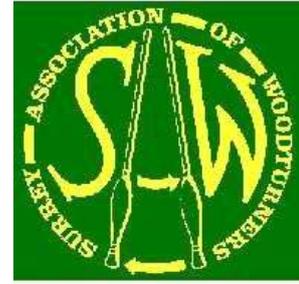


Surrey Association of
Woodturners



Newsletter February 2013

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

New Members

Mike Gilchrist Ann Foster

PAID UP MEMBERSHIP 73

Items for the Diary

Friday 8th February Phil Jones Sunday 24th Seminar Mick Hanbury

Friday 8th March Practical Fri/Sat 8th 9th March Southern Show

Change of E mail. Please note that our retiring chairman, David has changed his address to david@turning.me.uk

Paul's new Mobile Number. 447757365.

Sealing timber

During his demonstration in October Alan Hazel said he would share his observations as he experimented further in sealing wood to keep water in. Since October Alan has been unwell, however he phoned me asking to feedback some of his findings.

During the demonstration there was a suggestion that boiled linseed oil (BLO) may work. Alan has now tried this and after giving a vessel two coats of BLO and leaving it to dry he has a vessel that has held water for three days without leaking. Alan says that time will tell on how long the vessel will hold water for.

There was an article in Woodturning Magazine issue 219 page 62 that explains how Jim Rinde seals some wooden cups using epoxy resin and two different methods the second of these uses a vacuum chamber, another idea that was discussed during the demo. The article is well worth reading if you have an interest in this area and it has been reproduced on the web and can be accessed from here: <http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com/page.asp?p=1568>

If you have experimented yourself please let the editor know about you findings so we can share them with the rest of the members.

David Bracken

Giving as good as you get! By Derek Hayes

A complaint often heard from new turners is “I’ve no idea if what I’m making is any good”. The easy bit is to ask for feedback. Receiving it is somewhat harder. It takes a confident, self-assured person to accept criticism of style and design, although it is arguably somewhat easier to accept comments regarding technical competence.

If receiving it is difficult, then so is giving it. A good observer is able to explain their views without alienating the maker. A “good receiver” needs to reflect on the criticism, good or bad, decide if it is to be accepted and just as importantly, how those criticisms will be taken used to improve future pieces.

A major problem is that different observers have different levels expertise. They also place different weightings to personal and, those elusive, absolute standards.

So accepting that views which may be received will differ depending on the observer, how can we improve the process of giving feedback?

Step 1 Empathise with the maker. How do you feel when someone comments on your work:

- He’s a pro so he must be right
- I’ve never liked her stuff anyway
- What the hell is he talking about?
- He’s absolutely wrong and I’m going to tell him so
- I’m always grateful for comments, I usually ignore it and carry on
- Everyone else thinks it’s wonderful
- I think it’s wonderful
- I’ve no idea what rubbing the bevel means, but I’d better not say so or he’ll think I’m an idiot
- That’s about 15 things he said and I don’t remember any of them
- What’s on telly tonight?

The last one I call the Homer Simpson moment – where comments just go right over your head and so you mentally switch off. Real communication begins with listening. This is more than just hearing information. It is using your full attention, senses and awareness. This is a two-way process; the giver as well as the receiver. The observer should be aware of how the maker is receiving the information. The good observer will be able to quickly pick up the signs of a breakdown in communications. At the basic level this could be achieved by simply asking for confirmation that the comments made are understood. This is not to say that they have to be accepted though, they are opinions, and the maker has the right to ignore them. This is not an opportunity for heated debate. A useful way to reduce confrontation is to lay down some ground rules prior to the chat.

This doesn’t have to be too formal. Simply prefacing your comments in a statement such as. “I’m happy to comment on what you’ve made. These are my views and you don’t have to accept them but, perhaps you could wait until the end before you respond to what I say unless of course I haven’t explained it too well. Otherwise, take the comments away with you, reflect on them, make use of them if you want to or ignore them if you disagree and, come back to me to discuss anything further”.

Without this planned approach, a typical dialogue might be:

Observer

“The base is a mess – I like the bowl, but I certainly wouldn’t award it a prize!”

Maker

“Well, I like it, the base stays on the table and only boring old turners look at the finish anyway. I have no intention of entering a competition.”

Observer

“Look, you asked me, and I’m telling you, if you don’t like my opinions, don’t ask.”

