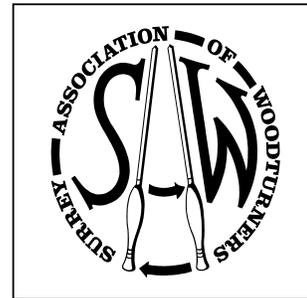


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter March 2007

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Gerry Hartley John Clements
Bill McEwan

Paid up Membership – 149

Items for the Diary

Friday 13th April Club Turners
4th & 5th May West's Wood Show
5th, 6th, & 7th May Rural Life Centre
Friday 11th May Paul Rider
Sunday 20th May Dave Springett Seminar

WRONG DATES

There have been several lots of mistakes recently. The last newsletter showed the Alexander Palace as being 17, 18 & 19th of February.

Early Membership Cards had the Open Day as 21st October when it will be 28th.

Also 13th July will be Chris Wallace and 14th September will be Dave Reeks. We are all very sorry for these errors.

WARNING

The annual membership year ends on 31st March. Anyone who has not paid their renewal fee of £22.00 by that date will no longer be a member of the club and this will be the last newsletter that they receive.

HENRY TAYLOR TOOLS

You may remember that Barry Surplice doing his talk offered us discounted prices on the firm's tools. Here is a report by Ray on his experiences.

Tool Comment.

After the talk at the club by Henry Taylor Tools, I was rather intrigued by the explanation of the Kryogenic treatment of the steel used in the manufacture of some of their tools. [high speed steel being frozen to - 195°C to reduce the size of the molecules of the steel]. This treatment enables you to obtain a sharper edge on the tool. The edge on the tool lasts longer, which in turn means less sharpening and longer tool life. As my old 3/8" bowl gouge is now almost past its useful length I decided to try a new Kryo tool. After using the new tool for the last 2 months I have found that the edge stays sharp for about 6 times longer than normal H.S.S. [saving valuable turning time]. The Tool I ordered was a 3/8" Superflute Kryo, the price was about £38.00.

If you have any queries about this, you can contact me on 01932 851 222. My own personal comment on this tool is that, for me, it could do with the handle being a slightly larger diameter. This should present no problem for turners to make a new handle. **Ray Taylor**

February Meeting

A lot of the committee were at Alexander Palace and did not arrive until just before the start of the meeting. It was therefore

thanks to some of the others who arrived early, that the hall and equipment was got out ready on time. We also had a new camera team. Chris and Jennie each used a camera to give different views of the work. Chris had several control boxes to adjust the colour and which picture appeared on the screen. The idea being to eventually have four small cameras each independently controlled.

Our demonstrator was Julie Heryet who comes from Bristol. She intended to show us thread chasing as applied to wooden boxes. She started by talking about equipment. The lathe needs to be able to run at 300 – 350 rpm. Most essential is a tool rest with a smooth surface. She was ecstatic about ours made by Ray. I think she will be talking to him to make her some. If the surface of the rest is not perfect then, rub it with tablet soap.

Thread chasers come in pairs male and female and are made by lots of tool makers. Julie would suggest you start with 18tpi but 16 or 20 would do. When new some have a half tooth on the leading edge. This should be ground off.

Timbers to use should be dense and oily such as Yew, Pear, Apple, Holly and Box. She showed us that it is possible to thread into side grain, but more usual to have the grain parallel to the lathe.

Julie started with an external or male thread. A spigot was made with a small run-off at the far end. The leading edge was rounded. The tool rest to be a centre height and the chaser presented at an angle of dip of about 15 degrees and a horizontal angle of about 90°. Three passes are made along the wood pulling the tool away as the run-out is reached so that you are making a circular motion with the tool. Using the index finger on top to keep the chaser on the rest helps. By now the scratches in the wood should be such that when the tool is presented at right angles to the piece it will fit in the threads and traverse the timber. Applying slight pressure will cut the threads deeper. Take

care not to cut too deep or this will destroy the threads.

For an internal or female thread she uses a box tool and an arm rest. This has a long flat shank with the end bent up to form a hook. The tool rest is parallel to the lathe axis, the handle of the arm rest is tucked into your left side with the shaft on the rest. The internal chaser is supported on the tool so that pulling back on this arm rest with your left hand engages the chaser in the work. Again a small run-out is created at the far end of the hole and the front edge beveled. The first three passes of the chaser need to be at an angle, then straighten the chaser to create a parallel thread.



When working on a box with a distinctive grain which does not match it is best to cut down the thread in the lid. If the wood is dry lubricate with paste wax. Ensure that the threads are parallel.

Julie then showed us how to make a small box shaped a bit like a mushroom. She mounted the piece of box for the lid in the lathe and with the box tool formed the cavity, which she then threaded. A dome was formed using a scraper which looked like a ½" spindle gouge with no flute. Beyond the thread the lid was undercut using a Henry Taylor Stott Mini Tool which has a small swan neck. Take care as to which part of the curved blade is cutting at any one time. An old tooth brush is useful to clean the threads before waxing.

