

Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter July 2006

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Roger Sudding

Membership – 170

Items for the Diary

Friday 11th Aug Practical evening

Friday 8th Sept Tom Pockley

23rd & 24 Sept Rural Life centre

Friday 13th Oct Club Turner

Items wanted

This is **your** newsletter. If you have an interesting story or top tip to tell please send it to the editor.

A Big Thank You

I wish to record a big thank you to those members who made pieces for the Frimley Parish Building Fund from the acacia wood supplied. I am pleased to report that we raised over £100.00 from your efforts.

John Marnes.

Another Thank You

After my recent sojourn in Frimley Park Hospital, I must say I am feeling much better and on the road to full recovery. I would like to convey my thanks to everyone for their good wishes, and especially the Committee for the card. Peter Stent very

kindly paid me a visit and we had a nice long chat. So once again thanks to everyone for their best wishes.

Your Postman Vic Burge

June Evening

It was a frustrating start for some members caused by chaos on the M25, however it was worth making the effort to attend. Our demonstrator was Simon Hope, who was to show us how to use Pewter. This is a lead free alloy that is easy to cast. It will take a thread. Because you can reheat and recast the material as many times as you like, it is a cheap way of practicing thread cutting.

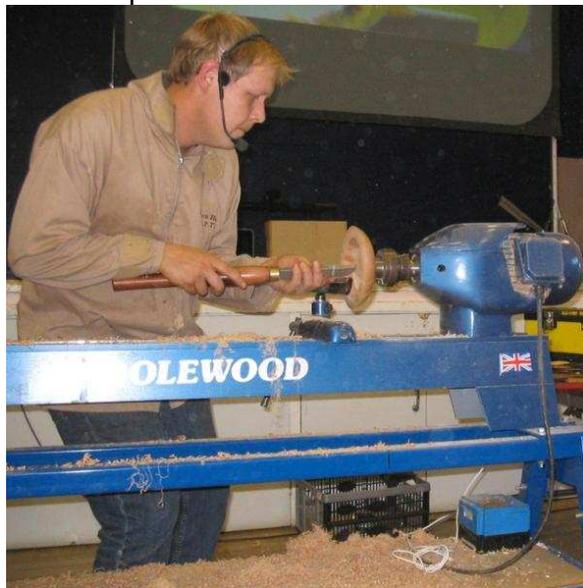
He passed around examples of his work. These included wooden bowls with a pewter foot and a Bagpipe chanter with a pewter ferrule.

He started by making an ordinary bowl in Fiddle Back Myrtle. With the block mounted on the lathe he used a standard bowl gouge to rough out the shape.



Callipers were used to mark out the size of the spigot and this was cut using a 6mm straight skew. The tail stock was brought up to mark the centre. He continued to shape the outside of the bowl. As he swept the gouge around the bevel would start to work on the outer part of the bowl. To keep the cutting edge sharp a touch on the grinder was required. Simon like a blue wheel from Peter Childs. When making the finishing cut if vibration occurs, stop and go over the work. He puts a burr on skew using a wheel and diamond file to shear scrape. Sand with 240 grit and 320 grit on "grip a disc" hand tool and the a piece of foam backed 600 grit. The foam side was then used to remove the dust. The blank was then reversed into the straight jawed chuck.

The middle of the bowl was removed by placing the gouge on the tool rest and sweeping it to and fro. Simon decided to leave the bowl with a fat rim to show off the ripple in the grain. He decided to slightly dome the lip. Then the inside was given its finishing cuts using a Gerry Glazer negative rake scraper.



Then it was sanded using 180, 240, 320 and 600 grits. A coat of Danish oil was applied. This will take 6 hour to dry. A jam chuck was made to take the inside of the bowl. The bowl was then held between the tail stock and the jam chuck covered with a bit of the foam backed sand paper. The

spigot was reduced to about 20mm (3/4"). The exposed area was sanded using all the grades.

A separate block of oak was cut to make a mould for the pewter. This needed to be cut down to the required depth. Remembering the incident with Stewart King and the smoke alarms calling the fire brigade, Simon moved his camping cooker over to the side door. Using a small saucepan he melted a block of pewter and poured it into the mould.



It does not require much heat. I have made fishing weights and model ship fittings in lead, so I know how easy it is to use such a material. Be careful when cooling the mould if you pour water on the hot pewter it will spit steam at you. Simon used a wet cloth.