That’s one disgruntled maker who certainly won’t ask that observer again nor maybe anybody else come to that.

Be aware of how your comments may be received. Think how you can pre-empt possible responses that might come.

A friendlier and hopefully more constructive exchange might be:

Observer

“This is a lovely bowl. You are probably aware that the base isn’t finished as well as it could be and it does let it down a bit. The typical buyer wouldn’t notice, the competition judge certainly will. If that’s not important to you, then fine, but I reckon it’s worth that little bit more time, but as I say, a really good effort – well done.”

Maker

“Thanks I’m not worried about competitions but I may as well try to get it right. How could I have improved the base?”

This leaves dialogue open and provides confirmation that the point the observer wanted to make has been understood.

Giving feedback in a way which enhances and not damages, self-esteem is rarely taught to teachers. Some say that praising work leads to under performance (“She said it was good, no need for me to change or improve it.”) whilst criticism will spur on the maker to achieve. There is little evidence that either one of these is true.

Here are 3 positive and 3 negative remarks you might like to consider when feeding back:

Don’t:

- Be subjective
- Generalise
- Give too many points

Do:

- Be clear and unambiguous
- Be specific
- Encourage

Success for the observer occurs if the maker is able to criticise him/her self, compare their own performance with the ‘ideal’ and diagnose strengths and weaknesses. Improvements can be suggested, but do seek the maker’s views and suggestions. Don’t forget to check for understanding and acceptance. Use what are called open, rather than closed, questions.

Open

- So what is it you are going to do?
- Which of the points do you feel were most helpful?

Closed

- Is that okay?
- Did you understand?

This is as much a learning experience for the giver as it is for the maker. It should help you accept supportive criticism when you receive it. Use the opportunity to observe good and bad experience when you are in the student's position. Ask yourself was that a good experience? Did I understand what the 'teacher' was trying to tell me? Will I adjust my practice because of it?

If demonstrating empathy verbally isn't your strongest suite you might prefer to use a written summary to give guidance. This is particularly useful in competitions where a lot of work needs to be considered. Could you try a doodle- type sketch of the piece and some scribbled notes? Make sure there are at least as many positive points as there are negative. I've given a simple example. If you don't fancy a sketch, a short written summary something like this might just do it:

This well-turned piece includes a good use of decoration (natural and added) and some excellent flowing curves. It is an attractive form from many viewpoints although the foot is slightly long which detracts from the classic balance of the piece. There are some sanding scratches but overall this was a creditable effort and there is the opportunity for developing the design in future work – well done!

Now, how about some feedback on this article? Treat me gently won't you?

December Christmas Evening



The star attraction this evening was John Stinson with his pole lathe. Some members were lucky enough to spend a day in the wood with him. Last weekend he had to make a new lathe to bring to this event. He had a large audience watching him for most of the evening, during which he made four chair legs.

On stage, the last competition of the year was being judged by Richard and Colin with Bernie Walker booking in the items and recording the points.

Next along the side of the hall was Jennie with a variety of carving and piercing tools for members to try.

Next along our President was using the club's Warco lathe to make light pulls. He was giving away loads of blanks for people to try. He also had some nice pieces of Box which apparently came from Box Hill.

Phil was in the shop with his usual helpers. Glue is now in short supply.



Next along the top was Bill Riley. He had his own small lathe and was making toy soldiers.

Sylvia was in the kitchen with Albert dispensing tea, coffee and mince pies. Rather than pay for the drinks, members were asked to donate to our chosen charity Surrey Association for Visual Impairment.

Members were also asked to give turned items which the association would sell themselves.

Ian had his usual helpers on the raffle. This did very well. Everyone was in the Christmas spirit.

In the bottom corner Robert was using the club Wivamac to turn a large bowl in wet walnut.

In the centre of the hall was the Cub table with the notices plus some competitions which you could enter for a small fee.

Paul was manning the sales table selling some polish and unwanted tools and also giving away bendy pens. The coffee donations amounted to £50.56, while the tools and competitions etc raised £115.82. David took a cheque for the total to the charity along with all the donated items.

The last table was looked after by Dorothy where all the high scoring items from the previous competitions during the year were on display for the member to vote on which was the best. This year The 'Turner of the Year' winner was Brian Mitchell.

A.G.M Friday 11th January 2013

The hall was quite full when David opened the meeting. He pointed out that this was probably his last AGM as he and Di planned to move to Scotland.