Having completed the inside of the lid we have the problem of deciding the correct size for the spigot on the base. This

depends on the size of the chaser in use. If using 16TPI chasers add 2.00mm to the diameter of the hole in the lid. Add 1.8 mm for 18 TPI and 1.6 mm for 20 TPI.

The base is mounted in the chuck and the spigot cut, plus the run-off and the end rounded as before. If the measurements are correct the lid should just fit the end of the spigot. Cut the external thread as before, it does not need to be too long. When done screw the lid on and shape the lid taking small cuts. Sand to 1500 grit and apply spirit based sanding sealer. When dry coat with Danish oil.



To shape the base a thread is cut in a scrap bit of wood to take the thread on the base. This is screwed on and the base shaped using small careful cuts, decorate the bottom, sand, seal and polish as before. A very entertaining evening.

TOP TIPS

No. 1. From Paul Nesbitt.

When working in a hollow form, and you do not have the benefit of a compressed air line to blow out the dust and shaving, try using a bendy plastic straw. This will stop you getting a mouth full of muck from blowing directly into the hole.

No.2 From Peter

When thread chasing if you grind a cutting edge on the hook of your arm rest, you have a tool to cut the internal run off.

Hands On Day February 2007

Again this was a very popular day with 15 pupils learning a great deal.

Jennie was instructing in how to use a skew safely. Ray was giving advice on sharpening and making bowls. Brian was overseeing thread chasing. Jim was demonstrating thin stemmed goblets and captive rings. Paul was instructing on hollowing. A very good day for just £5.00.

Limpsfield Grange School

Summer Fayre Saturday June 16th

We have been asked to support this special school's fund raising efforts by having a small SAW stand at their Summer Fayre. One of our members, Frank Findlater (on the club sales table every club night) helps out at the school and can tell you all about the work that they do.

They have a website:

www.limpsfield-grange.surrey.sch.uk

where you can see the kinds of projects they get involved with.

This would be an excellent opportunity to use our skills to help this school raise money to support more projects – as well as another opportunity to bring turning to the general public.

If you have any turned pieces you can spare – or better still, if you can make some small items that we can sell on the day, please bring them in and put them in the box on Neil's table.

We have 3 club nights before the Fayre – please try to bring some items in so that we can raise a goodly amount of money for the school!

Many thanks - Jennie

MARCH EVENING

This was a practical evening organized by Jennie. As you came into the hall from the main entrance, you found Harry & Ian selling raffle tickets with a good selection of prizes. Next was Ray for the first part of the

evening giving advice on grinders and how to sharpen various tools.

At the foot of the stage John Sherwood was making hollow forms in Cherry using the Poolewood lathe. Later Ray took over and made little flowers in Hazel.

On the stage Roy Edwards was sorting out the competition pieces for Bob French to judge.

In front of the stage Mel was using the club lathe for miniature work, goblets in plastic etc.

In the corner the resident Doctor was Mike Morley giving advise to members about their turning problems.

Phil Wosloncroft was using his own lathe demonstrating the Rolly Munro deep hollowing tool.

Next was the father & son team of Paul and Ben using the small Axminster to make bowls in Mopani

Colin was demonstrating for a change using his Carbatec to make a dish in Oak

Alan Hazel had his own lathe and was making bowls.

As usual at the end of the hall were Geoff and Frank with the sales table for polishes and abrasives.

Then the daughter & father team of Claire and Rodney using their Carbatec. Claire making Pens in Corrian and Rodney Dibbers in Beech.

Jennie with her Carbatec was continuing from the Hands On Day showing how the use the skew and also had a selection of other tools for member to try before they bought one themselves

Teas and coffees were dispensed by Sylvia with help from June.

In the centre was Neil with the video/DVD/book library and the lists for Seminars outings and volunteer sheets for the various shows coming up

Colin's Columns

A lot has happened in the last month or so, the committee has been working hard on your behalf to finalise the calendar for this year and has started to put together the agenda for 2008. We really do need to start on next years this early for several reasons, getting the dates we want for the hall and some of the professional turners have already got dates booked for 2008. We don't want to miss out do we?

We have set up a sub-committee to organise this years Open Day, which we aim to be better than last years. We are taking lessons learned from last year and improving on them.

Subscriptions

If you have not as yet paid your subscription this year this will be the last newsletter you will receive, and obviously we will be sorry to lose you. There is a lot of interest in the club, and we have had 9 new members join this year.

New Members

I would like to take this chance of welcoming the new members to the club. I want you to know that If you need help with your turning or just have a burning question, (and I am a firm believer that there is no such thing as a silly question, if you have a question then you need an answer) then I or a member of the committee can be approached, if we do not know the answer we will do our best to put you in touch with someone who does.

