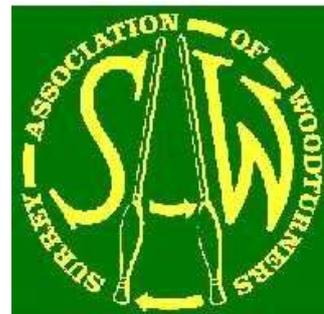


# Surrey Association of Woodturners



## Newsletter January 2015

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

### New Members

Welcome to Michael Palmer Member No. 703  
Welcome to Brian Fulkner Member No. 704  
Welcome to Phil Hamilton Member No. 705

**PAID UP MEMBERSHIP 146** (As of going to press)

### Items for the Diary

13 <sup>th</sup> February	Les Thorne	Professional Turner
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Workshop Day	Hands on tuition
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Practical Evening	Club night
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Princes Mead Shopping Centre	Public Demonstration

### TOP TIP's

If you have a tip to share please email it to me at [colin.spain1@virginmedia.com](mailto:colin.spain1@virginmedia.com)  
Keep it short, and if we are happy with it, I will include it in one of the newsletters.

**Membership Cards** - All paid up members for 2015 can collect their cards at the signing in table in February, and anyone paying at the February meeting will be able to collect them at the March meeting.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

Our 25<sup>th</sup> year came to an end at the AGM. A good number of members attended, considering it was the AGM – perhaps because they were looking forward to the social event held after the meeting. Rather than spend a lot on catering, the committee had decided to ask members to each bring a small quantity of party food. A small rehearsal evidently took place at the Christmas practical evening, with some members thinking the food was for that event. What was brought was added to the mince pies and quickly disappeared by all accounts. I am really sorry I missed it!



However, the tables at the back of the hall seemed to be well filled with a mix of savoury and sweet 'finger' foods and most of it was eaten – and with great enjoyment. So thank you all for taking part. The feeling was that it was a good idea and the committee are hoping to try it again at the December meeting.

Saw had provided a really beautiful cake with the club logo printed on it in edible colours. It had been hoped that our President, Bob French would cut the cake with our newest member. Unfortunately Bob was not able to be with us, neither were our 2 other founder members, Jim Thomas and Jo Futchter who both sent their apologies but had other commitments.

Paul handed out a number of trophies and certificates to celebrate the success of members who took part in the Club Competition on practical evenings last year. The Standard class winner was Geoff

Goddard with a points total over the year of 26.5. Denis Finlay came first in the Open class with a massive points total of 29.5, just 'pipping' Rodney Goodship who scored 29 points. Considering this competition is out of 30 points, both did very well indeed. Plaques were also presented to 5 members who had completed 20 years membership of the club. These were Peter Christmas, Geoffrey Quinnell, Chris and Jennie Starbuck and Philip Wolsoncroft.

The Vic Burge Trophy for the member who the committee feels is always helpful and generous with his time would have been presented to Bill Thackeray on the evening, but, unfortunately Bill had been unwell and did not attend. He will be coming to the March Practical evening and we can all congratulate him then.

The Instant gallery was stunning. Members had brought in pieces from all stages of their turning so we had 'my first bowl' next to some wonderful creations. I tried to take pictures of all of them and there is now a folder on the 'Galleries' page of the website with 64 pictures of work. Check it out on the website [www.sawoodturners.org](http://www.sawoodturners.org)

Just in case you missed them here is a taster .....



This piece by Geoff Goddard caught my eye. The contrasting woods work so well – and the carving is very effective.



I think everyone was taken with Freddie Ford's 'Woody' – a charming and beautifully finished piece.



Donald Bell's segmented piece  
Also had a 'wow' factor – as did Bill Riley's magnificent Stetson.

Thank you all for bringing in your pieces and making it such a successful part of the evening.

### **Top Tip - The 100 Club**

Following the success of last year's 100 Club. If you like a flutter and would like to get involved, the 100 club runs from February to January with a Special Xmas Draw. See towards the end of last November newsletter for rules and application form, or go to for the rules <http://www.sawoodturners.org/handbook/100%20Club%20Rules%20V1.pdf>

Contact David Stratton if interested, telephone number at end of this newsletter.

