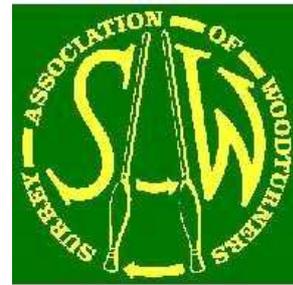


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter July 2009

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Les Hamlett Richard Maynard
David Sydenham

Paid up Membership 173

Items for the Diary

Friday 14th August Practical
Friday 11th Sept. Dave Reeks
Sat/Sun 12/13th Sept Warco week End
26th & 27th Sept Rural Life
Friday 9th Oct. Club Turner
Sat. 10th Oct. Princes Mead Centre
Sun 25th Oct OPEN DAY

STOP PRESS

12th & 13th September 2009
WARCO Open Weekend, Fisher Lane
Chiddingfold, Surrey GU8 4TD
Your club needs you to help
demonstrate or Steward. Please
contact Paul Nesbitt on 0208 848 7137
to book your name on the list. Lunch
will be provided. Names needed before
14th August 2009.

JUNE Evening

Because three of the Committee Members were absent, we forgot to erect the safety screen. This did make it easier for me and John Creasy to take photographs. Our demonstrator was Phil Irons who many of us have seen before.



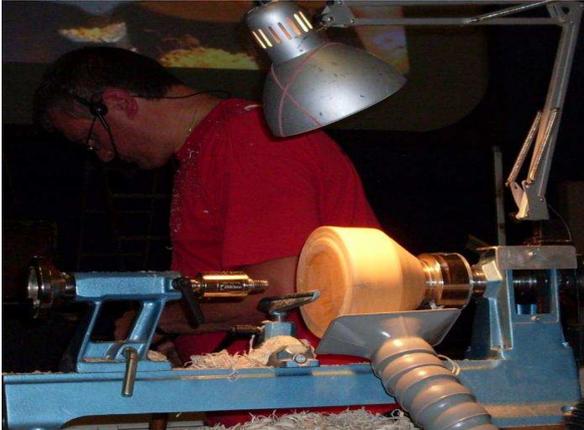
He is well known for his wooden hats and coloured hollow forms.

This evening he intended to show us how to make a miniature hat from wood.



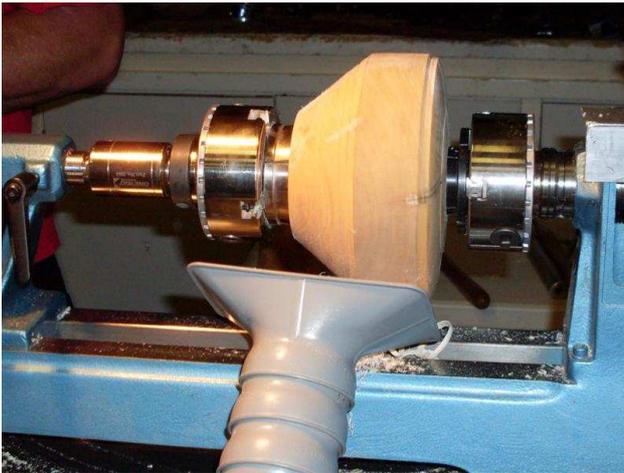
He explained in detail the process of making a full size hat. The grain must be straight, running front to back and can be from a variety of wet timbers, Maple, Silver Birch, Sycamore, Oak and London Plane. Elm is not recommended. It will take four

days to make a hat, hence the price tag of £500.00. Careful measuring is required and once turned needs to be dried carefully on an adjustable framework to get the inside shape and curvature to the brim.



A block of Sycamore was mounted on his Vicmarc VL 100 lathe between a rusty face plate and a ring centre in the tail stock. This was turned to a truncated cone and a spigot turned in the smaller end to fit his 4 jaw chuck. With the chuck face up on the lathe bed, the wood was fitted and secured. Because of the gearing in the chuck mechanism it does not required a lot of leverage on the chuck key.

The larger face was trued up with a spindle gouge with a side grind and a double bevel. A recess was cut to take a similar chuck to the first. This was fitted to a revolving centre in the tail stock.



