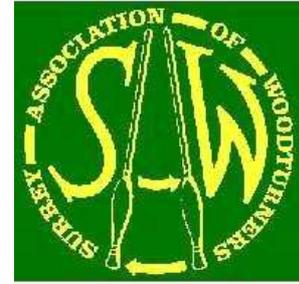


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter March 2009

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Albert George

Paid up Membership 161

Items for the Diary

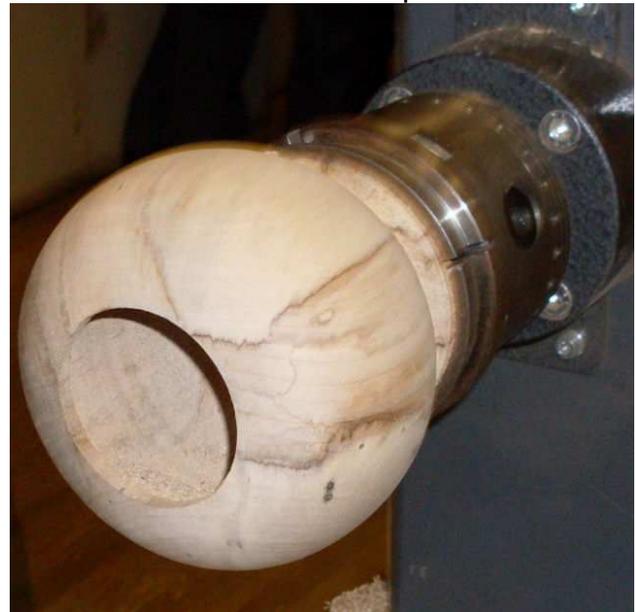
Friday 17 th April	Brian Wooldridge
Not the 10 th	
Friday 8 th May	Mark Hancock
8 th & 9 th May	West's Wood Show
16 th & 17 th May	Rural Life Centre
Sunday 24 th May	Seminar Mark Baker
Friday 12 th June	Phil Irons
Sunday 21 st June	Hands On Day

February Evening

The evening was well attended, we had to get extra chairs out! Our demonstrator was again Simon Hope as he had filled a gap for us a few months earlier. This evening he intended to show us how to make a coffee jar with a lid decorated with leather. When he makes bagpipes he has lots of off cuts of cow leather in different colours from the bellows which form part of the bagpipes. He fitted a blank of spalted Sycamore between a Stebb centre and revolving centre on the lathe and using an Ashley Isles Roughing Gouge turned it to a cylinder. He then measured and cut a spigot to fit the gripper jaws on the chuck using a 10 mm. Bowl gouge. Make sure the sides are parallel. Form the basic shape and mount the wood

in the gripper jaws. Sharpen the 10 mm. Gouge and take finishing cuts on the hemispherical top.

Simon then removed the tail stock and used a small Rolly Munroe tool to start hollowing out the centre with an entry hole about 1.5" diameter. Simon is apparently experimenting with a tool that has LEDs in the end of the handle shining down the shaft so as to see inside a hollow form. He worked to achieve a 10mm. wall thickness. A small round scraper then was used to clean up the inside. The edge of the hole was cleaned with a small square cutter.



The outside was sanded with 180, 240, 320, and 400 grit paper and 600 grit wet & dry. The jar was removed from the lathe. The other piece of log that the first blank was cut from, was fitted between the face of the chuck and the tail stock and roughed to a cylinder. A spigot was cut to fit the gripper jaws and the blank fitted in the jaws.



A vernier was used to measure the hole in the jar and transferred to the face of the blank. Thus a smaller cylinder was made which was a loose fit in the jar. The end was dished, decorated and sanded. This was then parted off.

A jamb chuck was made to accept the decorated end of the lid cylinder. If required tissue paper can be used to create a good fit. What would be the top of the lid was now carved to form a dome shape. An off cut of green leather was stretched over the wood. Using medium super glue Simon fitted the leather and after applying accelerator trimmed around the edge. This was now removed from the jamb chuck.