## **Club Competition 2015**

As many of you know if you attended the AGM we have decided to change the Club Competition that runs throughout the year on Practical Nights. Many members had come up to Richard and I expressing their frustrations that the current setup was “emotionless” and made it difficult to get anywhere because they were trying to compete against turners that were more experienced than themselves, so why enter? The number of member’s currently taking part in the Club Competition has been causing some alarm as the numbers are quite low. Indeed Richard and I also felt there was something lacking, because in a national competition or even our Open Day the professional turners judge quite heavily on what they like (General Appeal) plus Execution, Design, Subject Originality, Timber Choice, Technical Challenge. The way our old system works although similar did not allow for the General Appeal element. It was set-up this way so that anyone could judge even if they were not that good themselves, all they needed to do was give points or subtract points against the elements. So it would be possible for someone to submit a very plain dish for arguments sake and score top points because it was crisp, no tool marks, and well finished. Also we could be judging a very complex item against a simple bowl where there is no comparison.

We setup a sub-committee Richard Davies (Chair), Colin Rowe, and myself Colin Spain, to tackle the problem and consulted with a number of members and got their views. It became clear that we had a difficult task ahead. The aims of the changes are to generate more interest (and entries) and to be more positive in the judging, focusing on good points not necessarily penalizing bad points. Early on it was decided that we should not completely scrap the existing method, because there were some very good elements with it, for example there was a paper tick sheet for entrants to refer to, so that they could discuss their marks. With the new system we are going to still have the score sheet, but there is going to be an element of judge’s opinion which will consist of Degree of difficulty, Originality, and Does the judge like it? We have also created another class – “Premier” comprising the top 5% of the club turners, the other two will be Beginner & Novice, and Intermediate & Open. The further up the chain you go the more that will be expected of you. This will be reflected in the scoring. One big change is that each round of the competition will have a set goal, for example the first round we are asking you to turn a cup tree which is mainly spindle turning i.e. Grain should be parallel with lathe axis. We shall be looking for crispness of detail, well turned beads, coves etc. this evens the field. The next leg in August will be a faceplate/Chuck item and the final one your President will decide. We shall give you plenty of time, so don’t panic. We hope that members will be part of the process for choosing the three items next year.

Predominantly we want you to have fun but also give you a vehicle to help you improve your turning, your judges will give you constructive comments, and pieces scoring 9.5 and 10 pictures of these will be published in the newsletter and can still be entered for turner of the year.

Colin Spain

## **December Competition Results**

Well done to David Stratton who scored 10.00 points in the Standard competition and to Geoff Goddard who got a 9.5.

In the Open competition Denis Findlay scored a well deserved 10.00 points I judged this and I could not find a thing wrong with it, it was pristine.

Rodney Goodship scored a well deserved 9.5 points and this piece went on to win the **Turner of the Year award**.

## **Standard**



David Stratton **10.00**



Geoff Goddard **9.5**

## **Open**



Denis Findlay **10.00**



Rodney Goodship **9.5 & TOTY**

## **Chairman's Report – Paul Nesbitt**

Good evening to you all.

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

When I look back at 2014 as a club we have had a full and enjoyable year. Locally we had 2 weekends at the Rural Life Centre, two Saturdays at the Princes Mead Shopping Centre and of course the Guildford Model Engineering Show and the Surrey heath show. We also for the first time went along to the River Wey Festival at Dapdune Wharf in Guildford. All of these

were well attended by the public and of course our own members and I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the successful running of these.

It was good to see the Workshop Days being used to their full extent, all three of them, and a lot of thanks go to Colin for the organization and running of these.

We have had a good selection of professional turners through 2014 and 2015 looks even better. This is all due to the hard work done by Jennie, and for that I feel she deserves a round of applause with my thanks.

I have had a difficult year one way or another and I could not have carried out my task as Chairman without this wonderful committee. Richard kept me on track at committee meetings, David watching all of the pennies as Treasurer, Jennies help and guidance, in fact each and every one of them in their own way, Dorothy, Neil, Don, Robert, John and Colin that I owe a big thank you.