The edge of the brim was formed. On a large hat a ring of timber would be removed by cutting down the edge of the brim and in from the end. For this evening the surplus timber was just cut away. The outside shape of the hat was created.



Because this hat is only going to be 1mm thick Phil had to constantly re sharpen his gouges using a jig on the grind stone. The points of the callipers had been rounded off to ensure there was no damage when checking measurements.

Using a light as a guide the top of the brim was formed, checking the thickness. He used Abronett to sand though the grades , 120 to 400 grit.



He has made a special jamb chuck in the form of a large cylinder with suitable padding on to which his full size hats could fit. This had a light bulb in the middle with the power lead running through the head stock. On the end of this was secured the wooden mandrel from which the internal dimensions of this hat had been taken.

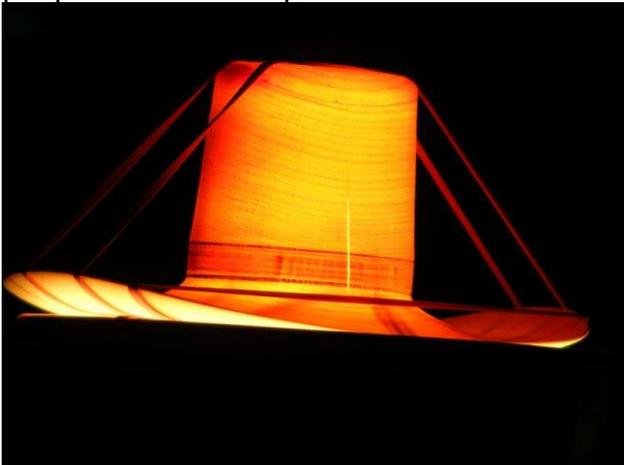
The chuck was removed from the top of the hat, which was slipped on to the jamb chuck and held in place by a revolving centre. With the inside light on, the top of the hat was reduced.



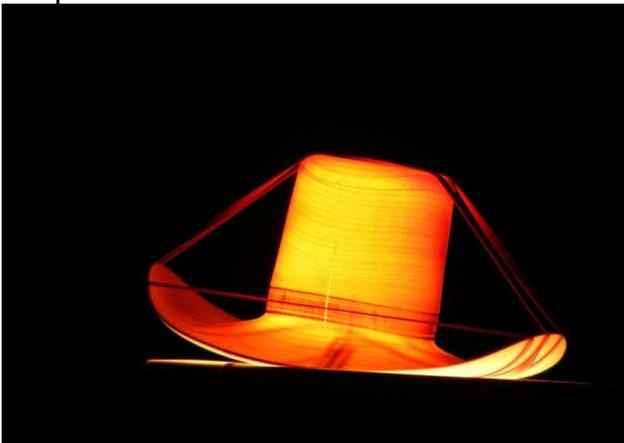
To form the hat band a thin piece of Ebony and a piece of Rosewood were cut across the end at an angle and applied to the revolving hat so that the friction caused the colour to be transferred.

Another wood that can be used in this way is Padauk.

The outside of the hat was carefully sanded through the grades, after removing the pimple left on the top.



We had wondered why there were a couple of elastic bands across his angle poise lamp. This was to hold the hat while it dried.



A couple of bands over the hat ensured that the brim curled before our very eyes.



Any extremely interesting evening. No one moved until he finished at 10.15!

My thanks to John for some of the photographs.

HANDS ON DAY 21st June

This is from Mike Burnett regarding hands on day for the newsletter.

I've been thinking about what we did and wonder if consideration has ever been given to have preset objectives where each student is told to bring the required wood and tools.

The "Hands On" Day of Sunday 21st June was attended by 5 trainers and 9 trainees. Paul explained that this was the first of the new format with only two Trainees per machine. He then introduced the trainers and detailed what each one would be doing. Brian Rogers and Colin Spain on Boxes with Brian also teaching Basic Finishing and Colin showing Hollow Forms, Jennie, was demonstrating Bowl Turning with Richard Davies and Paul Teaching hollow forms and tool sharpening. Before we commenced with the main part of the day, Paul gave a preliminary talk on Hollowing Tools, including scrapers, ring tools and specialised hollowers and showed how they have developed from the hook tools used by Turners for centuries.

