members to keep the club on track, I need to especially mention our President, Bob French, who quietly helps in the background with some very solid advice, our Vice President Paul Nesbitt whose support has been unwavering, Jennie Starbuck for keeping me on track with some gentle reminders and for

arranging an excellent programme of turners for the year, our Treasurer Peter Stent, not only for keeping us financially on track, but also for his unwavering support in nearly all of the club activities and sub-groups over the year, and Richard Davies the Club Secretary. I want to thank Robert Grant for chairing the two Sub-Committees, and allowing the Committee to meet in his company's board room; saving the club room hiring fees. I would also like to thank all the stewards, demonstrators, and exhibitors at the shows and demonstrations over the year. Then there is Sylvia Nesbitt plus Albert George and John Creasey who produce the tea; Ian Williams, Harry Snelling and Bob Jenkins our raffle people, Phil Wolsoncroft and Bill Thackeray on the sales table, Neil Lofthouse, and Brian Rodgers at the club table with John Sherwood keeping an eye on the club tools and Chris Starbuck and Don Mitchell for the Audio Visual systems.

Next club night have a look around at who is doing what, you will be amazed at the number of people involved in running your club: On behalf of all the members I thank all of our volunteers for their commitment to SAW.

Thanks go to Colin Spain for organising the practical nights, we have had three new people demonstrating this year and a big thank you goes to Val Pascual, Bill Riley, and Denis Findlay.

This year we introduced the show and tell table on club nights, it gives us an opportunity to bring along our latest turnings, some we are proud of, some are items that show mistakes, lets see if we can get more items on this table over the next 12 months.

This year there was another first, seven of us introduced a group of Farnham Scouts to the craft of turning. The event was a great success with the scouts really enjoying themselves. We have already been asked by other Scout and Guide groups to repeat the activity so over the next year we will look at how to develop this without over-stretching ourselves.

In December we ran a session on competition judging which was attended by eleven members. The aim was to clarify

how the judging system works, with an upfront agenda of us needing to build a bank of judges. Alan Johnson will be joining the judging team for 2012, which helps greatly as Paul Nesbitt would like to take a rest from this task. The unsung hero in the judging team is Bernie Walker who works in the background keeping count of the scores and making sure the process runs smoothly.

The Committee has carried two items over onto the agenda for 2012. The first is a review of the quarterly club competition: the judging system has been in place for a few years now and there is a belief that we have data that shows a tweaking of the scoring system is needed. The second is a review of the Hands on Days as we only ran one out of three planned for 2011, so the question is, do we need so many and what is the relationship between the Mentoring Programme and Hands on Days? We want to explore whether the hands on days are being affected by the mentoring programme.

One area I would like to develop further, and we need a volunteer for, is photography, it would be great if we could photograph the items in the club competitions as well as the show and tell table, we really do need to build up a collection of photographs that we can use for publicity. If you are interested in finding out more about it, or volunteering for this task, please let me know

SAW Treasurers Report for year ended 31st December 2011.

Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, fellow members, good evening. The layout of this year's accounts is as in past years.

My thanks to John Marns for auditing the accounts and finding all my errors.

Subscription income is down because I have taken off £338.00 for members who paid in advance. This gives a truer figure of our financial state. This you will see is a loss of £80.

Thanks to Ian Williams and his assistants for the raffle income. Although income has

increased you will see on the expenditure side we have had to buy more prizes than last year.

Over leaf you will see that the stock of prizes has reduced, so we will need to buy more this year.

Thanks to our tea lady, Sylvia & helpers for their contribution to our funds.

Open Day again made a loss. This was because less people came through the doors.

Shop income is up on last year. The difference between expenditure and income is reflected in the stocks held as shown overleaf. Other figures are similar to last year.

Outings were the bus to Ally Pally and the two Days in the Woods.

The donations are for the Alzheimer's Society and the S W Thames Kidney fund and wood sales.

On the Expenditure side, the newsletter costs vary with the number of pages in the issue. Because this is printed as an A3 sheet and the cut up, it consists of multiples of four pages, usually 12 or 16.

The committee is very concerned with the expenditure on mileage. Members who transport equipment to the various shows are reimbursed. Major expenditure was for the South East England Show. We support wood turning shows as we do get new members from them. We have been offered a £200.00 donation, which will help towards to cost of attending the South East show. The Committee are taking action to examine other expenses.

The £8.00 Bank charges relates to the account becoming overdrawn. I made the cardinal error for a treasurer of giving a blank cheque to a fellow Committee Member, who did not advise me as soon as he had issued the cheque and so I was not able to transfer funds to meet the cheque when it was presented.

The good news is that I have been in contact with the Centre Management and they have no plans to increase the rent.