Big thanks go to all of the sub-committee for a great Open Day, Neil for his club table and John for organizing practical nights. Then there are the non committee members, Phil for the sales table along with Bill, Sylvia with her helpers Albert and John for the tea and coffee, Brian for helping Neil, our raffle team Ian, Harry and Bob. Robert, Don and Chris have continued to provide us all with a better view of the demonstrations, so a very big thanks to you all. Then thanks have to go to all of you, the members that have helped with the end of evening clear up, demonstrating at practical club nights, attending all of the outdoor events throughout the year.

The competitions in the club continue to show the skills we have within the club. But I would still like to see more entries. We have introduced the ability to return to intermediate level and I hope that this will spur people on. My thanks go to Bernie Walker and our two judges Colin Spain and Richard Davies for all of their effort in the club competition three times through the year. The simple club night fun competition whereby I pick something from the demonstration, and set a task with the chance to win a bottle of wine as a prize. I am pleased with the continued interest and support shown. Thank you all for taking part in this bit of fun.

If I have forgotten to mention any one please accept my thanks for your contribution to the club.

I look forward to another successful year for the club.

## **Treasurers Report – David Stratton**

Mr Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen

In keeping with good tradition I would like to extend a few well-earned thanks.

To John Marns for making sure I didn't stray too far from reality and custom.

And to all those who have helped out at meetings to run the raffle, the shop, the tea stall and the DVD hire, all of whom have added to the clubs viability

You all have copies of this year's Income and expenditure account and Balance Sheet to 31 December 2014.

Many of you, I am sure, will already have looked through them and identified points of particular interest to you. For my part I would just like to point out a few of the more significant and important elements after which I will be more than happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Firstly the all-important end of year surplus: - This year's declared surplus of £2,030.89 is considerable up on 2013's surplus of £148.82 and even better than 2012's of £1,268.12. There are a number of specific events that have created this happy position.

You will, I trust, all recall the booking problems encountered at the beginning of last year which meant shifting club nights at short notice. This was just the most obvious outcome of a much deeper communication problem encountered with the Centre. As compensation for the problems caused, the centre waived the Hall Hire charge for a number of our events. This reduced costs in both the Hall Hire and Hand on Day lines within the Balance sheet, with an overall saving of £427.

Whilst shop takings for 2014 are again lower than previous years, they have largely been the result of the sale of existing stock and this has the potential of distorting the year on year performance by around £400.

Other saving include the delay in the purchase of a New Projector circa £300 and the reduction of £200 in mileage cost, primarily due to the Club not demonstrating at the South East Show.

And finally, during December we would normally pay for the coming year's insurance and a sum of £600 was allocated to meet this expenditure. To date the invoice has not been received. This has therefore inflated the end of year surplus by that amount and created the contingent liability recorded on the Balance sheet.

One major unexpected expenditure was the purchase of a new small lathe for the club when the Warco finally gave up the ghost

Taking all these one offs into account the end of year's surplus would only have been around £500/£600. In line with previous years adjusted figures.

This year saw the introduction of the SAW 100 Club. I am pleased to report that 64 numbers were sold with total winnings of over £382 and a contribution to the club of £364. Applications for 2015 are now available so sign up today. Existing 100 club member may keep their present numbers if they so wish.

Open Day – I am also pleased to report that this year's Open Day again produced a modest profit, £132.52.

We hope all attending enjoyed the day and would welcome any feedback you may care to offer to make improvements for next year.

Again a very big thank you to all members who helped with the day.

### **Looking forward to 2015.**

During 2014 we lost 12 members and gained 11 new and one returning member.

Whilst it is pleasing to report that this is the first year since 2011 that we have not seen a net reduction in membership and we remain a very significant club with membership of 151 we are still not as large as we have been, or are capable of being. Indeed membership is still lower than any year since 1996.

With ever increasing costs, funding will remain a challenge and whilst I hope the development of the 100 Club and other income stream may assist in restricting future fees rises I still propose to continue with the previously planned and agreed increases in annual fees and raise them to £30 for the 2015 season.

Changes beyond 2015 will materially depend upon the success of the Club's other fund raising activities, which include Shop Sales, Raffles and a continuation of the SAW 100Club, where all members can assist.

Once approved, fees for 2015 will now be due and I will be pleased to receive cheques and cash in respect of this year's subscriptions and 100 Club at the desk after the AGM.