No special tools are required to turn pewter. It will turn very similar to African Blackwood. The face was trued and a 6mm gouge used to cut out the centre. He undercut so as to fit the curvature of the bowl. He needed to reduce the height of the spigot. On the bowl. He then cut down the edge to release the block of Pewter.

Another jam chuck was made to take the recess in the pewter so that the underside of the pewter could be trued up, decorated with chatterwork. The pewter was

polished with 0000 wire wool. When working the pewter a cloth on the lathe bed enables all the shavings to be saved and used again. The bowl was then auctioned for Simons charity. A very interesting and informative evening.



Simon sold some bars of pewter to members.

Simon Hope can be contacted on 01206-250694 or 07747 817277.

The Pewter is "S" jewellery grade which is lead free. This he sells for £20.00 per Kg plus postage.

TWO TOP TIPS From the Editor

Spanner Callipers If you frequently need to reduce timber to a certain diameter such as ½" I use an old spanner of that size. Sharpening the two prongs means that it will cut the wood if it is slightly over size.

Allen Keys I make handles for the allen keys that I am always using. This increases the purchase you can apply and makes them a bit harder to loose in the shavings. The idea is to make them look like a garden dibber. A piece of wood is turned to form the top of the "T". A hole is drilled though the middle, the diameter of the key and a groove cut to take the shorter end of the key. The longer end is put through the hole. The key is then glued in place and the rest of the groove filled with plastic wood or glue and shavings



LOVELL WORKWARE

The article about the Saw badge in the last issue did not have the chart listing sizes and prices. I have bought a smock which members can look at. Attached is a copy of my invoice which shows the cost according to size. A copy of the chart is on Richards table. I posted an order on a Monday and received the smock on the Friday!

Library

Also attached are the latest details of all the videos, DVD and Books available from Richard's table.

**Videos & DVDS
£2.00 per month**

**Books
50p per month**

**All Videos DVDs & Books
For Juniors (under 18 yrs)
Free monthly**

All to be renewed monthly

Myford ML8 Attachments (Colin Spain)

As you should all be aware we have had a Myford ML8 lathe donated to the club, with a Planer and Circular Saw attachments. The committee felt that although we could make use of the lathe, the attachments could prove a problem, not least the storage of them. I failed to find a new owner for the attachments within the club membership, even after announcing it at the June club night. As the donor of the lathe was most keen that the equipment should be put to good use, I thought of the Rural Life Centre as I had seen a Myford ML8 there back in April. I contacted museum manager Chris Shephard and offered the attachments on our behalf; I soon got a reply from one of our own

members Bernard Ollivier whom works there voluntarily. They would be very pleased to accept the Planer and Circular Saw attachments as they are building a new workshop, and there is to be a woodturning section with 3 lathes consisting of 2 Myford ML8's and a small Axminster Perform lathe. By utilising the attachments it will mean that some smaller jobs can be undertaken in the workshop without the need to move to the main woodworking area next door. I delivered these to the Rural Life Centre on Wednesday where Bernard thanked us, and made me very welcome. He also showed me the new woodturning workshop which is being finished, and where, all being well, we will be housed in September for our demonstration weekend.

I was on holiday in Wales and so missed the Seminar, however Colin has kindly prepared a report for all who missed the event.

Les Thorne Seminar

Its Sunday 21st May a day I for one had been looking forward to. I had known Les for some time, in fact since I began turning when he used to work in his fathers shop in New Alresford where I bought my wood.

When I arrived at 9:30 to help set up, things were well under way. There were two lathes Les's own Oneway and the club's Poolewood. We were a little behind for a 10:00 o'clock start as Les was going to do some scorching later and we were trying to cover up the smoke detector not wanting a repeat of Stuart King's embarrassing moment when the fire brigade turned up.

There was a very good attendance of 34 members. Well at £8 a ticket, including cake, teas and coffee, now that's value.

Les explained that he prefers turning individual items but a lot of his work is repetitive production turning as this pays the bills. He then went on to turn a chair leg using the skew, one of many he has done to fulfil an order. It takes skill to turn

identical objects. This is why I guess I prefer individual items.

He then went on to turn an ash platter which he textured and ebonised and then used a gold paste wax to colour the grain. He then reverse chucked it using his vacuum chuck to finish it. This fits on the hollow headstock spindle with a pump attached. He makes his own wooden holder and his own seals from various non porous rubber or foam packaging material.