Some pictures of the prize giving at the AGM.



Wood Dust and Words – The Ramblings of a Chairman

Well, we are into the programme for 2012 which looks great, and I look forward to some of the demonstrators I have not seen before. However, we have just been informed that the West show on 4-5th May is not happening this year, and with the Alexandria Palace show also not happening that's two regional events lost from this year's calendar.

We raised £300.61 for the South West Thames Kidney Fund, during our Christmas festivities which was a great effort by all concerned Thank You.

The South East Woodworking show is on 9-10th March and we will be having a presence at that, we will also run a mini bus on the Saturday if there are enough members wanting to use the facility. If you do, can you please put your name on the list at club night, we will then make the decision whether it's financially viable.

There is a new tool available in the club loan system, it's a Henry Taylor Decorating Elf. As with all the tools we have to lend to members the Elf can be viewed on a club night.

The Club Handbook has been updated and its available to members via our website, the updates specifically clarify the sale of items at club outreach events. We will now ask for a donation of a % of all items sold at these events, the amount will be agreed before the event with the club organiser. The updates also mention responsibilities in outreach events for selling items.

The next Hands on Day is on the 19th February, please put your name down for this as soon as possible. As I mentioned at the AGM we are looking at Hands on Days and we discussed this at January's Committee meeting. Februarys will follow the normal format and we will publish details shortly on an experimental format to the June "Hands On"

Practical evening planning has started again and as always Colin is looking for volunteers to demonstrate. If you have a piece that scores 9 or above on the competition of the club night please do not forget to keep it for the Turner of the Year completion in December, last year we had fewer entries as members had sold the pieces that were eligible to be entered into the competition.

The club's Facebook page seems to be the ramblings of myself, remember if you have Facebook you too can post to this page. Recent snippets on the page include plans for making reindeer on a bandsaw, a funny engineering flowchart, photos of some horse chestnut that John Sherwood, Phil Woolsoncroft, and I harvested, a link to the video that we played at the AGM, and a link to a very useful index for Woodturners magazine covering all articles from issue 1 to issue 236

Another photograph from Ally Pally.



In September we had a report by Donald on the day in the woods. Here is the report on the other day by Val.

We hope to repeat the weekend again this year.



A DAY IN THE WOODS ... WITH JOHN

Cranleigh ... yeah, I know that ... sure I'll find the place ... won't I? Well, I thought so as I confidently drove up the hill, saw the "Woods for Sale" sign and ... nearly drove straight past! Thankfully I recognised a face or two so figured I must be in the right place ... so then to head down the track ... and into the woods ... just walking the last couple of hundred metres to find the clearing and of course, a fire going with the kettle on the boil. A great start to the day ... cuppa in hand being shown the ropes, almost literally (well, everything seemed to be utilising rope in one way



or another ... the tarpaulins which we, the Sunday group, would thoroughly appreciate later on in the day) and the pole lathes for starters.

Starting with a green ash log ... split it in 4, then vaguely round it by removing the corners ... carefully avoiding ones fingers & thumb as one chops away with the axe. True to form, all this was new to me, although I think one or two of the others had a bit of a head start in actually knowing what a draw knife and a shave horse were! However, it took very little time to discover just how



satisfying it was to produce all those wonderful shavings ... the challenge then being not to whittle the wood down to nothing ... merely to debark it and get it to a roughly cylindrical billet that could then be worked more easily on the lathe.



Ah, now this is where the pole lathe comes in and ... yes, another first! Well of course it looks easy when someone demonstrates it! Doesn't it always! Yeah well, it took a while to get the hang of it and find a rhythm and of course, a technique that worked, but when it did ... it really was very rewarding and to my surprise, remarkably effective (well, by that I mean, with me at the helm so to speak, it

actually worked and I managed to produce a nice 'cylinder' of wood ... which later became a spoon, or two to be exact). Okay, that is another story but suffice to say it does work ... ask Neil – he was particularly successful and ended up with two perfectly usable wooden spoons (mine are still works in progress ... but do have a delightful 'rustic' quality about them I must say!)

By lunch time we were all beginning to feel muscles that we either didn't know we had, or had not used in many a year, so were very glad to sit down to a plate of hot stew cooked over the fire! What



a wonderful chance to enjoy the delightful setting of this woodland as we sat around the table (wooden of course) swapping tales and memories of what actually got us all to this point in our individual wood-turning careers (and many and varied I must say they all are!)



So to finish ... despite there being so much more to tell, I would like to say how much I enjoyed the day and I do believe the others did too. I would also like to pass on my sincere thanks to John who hosted us and helped to make the day such a memorable one, sharing some of his enthusiasm and enjoyment of spending A DAY IN THE WOODS!