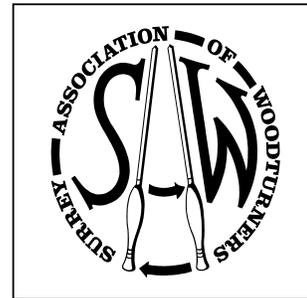


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter March 2006

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

John Creasey	Brian Jones
Linda Jones	Jack Prince
Nick Smith	Margaret Bonsey
Andrew Owen	Douglas Boud
Richard Mathews	

Membership – 155

Items for the Diary

Friday 14th April Club Turner
Sat/Sun 22/23 April Rural Life Centre
Friday 5th May Colin Simpson
Fri/Sat 5th & 6th May W L West show
Sunday 21st May Les Thorne
Friday 9th June Simon Hope
Friday 14th July John Davies

COMPETITION

The answer to the question about cogs in a Windmill is that they are often made of Apple. In particular there are wooden pegs in the gear system designed to break off in the event of a gust of wind which would otherwise damage the machinery.

Again Richard gave the only correct answer. Well done, He wins the gift voucher.

Because there has not been much response, only two members replying to this question I have decided to stop having to rack my brain for a wood related question.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Dave Reeks needed very little introduction from Paul, who told us that Dave was a founder member of our club with membership number 6.

Dave produces about a thousand items a year, mainly large bowls and vases in Spalted Beech. So it is that he finds a bowl saver very useful.

He intended to demonstrate two systems, the McNaughton and the One Way.

He started with the McNaughton system. He jammed a large lump of Cherry between the four jaw chuck and the tailstock. He hoped to cut three bowls out of this although he knew that the American Mike Mahoney would be able to get 8 bowls from it. A spigot for the chuck was cut with a 3/8" gouge with a finger nail profile. The wood was then mounted in the chuck and its position marked for later removal and replacement.

He turned the log to a cylinder and trued up the rear face. He shaped the back of the bowl cutting up hill against the grain and then shear cutting with the grain. A spigot was cut on the face in order to hold the smallest bowl to complete it .

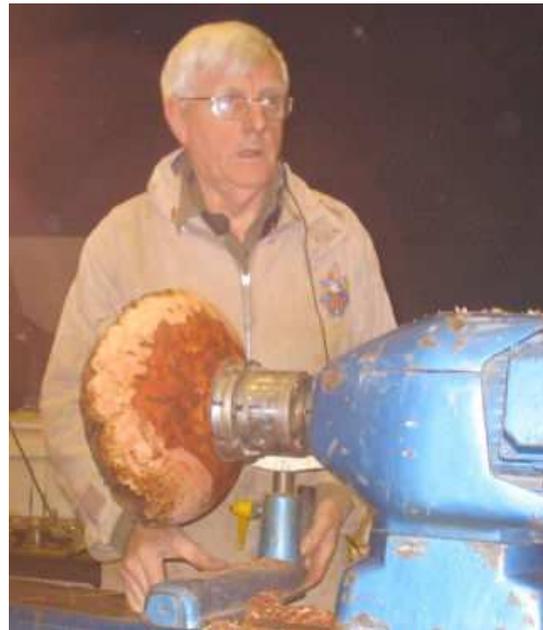


The tool rest was removed and a special tool post fitted, this had three large pins on top with gaps in between to accommodate the different thickness cutting knives. Dave had been to see Mark Baker about the problems he was having with his knives. He was told not to grind them only rub with a diamond to sharpen them. Also new knives had been designed which were shaped to a point instead of a chisel type edge. Different knives had different curves according to the size of bowl you wished to cut out. The bowl blank was removed and the tool post positioned so that the cutter would meet on the centre line about 1" in front of the chuck. The wood was replaced and cutting commenced using the long handle to ensure that the blade was kept hard against the pin on the tool post. This was the first time that Dave had used the pointed cutters and they worked very well.