When we were set loose, it quickly became apparent that the new format was working well. Looking around it could be seen that the trainees were able to practice what they

were being shown and were freely interacting with their co-trainees and their tutors. The closeness of the training allowed immediate questioning and discussion to take place on what tools to use and how to use them to get precise results. It also allowed time to consider how to get round a problem when a particular tool was unavailable, or what measures to take to rectify mistakes.

With each student doing having two options, it was all change after lunch.

In the wash-up, that followed the afternoon session, the general conclusion was that it was definite and worthwhile experience - a day, and a tenner, well spent. I feel that all the trainees found benefit from the day and so too the trainers.

From my part, with benefit of hindsight and the time to reflect I feel, there needs to be some follow-up. Perhaps a task, to design and produce something that was discussed during the day, could be set for the students to complete at home. The results could be brought to a Club night for appraisal at a next night.

From John Creasey.-

I thought the new format lead to greater input from the tutors and I was able to learn more. A great day. Well done.

I also thought that the Judging evening was very informative and gave us more ideas to what is looked at when judging pieces. A good evening well spent. Well done to Jennie.

John Creasey

JULY EVENING

We did not have a demonstrator as such but Chris from Robert Sorby. He had brought a range of new tools for us to purchase along with many others.

The new Soverign Tool Handle is of aluminium alloy with a soft grip with

threaded collets allowing the fitting of 16 different gouges and 6 hollowing tools.



There are two lengths, 16 inch and 22 inch, costing on the night £42.50 & £47.50 respectively.



A threaded coupler was available to increase the length of the handle plus a counter weight. A side handle was also available

Chris showed the use of some of the tools on a Sycamore blank. Texturing and spiralling tools large and small were also demonstrated.



Another new item was the Wobble Chuck. This will fit a standard 2" chuck. It consists

of a screw chuck with the face plate at an angle which when rotated against the bearing surface produces the offset. Because Chris was not charging us for the evening the Club bought one at £52.00 to add to the tools available for members to borrow.

Woodturning – My beginning

But first - Walk the Wight” for Charity

May I first say a big thank you to those who sponsored me for my walk across the Isle of Wight on 17th May, in aid of their Earl Mountbatten Cancer Hospice. The first walkers were off their marks at 0700hrs and headed out of Bembridge on there way along the centre ridge of the Island and onto Totland Bay, some 26 miles away, passing Carisbrooke Castle at the halfway point.

The weather and banter started very well. Then the heavens opened and we spent the rest of the walk being buffeted by high cross winds and driving rain. The organisers had also put a sting in the tail, as if we really needed one at that wet and soggy stage! As we walked down into Alum Bay it was nice to see the end in sight, or so we thought. Then we saw the sign that said 4 miles to the finish, which took us up over Tennison Downs, which at that stage looked like Mount Everest!! Last year saw 8,400 walkers, raising £350,000.00 and the targets this year looks good. The Islands local paper, the next day said that a force seven gale had been recorded across the Isle of Wight on the Sunday of the walk! Let’s hope we have a sunny day next year.

Anyway, back to woodturning “My Beginning”. I have been a paid up member of SAW for about two years now and have only just purchased a lathe! I have been attending the monthly meetings and the occasional hands on day. Of course when attending the HOD you should have your own tools, although other club members were always very accommodating when it came to tool sharing. I am now the proud owner of an Axminster M330 (thanks to Barry), having been advised that it was a good beginners lathe by Paul.

Instead of purchasing many wondrous tools I was advised on a short list to “get me started” (thanks again Paul). The nice thing with the members of SAW is that they are always very helpful with advice and guidance. There was a short gap between getting my lathe and purchasing my tools and I spent the time deciding the best place to mount it in my small workshop. Other evenings I just stood and listened to it buzz and go round and round!!

My tools arrived by way of a birthday present (the hinting worked) and `I am now at the stage where I can put a tool to a piece of wood without stabbing chunks out of it. That skew chistle has a mind of its own though doesn’t it? I was given a few blanks to set me on my way and practiced turning light pulls (thanks again Barry) I could not understand why I was making heavy work of getting a nice cutting style until I was told “you need to sharpen your tools when you receive them, as they are only factory sharp on delivery! I now await delivery of my reasonably priced Axminster grinding wheel at £40.99 plus pp. Oh and it appears that turning pine is not a good wood to start off with! I don’t remember reading that in any magazine.

