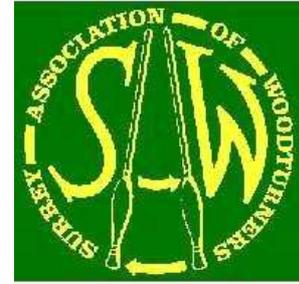


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter July 2010

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Bob Challis Alun Davies
Anthony Lewis

Paid up Membership 163

Items for the Diary

Friday	13 th August	Practical Evening
Friday	10 th September	Gary Rance
25 th & 26 th	September	Rural Life Centre
Friday	8 th October	Club Turner
Saturday	9 th October	Princes Mead

JUNE EVENING

John Berkeley and his wife Chris, who was selling tools etc. kindly stepped in at the last minute because of a mix up in the bookings. Sarah Thirlwell will be next month. Because of health problems using wood, John now works in alternative ivory, cast polyester resin. He intended to show us a decorated pill box with a threaded lid. He pointed out that any closed grained hard wood can be used for thread chasing, Boxwood, Yew heartwood and several others. With some it is a good idea to treat the area of the thread with thin super glue. John now uses and teaches using a unichaser, that is a female chaser that has been ground on both sides. He is very

critical of Robert Sorby chasers, they are poorly finished with sharp edges and have a useless first half tooth, which needs to be ground away. Always doctor your chuck so that there are no sharp edges to the leading edge of the jaws.

When using plastic materials do not run the lathe too fast or the heat will start to melt the material. John mounted a piece of blue material in the lathe and after cutting a spigot in the end parted off the lid. This was fitted in the chuck and using his arm rest which is always slung around his neck and a square tool he hollowed out the lid.



A recess was cut inside at the back and a chamfer created at the front. The inside was then polished with BGF cream. This Bloody Good Finishing cream comes in two bottles. Use the white first and then the

yellow. The result is better than T cut that John used to use.

When using the chaser, this is held between finger and thumb on the arm rest which is supported by the tool rest. The tool rest need to be dropped so that the chaser is cutting on the centre line at a lathe speed of about 450 rpm. You need to practise a circular motion which should be 1 minute per revolution. Humming or singing a tune helps some people. Starting at an angle cut the thread gradually swinging the chaser in line with the lathe bed on successive passes and being careful not to hit the bottom of the box.

Remove lid and fit base in the chuck. At a speed of around 1200 rpm cut a tapered spigot for the male thread. Chamfer the end and reduce speed to 450 rpm. Cut the male thread in a similar fashion to before. Apply a little wax and remove surplus with a tooth brush. Try the lid and cut the thread until a good fit is achieved.

John then removed the spigot on the top of the lid cutting across the face and then in from the edge. Decorate the top and shape the side of the box. Sand the box. To make it easy to identify different grits John draws different numbers of lines down the length of the roll of sand paper. Thus a single line would indicate 120 grit, while three lines 320 grit.



John showed us a rotary chisel that he had bought. With this fitted in a Dremmel he made a series of scollops around the edge of the lid. A doctored nail head was also used to decorate the top, which was then polished. Silver gilt cream was used to enhance the effect.

The inside of the base was hollowed using a round nosed scraper. This was in case the box was used for a cream of any sort and would mean it was easy to remove any remnants with the finger.

John had a spare piece which had the right size thread to hold the base on the lathe so that the underside of the base could be cleaned and decorated. This was sanded using grits 120 to 1200. then the white and yellow BGF cream used to polish. If required the pot can be buffed to a really good finish. Some of John's puzzles use a left hand thread which is cut in a similar manner except the circular motion of the chaser is the other way round. I found this a very interesting evening.

PRACTICAL NIGHTS - NEW **BLOOD WANTED**

Not literally of course (Blood that is).

I am looking for capable turners to demonstrate their skills at the practical nights (3 a year); during those nights we try to have about 6 guest turners from the club. If you would like the chance to show off your skills in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere please contact me [Colin Spain](#), and I will do everything I can to help you with what you need, lathe etc. It does not necessarily need to be lathe work, as long as it is turning related.

There is a lot of talent in the club, and I know it is daunting to turn in front of turners, "am I doing it right, will they think I'm daft etc?" In my experience it is not like that, the onlookers are genuinely interested and respect what you do, and a discussion can quite often develop that helps the demonstrator pick up new ideas too. In other words both onlooker and demonstrator come away learning something. A great way to overcome your concerns and start demonstrating, if that's what you want to do.

My thanks to the members who have come forward so far.

JULY EVENING

Our Demonstrator was Sarah Thirlwell from Altringham. When Paul introduced her, he had seen her demonstration the night before at the Middlesex Club. It was by sharing her travel costs that both clubs were able to see her work.

She studied textiles at University and has been turning for 11 years. She enjoys experimenting with using all different materials, Woods such as Ash, Lime, Sycamore Birch ply and acrylic. She also uses reclaimed yoghurt pots, cardboard drinking cups and sheets of paper glued together. The inside of fridge doors is reclaimed and produced in thin sheets. Sarah showed us a variety of vessels, bowls and solid bottles made of wood joined to plastic. She soon learned that she had to allow for the shrinkage of the wood. Some of these she can sell for high prices.