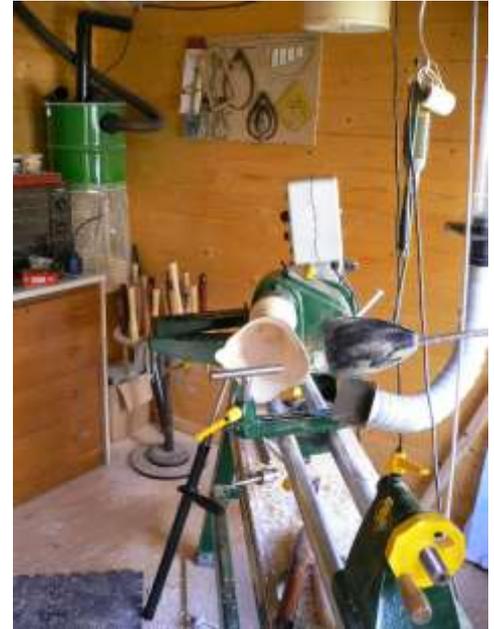
## **My Workshop**

As editor I have for sometime thought it would be good to invite members to write a piece on their own workshops/workspaces, along with a couple of photos and explaining why you chose the tools you have, and the type of things you make etc.

To kick it off I have written mine to give you an idea of the format. You can email them to me at [colin.spain1@virginmedia.com](mailto:colin.spain1@virginmedia.com).

## **My Workshop – Colin Spain**

I am lucky in that I was offered voluntary redundancy with a substantial pay out, which meant I could afford to buy a cabin 3.5 x 3 meters for the garden and lay power to it. This was April 2004. Prior to that I was in the garage, but space limitations meant I could turn only with the door open flippin' cold in the winter.



I like to try turning most things but I suppose bowls and hollow forms are my favourites. I also like making items that use thread chasing, and also apples with arrows through, and pens. Over the years I have added various storage spaces and now have a separate shed as a wood store.

### **Lathes**

I have two. Firstly my main lathe a Record CL3 with 36 inch bed, upgraded to CL4 standard with the VSLK Record Variable Speed controller which also ups the power to 1 hp. My personal feelings about the CL3 are that it is a very good lathe for the money, under £800 when I bought it including stand and bowl turning bracket and another £400 for the VSLK, you can buy a CL4 for around £1000 now. I have spent another £100 upgrading to cam locks. Very strong and stable, it has served me well so far. There are far more lathes on the market now.

As with all lathes there are limitations on the size of platters you can turn. When it had a 3/4 horse power motor I tended not to do anything larger than 18 X 3 inches, Record state a maximum size of 30 inches with the head swivelled, but I would think the wood would need to be quite thin otherwise it would have been too heavy. Originally I wished that the speed could be slowed down a bit lower than the slowest 425 rpm when deep hollowing as my Hamlet deep hollowing tool prefers a speed of around 300 rpm. This has all changed with the VSLK upgrade so much more freedom. You can get a speed range from between 13 to 4648 rpm using all five pulleys plus more torque. Overall I find it a very good lathe.

My other lathe is an Axminster Carba-tec with variable speed; this has been a real boon, bought second hand off Ebay for £50. Being small I can take it around to shows with the club and do a bit of demonstrating. I also use it on a day to day basis to turn smaller items like fruit, light pulls, mushrooms and small bowls and pots. My opinion is that variable speed is a must, mainly as a time saver, a lot of my wood is unbalanced to start with and being able to turn at a slow speed and speed up once stable saves so much time rather than changing belts.

### **4 Jaw Chuck**

In my view an essential part of any lathe for face plate work is the chuck; it gives you the flexibility to do so much more. I have three, two from Axminster Tools. I have the Wood Turners Chuck and the Super Precision Chuck both these chucks take the same jaws but the Super Precision chuck has a far stronger grip making it better for larger work. It also has a built in 24 hole indexing ring useful as when used in conjunction with an indexing arm it locks

your turned work in position for drilling accurate holes in your work or decorating your work for example with a gouge.

I also have an old Multistar chuck with quite a few jaws(bought second hand) which I love, mostly I use this on the Carba-tec but as both lathes use 3/4 x 16 TPI I can use it on either.