Mr President, Vice President and members this is my report as Chairman of SAW.

Again it's been a busy year that has seen us outreach through local events at the Princes Mead, Rural Life, as well as shows further afield, such as the Southern Woodworking Show, the highlight of our year was yet again our own Open Day Event.

These were excellent events and I would like to thank all who were involved in the smooth running of them.

None of the club activities would be possible without an active Committee. I 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 and for helping Robert with the open day when balancing work and SAW commitments became difficult for him. Our Treasurer, Peter Stent, not only for keeping us financially sound, but also for his unwavering support in nearly all of the club activities over the year, and

Richard Davies the Club Secretary. I want to thank Robert Grant for organising the Open Day along with Chris Starbuck, and Don Mitchell for the audio visual system. I would also like to thank Robert for allowing the Committee to meet in his company's board room; saving the club room hiring fees, all the stewards, demonstrators, and exhibitors at the shows and demonstrations over the year. Then there is Sylvia Nesbitt 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. Thank you all.

Colin Spain handed over the organising of practical nights to a rota of evening organisers. This has meant that Colin has been able to join the clubs judging team. Thank to Richard Davies, Alan Johnson, and Colin Spain for the Judging during the quarterly competition, and Bernie who does a sterling job in administrating the process throughout the year.

There have been two developments equipment wise, Don Mitchell researched and came up with a castor system for the club lathe, making the whole process of moving the lathe so easy that on club nights it can be moved by one person. Chris Starbuck and Robert Grant have upgraded the lighting rig on club nights and I think we have seen the improvement in picture quality. Watch this space they have not finished yet.

You may have noticed that we have stopped having the DVD's of the club nights available for you at the club table. This is because the DVD recorder stopped working; a quick inspection showed us the problem, sawdust. We plan to have a new system up and running that is more robust in dealing with dust and have the DVD's of the professional and club turners available for members to hire.

I am standing down as Chairman; Di and myself are planning to move a bit further north in 2013, which will make travelling to club nights a little difficult. I still will be a SAW member and will visit when back in the area. When we have finalised our move I will let you know where we are and if you are in our area you can expect a warm Scottish welcome. I would like to thank all members for making my tenure as Chairman a pleasant experience.

Treasurers Report:

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

I owe a great debt of thanks to John Marns for auditing the accounts and finding all my errors which I am ashamed to say were a few more than usual.

The profit shown is excessive but you will see we have a liability of about £750.00 that we owe to Robert Grant. Robert did reply to my e mail request sent to Committee members asking if they had any unclaimed expenses. Robert replied but I never received that request. Robert is in America at the moment. There may be others whose requests for repayment I never received.

Looking at the expenditure you will see that the cost of the newsletter was down. This varies with the number of pages in each issue. Obviously I did not have as many articles sent to me for publication.

The new system of members collecting their newsletter has saved us some postage costs. We expected to make a loss on Open Day due to our having to reduce the admission fee because a couple of Trade stands did not attend. However the loss was not as great as expected.

Our mileage costs for attending exhibitions etc was less than last year. There were no shows at Ally Pally or Warco.

Looking at the income, that from membership fees was about the same as last year as the figure includes 8 members who paid in the last few months of the year and forms part of this year's subscriptions.

My thanks to Ian Williams and his assistants for the raffle income, which you will see is down slightly. Over leaf you will see that stock of prizes has reduced, so we will need to buy more this year.

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

The shop has not done quite as well as last year. The stock figure for adhesives is somewhat misleading as Phil only has one bottle of thin glue but 12 of thick. So he will need to buy more when we can locate a supply.

The Square Screws income is only from where I have replenished my own stock. At the next practical evening I will have to demonstrate how good these screws are.

The Charity donation was to the Surrey Association for the Visually Impaired.

The £320 donations were from the sales of donated wood. Many thanks to those involved.

The figure for miscellaneous was the levy on members selling their work at Princes Mead.

I think all the figures are understandable but if anyone has a question. I will try and answer it.

The subscription for the coming year. The treasurer pointed out that for the past few years we had increased the fee by £1.00. On our present membership this would generate £160.00, the cost of a new projector bulb. We do need to consider the purchase of a new projector. The cost of one to meet our requirements would be in the order of £1,300.00. The increase was agreed by the floor and so the fee for 2013 would be **£28.00**.

During the tea break Peter started to collect this amount from the membership.