Only a light pressure was required to get the cutters to do their work. This system costs about £350.00

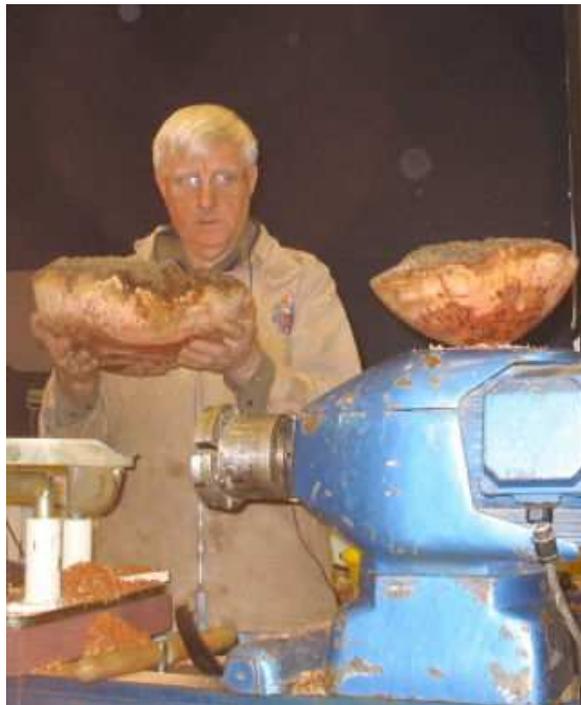
After tea he showed us the One Way. This has a plate that you clamp to the lathe bed which has two bosses for tool posts, one takes the guide blade and the other the various cutters. These come with different curves according to the size of bowl and have replaceable teeth. A burr Elm had been drilled through the bark to fit the 4 pronged drive. This was mounted between centres. Dave cut a spigot in the face and then showed us how easy it was to use a peg. A metal pin is fitted in a series of holes in a flat topped tool rest. This is very useful for someone who has difficulty using both hands.



With the bowl removed again adjust the position of cutter so as to meet 1" in front of the chuck. Refit the timber and start cutting with the cutter swinging over the top of the guide, to keep the cutter horizontal.



After a time the guide can be inserted in the cut and the cutting continued with the cutter resting on the guide. Again only a small amount of pressure was required.



This systems costs about £450.00 but does seem more accurate.

David turns wet and seasons the bowls by boiling them in a 5 gallon drum and then wrapping in paper. A very interesting evening.

TOP TIPS

At the last HANDS ON DAY we were discussing chucking and holding an item on a spigot only several millimetres thick . The trick is to use the maximum grip from the chuck. This is achieved by having the jaws form a perfect circle. The manufactures hand book will list the sizes for internal and external gripping.

This lead on to the best way to use dividers. Lets say we want to make a recess. Set the dividers to the required measurement which will be the diameter of the jaws. So as not to damage the surface of the work, place the dividers on the tool

rest and jab one leg into the work which is rotating at slow speed, so that a circle is scribe on the wood in the area that will be removed. By offering the other leg of the dividers up to the wood you will see how much smaller the inscribed circle is to the width of the dividers. By halving this distance you know how far across to move the original leg of the dividers to inscribe a circle of the correct size.

Having cut the recess the dovetail is cut by using a diamond parting tool on edge.

Hands On Day 26th February 2006

Reported by Paul Nesbitt

Well the day started on time. I had asked everyone to arrive at 9.30am to help set up for a start at 10 am. When I arrived with Ray people were already setting up lathes and getting things done. We were able to start before ten. I went through the list of items that everyone had informed me of that they wanted to do. Spindle work, spindle gouge, skew chisel, platters, sharpening, hollowing with different tools, thread chasing and finishing techniques.

I divided up the 16 "Students" in their various groups amongst the 5 "Tutors" Jennie Starbuck, Bob Weir, Ray Taylor, Phil Jackson and myself.

When work commenced. It was a hive of business, lathes turning and shavings flying everywhere, along with sound of tools being reshaped and ground.

We had a break for lunch and sat down to enjoy our food when we were then given some food from two other sources. Jennie had brought some food in from the previous evenings entertainment and Nick Smith brought in some sandwiches from another do. So we all had extra's. Thank you both for that.