This was followed by a fruit turning demo, he made an apple using a Oneway screw chuck which is attached to a morse taper - a very good idea. Its design utilises hexagonal bits and allows the use of any length of slotted, phillips, or square headed screw sizes 8 to 10. These are available from Les's own web site <http://www.thesheddirect.com/>.

After the break he gave a critique of our work, which I thought was very fair. He used some of our pieces to prove points he had made in the first half.

In the afternoon he turned a bowl putting different textures on the outside and the inside. Outside, he used a beading tool which cut the whole bead in one go. He suggested the Gary Rance beading tool which only cuts one side of the bead at a time would be better if you wanted a good finish as the double pointed tool can tear the grain if you push too hard when it starts to cut in the middle. However, an uneven finish was fine for this bowl. He then scorched the bowl and used Chestnut ebonising spray paint and once this was dry gave the bowl a coat of Interference paint which gave the finished bowl an eerie sheen. Very effective.

He turned the inside of the bowl to an even wall thickness and then used the point of a skew to cut a close pattern of rings all the way down to the bottom.

During the day Les talked about various aspects of turning and teaching and made references to some of his pupils who were there in the audience. He spoke about tool

sharpening and its importance to a good finish, especially that final finishing cut. He let slip about a new piece of kit that Tormek are due to launch at the end of the year that should make it easier for those of us who have a Tormek wet grinder to set it up to the correct angles etc. Sounds very interesting.

Throughout the day Les kept up a cheerful banter and made us laugh, he has taken to woodturning like a duck to water and is a very good teacher.

Thanks Les, for a very interesting day.

Colin Spain
Club Secretary

July Meeting

Our demonstrator was John Davis who used to be connected with Australian Outback Timber Imports. Although the firm has folded he still has a large stock of Australian Burrs (about 8.5 tons). When he was invalided out of the Police force in 1999 he took up his hobby full time. His assistant Paul McKernan was present selling a small selection of the timber and other items that they have at Stockbridge. John intended to show us how to make a natural edged bowl in a piece of Brown Mallee which was held on the lathe by a ring face plate. Using a 3/8" gouge with a fingernail profile he cut into the bark on the base to reveal sap wood and then heart wood. A spigot was cut as this would give a more positive hold while creating the dish of the bowl.



John showed us that having shaped the underside and lip of the bowl you could achieve a cleaner cut on the underside of the wing by working from the outside in towards the centre. The bevel of the tool was at right angles to the axis of the lathe. The size of the bowl had to be checked to ensure that turning the inside did not make holes in the wall. He likes to create a bead where the side of the bowl meets the underside of the wing. He then used an oval skew to cut a dovetail on the spigot. He is not afraid to use his "Multi faceted shaping tool" i.e. Sand paper to remove tool marks and power sanded the underside of the wing while Paul held it still on the lathe.



A coat of Danish oil was applied and given a minute to dry before being buffed with paper towel.

After tea the piece was reversed into the chuck and the face plate ring removed. By cutting in from the edge the thickness of the lip was reduced. John then started to remove the middle.



He switched to a ¼" bowl gouge and then another 3/8" bowl gouge where the bevel was a lot less but the wings ground down. This allowed him to cut the dish quite shallow. More power sanding removed the pimple etc. The inside was then oiled and buffed.

To remove the spigot John mounted the bowl between a shaped disk of Iroko with a bit an router mat and the tail stock. This meant that the spigot could be reduced with care to about ¼" diameter and then removed by power sanding with 120 and 240 grit



An interesting evening. John explained that he is setting up a teaching centre at Stockbridge using well known tutors such as Les Thorne. The shop is apparently well worth a visit at -

John Davis Woodturning Centre
The Old Stables
Chilbolton Down Farm
Stockbridge
SO20 6BU
01264 811070

DUTIES ROTA

Among the many loose sheets with this newsletter is a list showing when the various volunteers have agreed to assist

with the jobs at the start or end of the evening.

The Committee are very grateful for their help but we can always use any help. If you are willing to give a little of your time to the Club please talk to one of the Committee.

Obituary

Jim Baxter

Membership number 69

Membership 1991-2006

It was with enormous sadness I reported to the members at the July club night that Jim had unexpectedly passed away in the early hours that same day.

It is not our normal practice to write obituaries for the newsletter, but Jim has put so much into the club without wanting public accolades that I felt everyone would want to know.