The face of the Jamb chuck was cleaned up with a 6mm. Skew. By cutting deeper inside the hole a 2mm lip was created which would cover the edge of the leather. The outside diameter was reduced to an acceptable size and after sanding the ring was carefully parted off after putting a chamfer on the bottom where it would meet the top of the jar. Glue was applied around the edge of the leather and the ring fitted.

Yet another jamb chuck was made for the jar opening so that the base could be cut down and decorated. That completed the jar which would have several coats of oil allowing several hour between each coat for them to dry.

Another excellent evening with Simon with no mishaps this time!



A reply to the letter from Alan Hazel

I too took the remark about "... turning alone..." as being rather a strange thing to say when talking about a Wood Turning Competition. Even though I'm a newcomer, every thing I've read or heard suggests that no matter what adornment is done to a piece; if the basic turning is bad then the piece remains a bad piece.

In common with most people that come into Turning or who are attracted to turned wood, it is the wood and it's grain, colour and texture that attracts us, not adornments. I can recall the feeling that I had when I first managed to create something that was more than OK or just alright. The look of the wood, and that touchy feelyness of a piece that make you want to pick it up to caress and fondle it, is what has impact on most people not its intellectual artiness. We may intellectually come to appreciate a piece for the design and the decorative properties but that is not what initially attracts us. Just stand and listen to non-woodworkers and in particular non-turners when they see a piece, especially if they can pick it up and hold it.

Alan, however, chose to link competition with critique and seemed to be suggesting that whilst, the Judge should offer advice if requested they should not rule a piece out because it does not meet with their own

concepts. That goes without argument, Judging should, as far as possible, be made in accordance with concepts that minimise subjectivity. The question then arises, is a competition, especially for the novice, the right place for getting their work criticised. I suggest not. Many of us do not feel confident enough to put work into competition, but would welcome comment so that we can progress to the stage where we have the necessary confidence to take part in the competitions.

I know there are the hands on days, but not all of us can get to them or they are fully booked. Therefore, I feel it would be of benefit to the novice and the beginner if there was a Panel of experienced turners, like Alan, that we could take our work for appraisal and comment, and maybe take on a mentoring function.

Perhaps, the Committee has already considered this, but if they haven't maybe they would like to.

Mike Burnett

Alexandra Palace Show by George Nichols

As usual the Surrey Association of Woodturners had a stand at this year's Ally Pally woodworking show with demonstrators and a display stand showcasing members work. Several turners demonstrated during the three days, including Phil Wolsencroft, Rob Grant, Paul Nesbitt, Jennie Starbuck, John Sherwood, Alan Hazel and myself, as well as a number of turners from Cheam club, which shared the stand.



I recognise the smock but not who is behind the shades
Jenny worked on pierced bowls using her dentist's drill while Phil used the club's

Wivamac DB6000 lathe to rough out bowls in burr elm, horse chestnut and yew. Paul, Alan and John made a variety of small bowls, boxes and toys on the small Axminster lathe, while Rob and I alternated between the two lathes making larger bowls, boxes and hollow forms.

The display stand showed off a wide range of members' work, and drew as much attention and positive comments as the AWGB display next door! The quality of work across the range of projects was really impressive, so congratulations to all who had a piece on display.



George keeping an eye on Alfie who was covered under Paul's insurance.

The show itself was smaller than in previous years but well attended across all three days. Robert Sorby, Ashley Isles, Turners Retreat and Phil Irons Woodturning were all present, as well as tools and machinery from Record, Bosch, Trend, Metabo and Makita. Silverline tools laid on quite a display racing belt sanders, circular saws and power tool driven vehicles down a wooden track. Woodworking students from Exeter [?] College demonstrated their skills with hand and machine tools making furniture under tight time limits, including an expertly dovetailed wooden toilet! Other demonstrators on hand included Les Thorne for the Worshipful Company of Turners, and Greg Moreton and Guy Ravine for the Register of Professional Turners.