We all had a nice chat about things that had happened in the morning and thing that had been learnt.

After lunch every one went onto a different "Tutor" and it all started again.

At the end of the day every one was asked if we had met their requirements and there was a unanimous agreement that we had,

and every one agreed that they had a good day.

They say many hands make light work and it is true, we were packed away and cleaned up in no time at all. All of the "Students" and "Tutors" said their goodbyes to another successful Hands on Day.

This was the Highest number of "Students" and Tutors" that had ever been. My thanks go out the "Tutors" and the "Students" for their help and attendance. Until the next one.

March Practical Night

Reporter Colin Spain

I arrived at 6:30 pm Roy Edward was already there getting the chairs out, and by 7:30 the place was buzzing. Thanks to all the helpers, and demonstrators who took part in making the Practical Night a success. What a night it was, I believe there was a turnout of around 90 members. Early on in the evening it was so crowded I had a job to move around.

We had seven turners, Alan Hazel turning



large Yew vases using his deep hollowing tools.

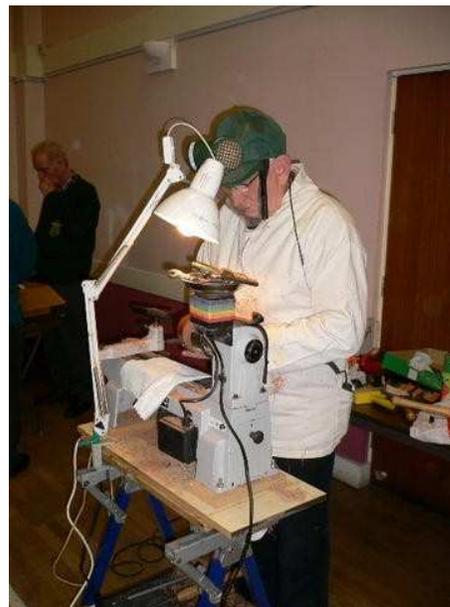


A double act with Rodney and Claire Goodship using the small Carbatec lathe.

Phil Jackson using his own handmade lathe demonstrating involute turning and making a lamp standard.



John Sherwood was turning fruit. Phil Wolsoncroft making his burr bowls, and



Bill Thackeray on his own Delta lathe making small bowls and a pen, I would dearly like to see more turners who have not turned before in front of spectators having a go, I am sure the membership would look upon you as brave rather than foolish, especially if you would be willing to accept advice from those more experienced. Let me know if you would like a go.

Jennie brought along her compressor with dental drill and airbrush and showed us how to do decorative piercing and also spray paint butterflies onto the very fine platters she makes. Budding Binh Poh there, me thinks.



Ray Taylor shared his expertise with a demonstration of sharpening using the Tormek water cooled system. Very popular this as very sharp tools is the key to a good finish.

Something totally new this month was the Doctor of Critique, this month Bob Weir was taking surgery, allowing members to have their pieces critiqued on a one to one basis without other members listening in. It was felt that doing it this way saved the potential embarrassment felt by some when it is done in front of the membership.



Hopefully the lessons learned will encourage more members to enter pieces into competitions. I understand that those who did see the "Doc" felt that it was very worthwhile.

There was also those favourites the Raffle run by Margaret with help from Sheila, Richards's table which did brisk business all evening, and of course Geoff's table selling polishes and sandpaper etc. The Name badge draw went on for so long I thought I would be pulling my own name out, but eventually I was saved the embarrassment.

Despite having "retired" Jim Baxter stepped into the breach and did the much needed teas and coffees, I know we are all grateful to him for helping out whilst the Nesbitt's were away. Thanks Jim.

Roy Edwards has taken over the running of the competition which this month was judged by Bob French. Roy did a sterling job for his first time. The quality of the pieces was very high with some beautiful pieces entered. Those scoring 9.5 or 10 can be entered into the final competition at Christmas. Personally I was determined to enter a piece and had left it until the week of the competition to create something, well I had a week of failures ranging from a piece of Sycamore that once turned looked really dirty, to bits flying off the lathe. In desperation I took a bit of spalted beech and kept it simple using the techniques I learnt at hands on day. I finished it less that

an hour before leaving for the club night. It got a 9.5, just goes to show.