Nobody warned me though to prepare myself for the full wrath of my wife!! I only popped into the house for a “comfort break” and it was only a little bit of sawdust and shavings, walked through the kitchen and hallway after all! (I wonder how easy it is to get planning permission for an outside loo?)

.....now where’s that old woodturning magazine with the article on Sharpening Woodturning Tools for beginners, my grinder is due to arrive next week!! I’ll let you know how I get on.

Jim Goodman

PS: If any member out there has an old chuck or unwanted tool, collecting dust in their workshop just give me a call on 07721 757675.

The new mentoring programme

Seven members have now tried out the new mentoring scheme and we hope that more of you will sign up now it seems to be up and running reasonably!

The scheme is open to any member who feels that they could benefit from a couple of practical sessions, hands-on, 1:1 with one of our more experienced members. There is no charge and the sessions are covered by our club insurance. If we have too many members apply at once, preference will be given to the least experienced new members but we hope to fit everyone in!



Forms are available on the club admin table each club night. If you are not sure about anything, give me a ring or email me and I will be glad to explain it in more detail.

01932 888144

jennie@artycraftywoodturning.com

Volunteers Still Needed - *YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!*



If you would be interested in being a mentor for a less experienced member, please get in touch.

Jennie Starbuck

A Days Tuition with Mark Baker

In the September edition of Woodturning you will see the letter from John Sherwood that won him this fabulous prize.



John has written his impressions of the day which are too long to include here but will be in the next newsletter.

CLUB TOOL HIRE - VOLUNTEER WANTED

The Club has recently purchased another 2 tools, making a total of 6 available for monthly hire to club members to "try out in their own workshops".

Tool hire has, until now, been run as part of the admin table/DVD library, but this may be an appropriate time to look after this expanding club asset separately. So if you would be interested in taking this on, please have a word with Paul or Neil.

Paul's



Paragraphs

Fathers Day brought me another Grandson, Ronnie arrived after the hands on day at 9.25 pm Weighing in at 6 lbs 6ozs, four weeks early. Mother and baby both well and home the next day before lunch.

June Club Night

Phil Irons returned to the club and gave a demonstration on making a wooden hat. This is something that I always wanted to see. So that's something else off my wish list. What a fascinating demonstration, Informative and enjoyable. Even the members stayed later than normal to see the end.

July Club Night

Robert Sorby road show. What an interesting evening. Chris was very informative about the tools that he showed us. The new range of tool handle and tools looks quite interesting. The members seemed to be buying lots of things and Chris said the evening had been good for him. The club has purchased a wobbly chuck for members to try before they buy. As there was no fee for Chris on the evening the club used that money to purchase a small air driven dentist's drill. This again is for the members to try before they buy or use for a one off project.

Hands on Day

We tried a new format to this event and it seemed to work. There was positive feedback from those that attended. I also felt that it was better and of course only

two to a lathe which means more turning time to the 'Students'. A big thank you to the 'Tutors Jennie Starbuck, Richard Davies, Colin Spain, Brian Rogers and of course myself.

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. Remember there is now two more additions to the tool stockpile on Neil's table.

Warco Open Weekend

We have an added show to our list of events through the year. We will now be attending the Warco Open Weekend on the 12th and 13th September. Another date for your diary. We will have a 15 metre long area and will be looking for some volunteers to Demonstrate and steward. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for the helpers by Warco

Open Day

As I keep reminding you all this date should now be getting to be firmly in your heads by now. We are still looking for helpers throughout the day. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours it all helps. It is looking to be another great event and a lot of work has already gone into making this another success, but it will only work if you the members give some of you time.

Rural Life Centre

On the 26th and 27th of September we will be back at the Rural life Centre and will be looking for demonstrators and stewards.

Princes Mead Shopping Centre

On the 10th of October we will be back at the Princes Mead Shopping Centre and will be looking for demonstrators and stewards.