This one is shown on her website at £800.00

Acrylic comes in a variety of colours in sheets varying in thickness from 3 to 10mm. It is priced according to the manufacturing process. She suggested seeing if a local sign maker had off cuts that he did not want. To glue sheets together Sarah makes a locating hole for a peg and scores the surface with sand paper. The glue is Tensol 12 which needs to be used out in the open or using a full face respirator in a well ventilated area. It is then clamped in a book binding press. A G

cramp would do for small items. This she leaves for 24 hours. For gluing acrylic to wood she uses PVA glue from the Pound shop.

At home she has a large and a small record lathe. She does not usually turn in a dress and open toed sandals. She apologised for not bringing her boots with her.

She proceeded to show us how she made a bangle. The inside diameter needs to be about 65mm.



Several sheets of light and dark green acrylic had been glued together and then screwed at the corners on to a ply disc which had been screwed on to the face plate. Using a parting tool Sarah proceeded to cut out the centre. She wears a glove on her right hand as some bits of acrylic can hurt as they come off the lathe. The inside was trimmed and sanded. She uses wet & dry down to 400 grit. Then Teflon Mirror Glaze or Plastimax polish from Axminster was used to polish the inside.



Using the parting tool again the bangle was cut out of the block. This was held by a thick elastic band around a home made chuck used in an expansion mode. With a spindle gouge the outside was shaped, sanded and polished. The bangle was reversed on the chuck to clean, sand and polish the other edge. Sarah can sell a bangle for £60.00.

Sarah suggested that anyone attempting a bangle start with one made from Birch ply. She then mounted a spherical shape between centres that was half Birch ply with rest being recycled fridge door, yoghurt pots and paper.



Apparently it takes a long time for the glued paper to dry. This was shaped with a spindle gouge. Then sanded and polished. Sarah also showed us how easy it was to cut a leather block. The tools need frequent sharpening otherwise the acrylic will shatter.

I found this an extremely interesting evening, but some members were not impressed. We were very lucky to see Sarah as she has no more demonstrations planned for this year and is not taking any for next. Members can find out more at Sarah's web site – www.sarahthirlwell.com.

Paul's



Paragraphs

June Club Night

There was a change in this months event due to a slight bit of confusion. We were able to get hold of John Berkely to fill the bill at very short notice. Due to his health, John mainly turns in alternative materials now. We all enjoyed an evening of skill and good conversation. It was John's second visit to the club and a thoroughly enjoyable evening it was too. Thank you John.

Hands on Day

This was cancelled due to lack of numbers. But there were underlying reasons for the low number of bookings. World cup fever and of course fathers day. At the time of booking the hall dates none of these were taken into account as we book the dates a year ahead. Sorry people, we will just have to make the November one more enjoyable.

July Club Night

This again was a different name to the planned list due to the confusion in last month. This time we did get to Sarah Thirlwell. Sarah only turns in alternative materials. This was a very different evening altogether. The multitude of items that can be turned are mind boggling. It just means that you have to think and open up your mind to the different possibilities. All in all an enjoyable evening.

August Club Night

This will be a practical evening and also the second round in the club competition. Colin

Spain has organised lots of different demos and displays for this evening. Do remember to bring your competition pieces along.

September Club Night

This is Gary Rance who always gives us a very good evening of entertainment. I am sure he will surprise us again.

Warco Open Day.

This is proving to be a very popular event for two days. I believe the list of volunteers is full for the Sunday but has some vacancies for the Saturday.

Rural Life Centre

This is coming up towards the end of September. The list for volunteers is on Neil's table. This two day event is always a good deal of fun for all that attend.

Running an event for SAW

The committee has been asked in the past if members who cover events could be covered on the club's insurance. This has now been made possible and we will be introducing a pack for members who wish to either have a display of work, sales table or even demonstrate at a local show. For more information speak to a committee member.

SAW logos

If you have not yet collected your free SAW stick on logo please go to Neil's table and collect it. We also have for sale some humorous stickers please have a look and buy one to boost the club's funds.

Loaning a lathe

The club has two medium sized lathes which we offer for loan to members who do not have a lathe at the moment. These two lathes have been out on loan and the people who had them have moved on and want to return them so that another member may benefit from their use. If you would like to loan a lathe to get you started please

contact a committee member. There is no charge for this service.

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. We now have two additions to the tools with threading and long hole boring tools.

YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU TO PUT PEN TO PAPER

As you can see this issue is only 8 pages, some of which is filled with old photographs. If you have something to say then please write a small article and send it in. It could be about a wood turner you saw on holiday, or how you are getting on with a new tool you have bought. If you want to comment about the running of the club or some other issue These can be printed anonymously as happened with a series of letters I published several years ago. The more items there are the more interesting this Newsletter will become. Don't worry about your style of prose. I recon I am only a trypist! Have a go and surprise yourself. It does not have to be a typed computer file. I will type up a hand written article. Also photos would help.



Sarah working in leather.



W L West again in May this year

A selection of photos at Warco last year



W L West in May



Something Paul did not mention in his Paragraphs is the Club's Own Open day on Sunday 31st October. We need you to volunteer as Stewards. List on Neil's table.