Stiles & Bates

There were only about twelve of us who braved the elements to drive down to Stiles and Bates near Dover. It was a mixed farm of 260 acres but they got rid of the cattle several years before the Foot & Mouth disaster, and is now worked as an arable farm. The cow sheds have been converted to the shop and class room

We met David Bates and his wife Janet who runs the shop and had a coffee while waiting for others to arrive. We then went to the class room where there are six Record CL36's for the pupils under training. Each lathe is well equipped with tools and a good extraction system. A wood burning stove keeps the room warm.

David explained the parts of the tree he prefers to buy and cut up. The length from ground level to the branches is what he prefers which is known as first length. He explained what is meant by quarter sawn timber which is less likely to warp.

We then went out in the cold to see the saw mill. Here a trunk of Beech about 10 foot long and 3 foot diameter was cut into planks.



A very large band saw with a blade 4" wide is on its side supported on two guide bars which can be raised and lowered to alter the thickness of the plank. Diesel oil is used as a lubricant for the blade.



The saw requires two men to pull it along the wood as the cut is made. And two are needed to remove the planks as they are cut. A labour intensive business. Luckily John was available to lend a hand.

After the first strip was cut the trunk was rotated 180°. Then a series of planks were cut 2 1/4" thick.



We found this so interesting that we continued to watch during a snow storm.



Then a coffee and back to the class room for our packed lunch. We then saw the outside of the kiln. We could not see inside as it had only recently been filled with a new batch of timber.



In adjacent sheds we saw lots of different trees which had been staked at 3' intervals to allow the air to circulate. The air drying can be up to three years before the seasoning is completed in the kiln. Then back to the class room for an explanation of the theory of seasoning and how the stresses are caused in timber and then released as we cut into it.



We had a look around the machinery workshop to see the different band saws and planer thicknesser.

Back in the shop we had more coffee and made those essential purchases before we set off home.

I found the whole day extremely interesting and learned a lot about timber. It was evident that David is passionate about the quality of timber that he offers for sale.

JENNIES PAGES



Dear Club Members,
We have lots of events planned. Please try to take advantage of as many as you can!

Recent Events:

Alexandra Palace Show

My thanks to everyone who helped on the club stand at Ally Pally and welcome to the new members who joined having met us there.

It costs the club very little to attend this show and it is an excellent weekend. It is a pity we were not able to run the coach trip. Costs of coach hire for the day seem to be much the same whatever size coach you

hire – so if we only have 20 to 30 names it becomes an expensive trip.

Interestingly, a Kent club I visited recently was organising a Yandles trip and were having to charge £25 for the coach!



Club Competition

I was really pleased to see that more members had turned pieces for the club competition this month – there seemed to be a good variety of pieces as well. I am very grateful to our new committee member Roy Edwards for taking over the running of this competition from me. It is a difficult competition to organise as you never know how many pieces will be judged and you cannot do any of the necessary paperwork before the evening. My thanks also go to Bob French for judging and to Bob Weir for starting the ‘practical night surgery’ for us. I hope even more people will take part in August!

If we want to improve our work, being able to use the experience and expertise of our two ‘Bobs’ seems an excellent way forward.

Stiles and Bates trip

It’s an amazing thing to see a tree being sliced into planks. Those hardy members who braved the appalling weather (sleet, snow and high arctic winds) to meet Dave Bates at his farm near Dover had a real treat.



If you can get online, I do recommend you looking at the Stiles and Bates website. The care taken over the preparation of the wood blanks they have on sale is obvious when you see the timber in the shop.

Visit them on line at www.stilesandbates.co.uk

Dave Bates will be sending us some fliers for their spring show which is at the end of April and a few catalogues, although you

can register on line for a catalogue if you wish.