I have been on the committee for 9 years and have organised most of the schedules for stewards in that time - invariably Jim's name was on the list - he would always turn up and do whatever was needed.

When I joined, Jim was already the 'tea boy' - supporting Eric in providing the refreshments for club nights and other events.

Jim's quiet good humour and his willingness to give his time to the club will be sadly missed.

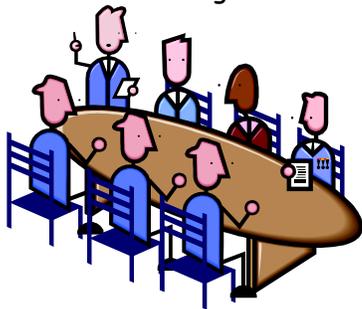
Jennie

JENNIE' S PAGES!



Dear Club Members,

Time seems to race by, doesn't it? It seems a very short while ago that I took over as Chair from Paul Nesbitt in January 2004. As the chair can only hold the office for 3 consecutive years, I will be retiring in January and will become Vice President for the duration of the next Chair's term of office. I still hope to play an active part in running the club (as Paul does now) and attend committee meetings.



In the last newsletter I asked people to think about whether they would be prepared to join the new committee in January. With such a large club and such a full calendar of events, we need an active committee. So, please see me or one of the committee if you feel that you can give some time to running the club.

Yandles Show - Friday 8th September



The trip needs a few more names to be viable. The cost is £12 and we have booked a

modern new coach for the trip. Please contact Margaret Jackson 01932 - 789849 to book a place or go to Richard's table at the August meeting.

If we do not have enough names by coffee time on the practical evening in August, it will be cancelled! All money should be paid by that evening.

If the trip is cancelled, all money will be refunded.

Open Day 2006

Sunday 29th October At the Mytchett Centre



By now I hope that you all have this date firmly fixed in your diaries!

Entry forms for the two competitions are included with this newsletter. Open Day Competition details are in your club handbook. Please phone me if you have any questions about your level of entry or anything else to do with entering the competition. Roy Edwards will be running the competition on the day and you should make arrangements with him if you are not able to hand in your entries at the October club night.

I will be contacting members to ask for pieces for the 'club table' that I described in the last newsletter. Invitations to have a piece on this Club Table will be based on scores for the December, March and August rounds of the Club Competition.

I have also included a form for volunteers to steward or turn on the day with a space to book a sales table if you want one.

REMEMBER - it is up to you, the members, to advertise the show. We have included a poster for the show with this mailing and ask you to find a shop or library who can display it for us **from mid September**. More posters will be available at club nights.

Advance tickets will be made available on club nights and members can buy these at £1 instead of the £2 it will cost on the door.

The Raffle



We discussed club finances at great length at the last AGM and members voted to raise the subscription level so that our projected income from subs and the raffle would cover the costs of running the club for the year. The raffle raises about one third of our annual income. Without this income we would not be able to offer the current programme. Last newsletter I explained that Margaret and Phil will be retiring from the committee in January and they will stop running the raffle.

There have **not** been a huge number of volunteers stampeding to take it over - in fact, there have been none! We therefore have to 'bite the bullet' and decide how we are going to replace the income generated by the raffle.

These are the options that the committee have discussed so far.

1. Subscriptions should be raised to at least £30 per head and raffles would only be held occasionally.
2. Subscriptions would not change, but **visitors** would be asked to pay an entry charge to **all club evenings** and **members** would have to pay an entry charge to **all professional turner demonstrations**. (the charge would vary depending on the cost to the club of the turner and could be between £2 and £5)

3. The monthly raffle would be replaced by a 'hundred club'. Members joining this club would contribute an annual sum (to be decided). Half of this money would go to the club and half would be repaid as prizes in monthly draws.

Please ask around at other clubs to see whether any other ideas might be considered and let me know. I think that you will be surprised just how many clubs charge members for demos and have higher annual subscriptions.

If we get to the point of having to decide on a different way to raise money, I will put out a simple questionnaire in a newsletter to get your opinion before putting it to the membership at the AGM.

Remember:



- Now is the time to be turning pieces for the Open Day Competitions. We want everyone to enter at least one piece.
- Ring Margaret to book a place on the coach to Yandles.
- Put Open Day in your diary and volunteer to help if you can.
- Buy more raffle tickets!

Best wishes and happy turning!

Jennie