There is an awful lot of expertise within the club so use it. On practical nights we have what we call "Doctor on Call" where one of our senior members holds a clinic to help critique your work on a one to one basis.

There is also the club competition where you get to show what you have achieved; this is also a very good way to give you a feel for how you are doing.

Alexandra Palace

Woodworking show

The show was on 9th, 10th and 11th February with the set up on Thursday the 8th and what a day that was with snow everywhere, was I going to be able to get to Paul's house in Hillingdon for midday and then could we get to Ally Pally? As it happened it was not too bad on the main roads and I made it on time. There was less traffic on the roads and we arrived with no problem, that was until we tried to park, the car park was like a skating rink the vans were going every which way, we even had to push them to keep them apart and from hitting each other. Our setup went well, and although this did not affect us, because of the snow, fitters like the carpet people were very late starting, and when we left in the evening it still looked a mess. It was also very cold due to the large doors having to be open to get everything in to the hall, but all was well by Friday morning. This year we shared a larger stand with Cheam Woodturners and although it was a bit crowded we all got on well. Demonstrations were given over the 3 days and we had a joint display of our work which brought a lot of comment and interest from the public, those of you

who put pieces in to display should be very proud and I thank you. On a personal note I entered the Turning competition run by Magicalia. I did not get any award but I did get to hear one lady say she liked my piece, and that was enough for me, they also send you a certificate of entry and your marks, so it is a learning curve.

Toolpost did us proud by loaning the club a Wivamac lathe to try; this saved us taking the Poolewood with us as it was also required at Mytchett for club night. So our thanks go to Toolpost and to Phil Wolsoncroft for organising and collecting it.

On Sunday Richard and I spent a very nice half hour talking to a couple from Iceland who were enthusing about the clubs work on display. They even took a picture of us to put on their website <http://www.trerennismidi.is/AlexsandraPalacefebruar2007.htm> . (Copy this as it is shown as their spelling is off. Well they are Icelandic after all, and their English is far better than my Icelandic). Also thanks to the weather there was less traffic on the roads Friday night and so we made it back in time (just) for Julie Heryets demonstration.

Hands on Day

As usual this turned out to be an excellent day and I would like to thank Paul for organising it and to the "teachers" for their guidance. There were 15 members who took advantage of the skills on offer, and I know everyone went away very satisfied. I personally chose thread chasing as I have had the tools for some time now and despite my first effort going very well, it was a one off and I had not been able to repeat it.

I now feel I have the knowledge and just need practice, practice, practice. Thanks Brian (Harradine) for showing me how.

March Practical Night

My thanks have to go to all those who took part in this evening, and to Jennie who organised it this month. It gave me a chance to have a go, and despite a few things going wrong for me, yes, I spilled my drink and I went through the bottom of my bowl, never the less I still had a good time. In fact the last time I went through the bottom of a bowl, I put a coin in the hole and sold it for a fiver, so there!

I was pleased to see safety screens and glasses being used and cables being kept tidy, this will now be a requirement at all practical nights, safety is high on the agenda.

April club night

We are going to try something a little bit different on this night; traditionally it has been a club turner. This night we are going to have two club turners showing us their skills, John Sherwood, and Mel Martin, one before the break and one after. Paul will do the commentary as he did for me after the AGM. This promises to be a good evening.

Shows - May

W L West's Wood Show - 4th & 5th May

Rural Life Centre: Woodcrafts

Weekend - 5th, 6th & 7th May

Stewards are still required for these shows.

Forms will be at the April club night or if that is not possible then:

Contact Jennie for W L West's Wood Show.

Or Paul Nesbitt for Rural Life Centre.

Stiles & Bates

I am sorry to say the trip will not go ahead, unfortunately we only got 16 members to commit themselves to the trip, this would have meant a hefty £28.00 a ticket fee as we would only have filled half the coach. My sincere apologies go to those who would like to have gone on the trip. I could not let it go on to the April club night as the coach company want a firm booking by mid March. I shall ask at the April club night if there are people willing to car share and give others a lift.

Questionnaire

Loose with this newsletter there is a questionnaire. It would be a great help to us as a club if you would fill it in and return it at the next club night or post it to me at my address (see back of newsletter). It is totally anonymous no names or membership numbers required and do not sign. The committee is hoping to get a lottery grant for the club, and to achieve this it would be very helpful to have this information at hand.

Finally

I recently helped a new member by giving him 2 hours of tuition on the basics of turning, which tools to use for which job etc, I was surprised at how much I enjoyed this, and in fact showing someone else puts things in perspective and I am sure I learnt things as well.

Colin your Chairman



Pictures from the March Practical evening. Maybe more next issue