Thanks goes out to all the demonstrators and stewards who helped make the days possible, especially Paul and Jenny for organising the stand.

Staying Local and Saving the Pennies by Bernard Ollivier

In the current uncertain financial climate, we are all thinking about what we can afford to do during the, hopefully, better weather of spring and summer. Perhaps a traditional holiday away from home in this country or overseas is out of the question and we're even wary of taking too many days out with the highly volatile cost of fuel and public transport.

Perhaps this year it is time to take a second look at all there is to do locally - perhaps places we've been before in the dim and faintly remembered past are worth a second look. Often on our very doorsteps are places we've been past dozens of times but never actually visited. 2009 could be just the year to give these places a try. After all they're local so getting there won't cost the earth - they may even be within walking or cycling distance,

One such place may be the Rural Life Centre at Tilford. Situated in Reeds Road, the country life museum was established in 1973 and has grown tremendously over the intervening years. It now sports an impressive list of annual events to accompany the plethora of exhibits and displays which cover all aspects of our agricultural heritage from the village shop, chapel and school through the blacksmith and wheelwright to the tools the farmer used.

The museum is run almost entirely by volunteers and they have been extremely busy of late, despite the appalling weather, getting ready for the new season which starts on March 11th. Among the new items appearing for the first time this year are the impressive eight foot tall dolls' house formerly at Shalford Mill near Guildford.

Originally built just after the Second World War by the owner of the mill for his young daughters, the dolls house became a highlight for young visitors to the National Trust property who were able to enter and

explore the miniature building. However it suffered from the tread of many little feet over the years and was removed from the mill because of safety concerns. Given to Rural Life Centre by those very same daughters, the Georgian model has now been restored to almost its original condition by the volunteers and will once again be on show for future generations to enjoy.

While the museum is always open on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the year, the summer season starting on Wednesday March 11th sees the site open from Wednesday to Sunday each week plus bank holidays from 10am to 5pm each day. The season commences with a special exhibition featuring the history of the twin villages Send and Ripley presented by the local history society there.

Following on from this there is a varied list of events and exhibitions throughout the spring and summer. In fact too many to list here so if you'd like more details take a look at the museum's website at ["http://www.rural-life.org.uk."](http://www.rural-life.org.uk) Just to whet your appetite though, the very popular Village at War returns on May 9/10 when around 150 re-enactors make the museum look like a typical local village during the invasion preparations of 1944. Two weeks later a plethora of vintage buses and coaches will descend on Tilford for a rally and visitors will be able to take tours of the surrounding countryside in the classic vehicles.

During the former event, the Old Kiln Café will be offering "appropriate" menus based on wartime rationing. Fortunately, though, it will be offering a more traditional menu of country fayre for most of the season. Now under new management, the café itself is always worth a visit even if you don't have time to tour the museum.

So this year why not do the 'right thing' by your pocket and environmentally and 'stay local' for some of your leisure time? There's always lots to see and do on your doorstep if you know where to find it.

The Rural Life Centre, an accredited museum of village life, lies mid way between Tilford and Frensham in Reeds Road off the A287 three miles south of Farnham. It is open from 10am to 5pm each day from Wednesday to Sunday and on bank holiday Mondays from 11th March. For further information telephone 01252 795571

VOLUNTEERS WANTED **AT THE RURAL LIFE CENTRE**

Would any members like to demonstrate their skills using the lathe which we inherited from Vic Burge over some weekends at the Rural Life Centre. To be covered for insurance purposes you would need to join the "Rustics". Contact Bernard Ollivier on 01252 726978 or e-mail Bernard@ollivier84.fsnet.co.uk.