I very rarely use a face plate now for bowls; I prefer to mount my wood onto a screw chuck adapter which fits into my chuck jaws. I then turn a recess or spigot on to the bottom of my piece, and finish the underside before reversing the piece on the chuck using the recess or spigot I cut earlier. Once the inside is finished I reverse chuck the piece again by using a made up Jam chuck or Cole Jaws to hold the work whilst I turn off the chucking points.

### **Band Saw**

An essential tool if you use wood that has been given to you, enabling wood to be cut to size and shaped before going on the lathe. Go for the largest you can afford. I have an Electra Beckum.

### **Pillar Drill**

I have an Axminster bench mounted pillar drill. This model the ND16 is plenty man enough for my requirements.

### **Face Mask**

Essential to your health. I have chosen the Trend face mask. It is lightweight and is ideal for me as I wear glasses. Fresh air is blown down the face via a motor and filters mounted in the cap. I have two rechargeable battery packs so that when one dies I can swap over.

### **Dust Extraction**

Essential for the workshop and for your health, I have opted for the CAMVAC GV286W Single motor wall mounted Dust Extractor. The dust is collected in a plastic sack and is vented to the outside of my cabin which keeps the noise down. I also have the poseable hose assembly which can be bent to catch the dust and shavings. I have now added dust pipes around the workshop with three blast gates to direct the flow between the lathe, bandsaw and another sited midway for general use, pillar drill, scroll saw etc. The dust pipes are from Axminster bought as a set and are 2.5 inch in clear plastic so if you get a blockage you can see where it is.

I also have a Record AC1 air filter suspended above the lathe to help clear the very small dust particles from the air. I won a £250 Record voucher in a turning competition which paid for it.

### **Deep Hollowing Tools**

I originally chose the Hamlet deep hollowing tool after watching a demonstration, the turner let me have a go and I found it so easy to use. It was comparatively cheap compared to some others, and is easy to keep sharp. My only comment is that it prefers a speed of around 300rpm otherwise it tends to bounce a bit on drier wood. This is no problem now I have my variable speed.

Another addition is the Pro-Forme Flexi articulated head hollowing tool supplied by Phil Irons, designed to work on smaller projects than the Hamlet. It will comfortably fit through a 15mm aperture due to the shaft being 12.7mm (1/2") diameter. The tool is supplied with two links, the straight and the curved; they are made from aircraft specification high tensile steel to ensure there is no flex. The cutter head is a smaller version of the standard Pro-Forme hollowing tools that have been available for years and is made from the same triple tempered M2 high speed steel.

I also have a few other hollowing tools including 8mm and 10mm carbide tools as supplied by Simon Hope.

### Tormek Supergrind

This can make such a difference to your work, it is expensive but if you can afford it then it is worth its weight in gold. Having really sharp tools is essential for a good finish straight off the tool. There is an excellent range of jigs to assist you in correctly sharpening your tools. As this is a water cooled grinding system which runs at a far lower speed than a normal grinding wheel you have more control and thus your tools do not wear down so fast. It can pay for itself in the long run.

### Polishing System

I have chosen the Beale System which consists of three 8 inch polishing wheels each of a different build as far as the material used goes, the first wheel uses a substance called tripoli the second uses white diamond and the third uses pure Carnauba wax. They advise using this after the item has been oiled and let dry.

### BENDIGO my return by Douglas Boud

Back in September 2012 I submitted a piece for the newsletter on my trip to Bendigo, Victoria in the land of OZ. I Arrived on Good Friday was well timed for the town's Easter festivities and the evening parade, which started in 1871, involving numerous voluntary fire service engines and Chinese Dragons, followed by a firework display. Also (a highlight for me) the **Bendigo Woodturners Inc. Easter Exhibition**, a four day event with around 1,800/1,900 visitors, being a comprehensive impressive display of members work and selling thereof by members of the various club groups.

Well I returned this year and whereas my notes in the September of 2012 newsletter began with "arriving on Good Friday" this year it was "leaving on Good Friday" so I missed the four day impressive display and sale of members work. However I did manage to visit whilst they were setting up on the Thursday – with camera, so a selection of photographs. It must be appreciated that the Bendigo club has a variety of wood working groups: - woodturning, pyrography, scroll saws, toys, Triton (which makes/restores furniture), carvers and general woodworking.