Dave also talked us through the cutting and drying of timber in their new woodturning studio where they run courses. It is a good, well equipped facility.

I bought a couple of planks of sycamore for my colouring and piercing – and it looks very good!

Incidentally, to those members who saw my embarrassment on practical evening, when my airbrush wouldn’t work because I hadn’t cleaned all of the paint out last time I used it – that wasn’t the only problem! It seems that I had also dislodged a tiny part that allows the air into the airbrush, so no air was getting in anyway!!!!



It is working now – and I will know what to do if it happens again!

Future Events:

April 14th Clubnight

As Easter is late, clubnight is **Good Friday** again this year!

It should be an excellent evening, Philip Wolsoncroft is back to do some more turning, but also to go through the cutting, storing and drying of timber for turning.

I have to apologise for not being able to be at club night – Chris and I will be down in Dartmouth for the week enjoying the steam engines, river boats and good restaurants!



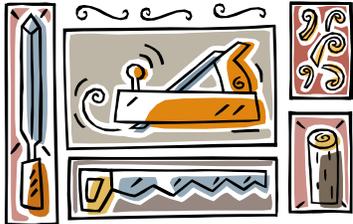
Rural Life Centre, Tilford

April 22nd / 23rd

We will be running a number of lathes and having a small exhibition of work again. Paul Nesbitt is organising the event and would be grateful for any more volunteers – especially demonstrators. Please contact Paul directly.

Exhibition pieces need to be brought on the day or given to Paul at club night in April.

It is the 'Woodcrafts' weekend and well worth a visit.



Members working on the stand will be allowed in free with their SAW badges. There will be a list of helpers in the ticket office.

Do try to get along to this event as a visitor if not as a helper. The Centre needs the income from visitors to keep open!

It would be helpful if exhibition pieces can be borrowed for West's Wood Show two weeks later as well.

May club night

May 5th !

This club night has been moved to the first Friday because the Mytchett Centre is having a new floor in the main hall on our usual weekend.

The professional turner that night is **Colin Simpson**, editor of 'Woodturning' and not someone to miss by coming a week late!

West's Wood Show

Friday 5th and Saturday 6th May

We have been invited to West's again this year. We plan to take a number of small lathes to our stand and have 3 people turning all the time whenever possible. Those that came last year had a good time. It is very relaxed show and a good opportunity to try doing a bit a demonstrating in public for the first time – so if you are interested in helping or demonstrating, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

We intend organising fish and chips at Mytchett for those members not able to get home between the show and club night. Check the poster for the show – the SAW stand is featured!

May Seminar with Les Thorne

Sunday May 21st

If you enjoyed club night with Les Thorne last year, try to come along to this whole day seminar. In order to try to keep the costs down, we will not be organising lunch this time. We will however be providing tea and coffee throughout the day.

Cost will be £8 for adult members and £2 for junior members.

We want a full house, so you may book tickets for visitors if you wish and take fliers to advertise the event.



We want to use Les's skills to the full, so we plan to have an 'Instant Gallery' and we will ask Les to use pieces he spots from the gallery to help us see what we need to do to improve our work. It will not be a critique as such, but he can use pieces to illustrate what judges are looking for in a piece while they are judging.

Open Day 2006 - Sunday 29th October

Although we hoped to have our Open day on Sunday October 8th this year at Mytchett, we have problems!

The trade stands who normally support us are all involved in the Irish show on October 8th. However, the Axminster Power Tools

show is **not** being held this year which allows us to run our show on the last Sunday in October.



Plans are in hand - so please keep Sunday October 29th free in your diaries.

It would be good to know that every member would be attending and bringing at least one guest to Open Day.

Nationally, shows are decreasing in number and size. Please don't force the committee to cancel ours.

Best wishes and happy turning!

Jennie

Alexandra Palace

I had hoped to have an eyewitness report. We were allowed a bigger stand than usual and received a lot of interest including a couple of new members. Everyone, demonstrators and stewards worked hard to make it a success so I think Phil should be allowed time to do an eyelid survey.

Items wanted

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