HANDS ON DAY

There were 16 pupils who I asked if they found the day useful, to send me their thoughts to go in the newsletter. Only one has sent a long letter to Paul which needs to be discussed by the Committee.



Pupils eagerly picking up pearls of wisdom.

MARCH Practical Night

There was plenty to see in the hall. Ian & Bob were running the raffle. On stage the competition was under new management, Bernie Walker in the absence of Roy Edwards who I understand has had the operation at St. Georges. They actually removed his heart to work on the back of it and then put it back! All went well and he is making good progress. Brian Wooldridge was judging the competition.

In front of the stage Robert Grant was



using the Club Wivamac to make a hollow form. Paul had a large audience most of the evening showing how the grind tools.



Several members who had been at the Hands On Day had their tools ground to the correct angles.

Up the side of the hall Colin was using his own lathe to make ball of string holders. Next to him Nick Smith was using an Axminster lathe and turning a piece of Walnut to what someone described as an Ostrich Egg Cup!

Richard was making small boxes in Oak. As usual in the centre was "The Table" manned by Neil and Brian offering books and DVDs to borrow, lists for outings and volunteers for the various events in our calendar.

The shop occupied the whole width of the hall where Phil helped by Bill and Pete did a good trade.

As usual in the kitchen teas and coffees were dispensed by Sylvia and Brenda.

PRINCES MEAD

The following day a select few of us arrived at the shopping centre to set up our lathes and displays. We were delayed in starting as two gentlemen from the Rural Life

Centre had kindly come along to PAT test our equipment before we started. One or two plugs had to be changed and several extension leads were condemned.



We were all soon set up and running. Several members sold some of their work and there was as usual, a lot interest in Rodney's wooden puzzles.



We did miss Roy with his scroll saw cutting out animals for the children.



Paul's Paragraphs

February Club Night

This was Simon Hope. What an enjoyable evening, in fact I would say a first class evening. The hall was full. It is good to see the skill and new ideas the turners have. People keep trying new ideas to decorate their turnings and this one seemed to work for me. Who knows I may even try it. Well done Simon.

Hands on Day

This was fully booked again. We all arrived pretty much on time and quickly got the lathes set up. Then after a brief chat everyone started turning or should that be learning. My thanks go to the tutors for another fine day. We had a couple of letters from the students, thanking us for the day and one of them with some helpful advice for the future.

Start booking in for the June day.

March Practical Evening

This seemed to go well. I was very busy all night with sharpening and talking to members that I did not get to see what every one else was doing. Tanks go to Bernie Walker for taking on the job of competitions, this freed me up. Of course not forgetting to thank the demonstrators for their contribution to the evening. It seemed strange that after the raffle was drawn everyone disappeared. Did we do something wrong for the evening????? Please advise.

Princes Mead Shopping Centre

We packed away Friday evening only to unpack again the next day at The Princes Mead Shopping Centre. All the members electrical equipment was PAT tested before this event could start and our thanks go to the two gentlemen from the Rural Life Centre for coming out to do that at 8 am on a

Saturday morning. This is something that the club has wanted to do and as a requirement for this event we had to do it, this is now good for two years. The day went well with eight lathes working and a sales table with a nice display of members work. The centre has thanked us for another successful event and I thank all the helpers that made it another great day.

West's Wood Show

We are looking for demonstrators and stewards for this event. Our space has been reduced slightly but we can still put on a good show.

Seminar with Mark Baker

Mark is a very skilled turner and an excellent teacher. His demo will be a treat to watch so get your name down early for this one. As we go to press there are 21 names on the list, we still need more people to attend. This will be a good event to come to Mark aims his work and his terrific teaching skills at all levels. So come along and I guarantee that you will learn something.

Rural Life Centre

We are looking to put on another great show and are now looking for demonstrators and stewards. Last year we had a BBQ on the Saturday evening for all of the helpers and their Partners and we had a good bit of fun. We were hoping to repeat this again.

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.

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