The first photograph shows, about, half the length of hall/displays – five rows of tables across the room.





As always they aim to sell 5,000 raffle tickets prior to the event, anticipate/hope for 2,000 visitors and members look to take \$10,000 from sales. One of the raffle prizes was a large dolls house but its box of furniture made by the scroll saw members would have been a magnificent prize on its own.

### **A woodturning tale by Paul Raubusch.**

have a client for handyman work in Ealing. We were chatting whilst being paid at the end of the day about what I did for hobbies.

Naturally I told him of my woodturning, he then replied that I might know his Brother-in-law. Only if he's famous, I said. Well he is said the Ealing client, his name is Jimmy Clewes, a British guy living and working in Las Vegas.

The client then showed a bowl that Jimmy had made and given to his sister and Brother-in-law for Xmas.

I liked the design, so decided to see if I could do something similar. I could not use the same wood, as it was unique to Oregon, but I did have some Yew of right size.

Once made (this was summer 2013), I showed it to the client who then emailed a picture to Jimmy, and it was subsequently shown to Jimmy when he visited Cheam Woodturners, last November. Not bad said Jimmy for a part time hobby turner.

I later sold that bowl to a client in Chiswick who gave it to some friends in California as a wedding gift. They were chuffed to bits to learn of the story behind it.

A kind of round the world export story.

Not only that, at the same event where I sold the bowl, I also sold a pen to a Hong Kong client, who commissioned a second pen of same wood and design in pink ivory, this was also sent to Hong Kong.



That's 3 export successes now, a couple of years ago a pair of my salt/pepper grinders were sold to a client in France. Any more export stories out there ?

Paul Raubusch

### **TOP TIP**

When you are given a piece of wood, if you are told what it is at the time, always write it on the wood straight away, because you can bet your life a few months down the line you won't be able to remember. I know!

## **Christmas Practical Evening**

As a change in style for writing up the clubs evening activities, especially for this Christmas practical I'm going to tell the story of the evening via photographs that were taken of the night.



The evening started with setting up the equipment including making repairs to the trolley mechanism for the big lathe, thanks to Don Mitchell for the repairs and Colin Rowe for assisting in the fitting. As always it's a big thank you to all the club's turners who help out at the practical evenings, it's quite a commitment to come along, set up and demonstrate.

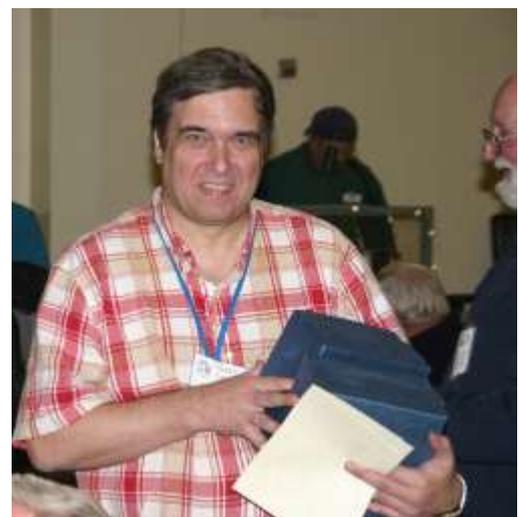


It was good to have Phil Wolsoncroft back at club nights looking after the club shop, Phil has been away for several months having both knees replaced, he has made a remarkable recovery, now he is back we should be expecting some additions to the club shops inventory with pen kits and a wider range of sandpapers to choose from.

Also thanks to Phil's able assistants who looked after the shop in his absence.



The Christmas Practical Night is designed to be as much a social occasions as a way to watch some of the club's turners doing their thing and a pint of beer is a very sociable way to do this. Also thanks to Joy Bell for wearing her Christmas jumper and very fashionable Christmas earrings.



One of the highlights of the Christmas practical evening is the presentation of trophies from this year's open day, there were lots of prizes and some people like Colin Rowe pictured did very well bagging several prizes.



Sylvia Nesbitt was stubbornly trying to avoid my camera all evening, hiding behind newsletters and other people but eventually I caught her in the open, doing a very good job of reminding us to take full advantage of the club's library.