Election of Committee. As well as David stepping down as Chairman, John Sherwood and Phil Wolsencroft did not wish to stand. Many thanks to them for their contributions to the running of the club. The following were elected in their place, Paul as Chairman with Dorothy Read and David Stratton as committee members

Various presentations were made.



After tea we had a very comprehensive demonstration by Jennie Starbuck on how she colours her work. Lots of examples were passed around for members to look at and feel. If any members want more details, if they Email her she will send out a list of the paints and suppliers.

The award to the Turner of The Year

A Day in the Woods 2013



Pole Lathe turning in the woods



Lunch provided

John Stinson (who many of you saw and chatted to at the December meeting) is available for his 'Day in the Woods' sessions on Saturday June 22nd and Sunday June 23rd. The days will focus on Pole Lathe turning and spoon carving, but you will learn about cutting and processing the timber as you use it. As some of you have done a day before, he is suggesting newcomers come to the Saturday session and those that have come before come on the Sunday – although this is not vital. He now has 5 pole lathes available – so there will be lots of turning time as the maximum on either day will be 6 people. Last time he ran the course for a very small sum and he has had to look at that very carefully. He wants to share his skills and enthusiasm but cannot afford to lose money as he has to take a day off work to prepare for the weekend. So, this time the cost, including food and materials is £25 per day. I hope this won't discourage people from signing up. We will take a deposit of £10 when you book and you can pay John the rest when you arrive.



He is also running a more specific and intensive bow making course on Sunday 7th July (some of you were interested in the bows he brought along in December). If you are interested there is an article about the process at the following link <http://woodlandcrafts.3owl.com/lw16.longbows.pdf> If you wish to book a longbow course, please contact John directly by email johnstinson99@gmail.com

Mick Hanbury Seminar Sunday February 24th



Club night will be your last chance to book a place on this year's seminar on Sunday Feb. 24th. Mick Hanbury is a very entertaining and gifted turner and I can guarantee you will enjoy the day. To see the kind of work you can expect to be shown, have a look at Mick's website www.mickhanbury.com The day kicks off in the small hall at 10am – although it is helpful if you arrive before that to help set up the room, have a cup of tea or coffee and time to settle down. We will have the video camera working so we should be able to get 'up close and personal' with the tools. Those in the know tend to bring along a folding chair or a cushion. The plastic seats in the small hall are marginally more comfortable than the metal ones – but 6 hours on one without a cushion can be a bit much! We break for another hot drink and biscuits at about 11.15 for 15 minutes, and again for lunch at about 1pm.

Bring your own packed lunch – or take advantage of the M&S Strictly Food in the garage next door. We pack away around 4pm. We limit the numbers to 40 but have to have at least 30 to run the day. If you sign up and then don't turn up, I'm afraid we will need to ask you to pay.

WE NEED YOUR ARTICLES TO FILL SPACES LIKE THIS.



– PAUL's Postings

Hello to you all from me as your new Chairman for yet another term in office. I want to thank David for his time as Chairman and a job well done. I am sure we all wish David and his wife Di a happy new life in Scotland when they do eventually leave us in the south.

The club had a full and varied programme during 2012 and with the coming year of 2013 it seems we have another one ahead of us. This is always a difficult task of being able to get a good mix to meet the interest of any clubs members. I think that Jennie has done a terrific job of being able to come up with these programmes whilst also watching the cost of what the club has to pay for some of the demonstrators. We have a mixture of top names with the addition of new faces that have not been to our club before and with this we get to see new ideas and techniques. We finished the year with our Christmas practical evening and from what I could see was full of interesting things going on around the hall and we raised a lot of money for a worthwhile charity. We then started the year with the AGM which saw David retire as Chairman, John Sherwood and Phil Wolsoncroft retired as committee members. David will be our Vice President for a period, Phil will continue to run the club sales table with Bill and John is going to take it easy for a while. We have two new members on the committee and I would like to welcome them on board, Dorothy Read and David Stratton. I was unable to stay for the whole evening and missed Jennie's demonstration and talk, but I have heard from many that it was very interesting and varied in its content.

As the Chairman I get to select two club turners in a year and I am already on the scout for volunteers. If you would like to talk to me about being a club demonstrator for an evening or even half an evening just come and find me and have a chat.

I think that's about all I can say for now until the next news letter when I should have a lot more to say. Enjoy the programme.

Paul