Jim Gains was one of our turners for the evening making Christmas decorations; I did think it was very appropriate for Jim to be turning on a festively Red lathe.



Some of you may remember a former member George Nichols (above left), he has been hiding away from woodturning for a few years getting his PhD for Particle Physics (Clever boy) at Royal Holloway college, he is about to emigrate to Canada and needed to get rid of his quite substantial collection of wood so was at the club to sell it on, lots of us took advantage of the good prices for some great pieces of timber, Doug Boud (Above right) especially, I did note as I was taking this photograph he was saying “don’t tell my wife I’ve bought more wood” a sentiment we can all relate to.



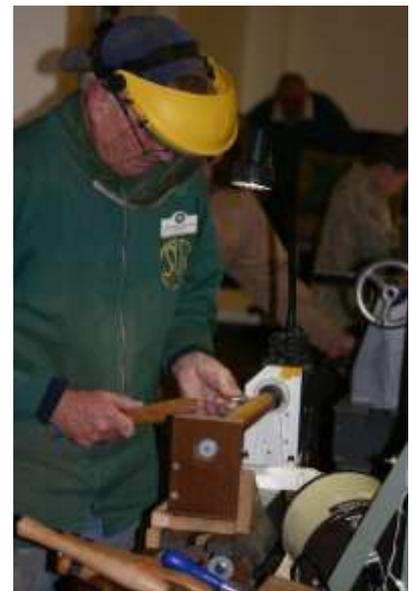
Christmas practical night is where we choose the turner of the year and also collect pieces for our chosen charity which this year is help for heroes, partly because it's an important charity in this year or remembrance but also because it references our former member Peter Stent.



Paul Nesbitt was another of our club turners; he was turning Yew Branches into natural Edge vases, as you can see Paul had quite an audience watching his demonstrations.



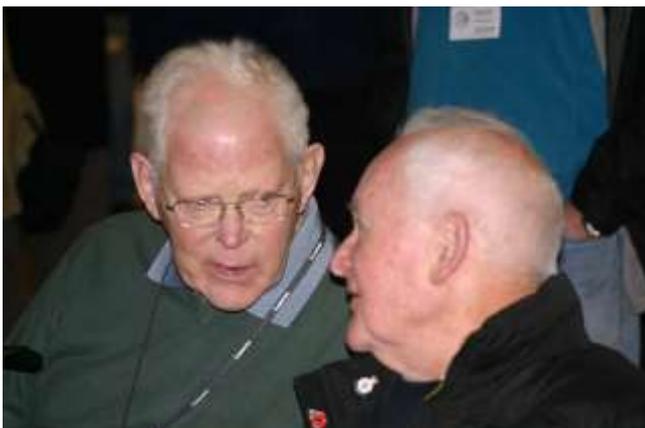
John Sherwood was another of our club turners; John like Jim Gaines was making Christmas decorations.



Arthur Martin was another of our club turners and was making a table lamp, it was very interesting and informative watching him use an auger to drill the hole up the centre of the lamp column using his home made jig.



Up on the stage hidden from view was a Photo Booth manned by Dave Stratton who was photographing all the pieces from the competition winners for the night.



**TOP TIP**

One of the 'grabs' that are designed to help those disabled folk pick up things is incredibly useful by the lathe to pick up everything else you drop that isn't magnetic! (sand paper, safety glasses etc. etc.)



Gallery of images showing some of the various characters of the club enjoying the evening, it was a good night and see you all next year.

Robert Grant

### **Members Adverts.**

**New Rules:** Adverts will be carried over two issues of the newsletter and will then be removed unless advertisers let the editor know they wish to keep it running, and let the editor know what has been sold so their advert can be updated.

**As of the January issue** members adverts will be published at a donation of 10% (to help with printing costs). The committee rely on the member selling to be honest about that which has sold. **Donations by cash or cheque made payable to Surrey Association of Woodturners and either sent or given to the editor or the treasurer.**

**Widows of late members selling tools no donation required.**

All others, including ex-members and non members as usual a donation of 20% of what is sold, but this would be at the committees discretion.

Only adverts giving full contact details will be considered if ex-members or non-members a name and phone number is not good enough.