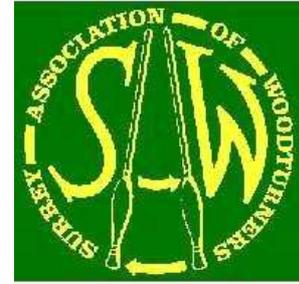


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter March 2010

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Colin Stone D E Freeman
Paid up Membership 147

Items for the Diary

Friday 9th April Club Turner
1st, 2nd, 3rd May Rural Life Centre
7th & 8th May West's Wood Show
Friday 14th May Greg Moreton

FEBRUARY EVENING

Our demonstrator needed no introduction from Paul. It was Les Thorne who had a short journey to come from Alresford. He intended to show us making and colouring a bowl.

He mounted a 12" by 3" Ash blank on a screw chuck and started to use a 3/8" bowl gouge with a 50' rake angle. This he uses with the flute either at 10 o'clock or 2 o'clock. Using a pull cut he started to create the curve of the bottom of the bowl. The aim is for the shavings to hit the badge on his smock. He used a pencil to mark the size of the foot, remembering that smaller looks better. Create a spigot. He continued to form the desired outside shape. When making the finer finishing cuts you need to hold the tool firmer. To shear scrape hold the tool firmly with the heel on your thigh and the flute at about 9 o'clock.

He then showed us texturing. Texturing will not hide bad workmanship. Les had two

texturing tools, an Arbortec cutter in an angle grinder and a Proxton tool. If you use the Proxton you need to stop periodically to allow the tool to cool. He used the Arbortec to make random cuts in the base and then a rotating sander in an electric drill to clean it up.

The bowl was taken off the screw chuck and secured in the scroll chuck. Using a pull cut Les cleaned up the face of the bowl and increased speed to true up the rim. He started to hollow out the centre. The Tail stock was removed and the chuck jaws tightened.

A traditional grind bowl gouge was used to start to cut out the centre. To overcome problems of the tool skating across the wood, hold the tool so the flute is at the 3 o'clock position and the bevel at right angles to the timber.



When the top of the inside is complete cut a 2mm deep groove at 10 or 11 mm down from the lip. This is very important. Les used the Proxton tool to Texture the rim and

the inside down to the groove, turning the piece by hand. The power sander was used to clean up the surface. Les hand sanded the edges of the rim and sprayed with ebonising lacquer. It helps if the surface is warmed with a hair drier. Spray the outside and the inside down to the groove holding the can 10" to 12" away from the piece. Using old sand, paper power sand all over so that the black is showing only in the texturing cuts.

Les then applied blue spirit stain with a rag. This should not bleed past the groove filled with the black paint. He now sprayed with gloss lacquer, and turned away the centre of the bowl up to the groove. To undercut below the groove he used a parting tool stopping to re-sharpen it frequently. A smaller bowl gouge was used to complete the hollowing and apply the finishing cuts with a larger flat ground gouge. Les power sanded from the centre to the edge using the whole of the sanding disc.

The bowl was removed and held against a wooden block in the head stock by a ring and point centre in the tail stock. This allowed the spigot to be carefully removed using a push cut with a small gouge. The remaining button could be cut off and the base sanded smooth.



MARCH EVENING

This was a practical evening with a difference. The idea was to demonstrate to members the different tools in our lending library. Rodney was showing thread chasing on a piece of Pink Ivory. George was using the Rolly Munroe tool. Robert had a compressor in the back of his car and was using the dental drill for pierced work, using some of Jennies scrap items. Chris and Jennie were spending the night somewhere close to Alexandra Palace. John Sherwood was demonstrating the captive ring tool. Paul was playing with the wobble chuck. Colin was showing us how to use the spiralling and chatter tools to good effect.

Phil and Bill were running the shop. Neil and Co. were in the centre of the hall taking names for the bus to Ally Pally. and names of volunteers for outside events.

Sylvia was dispensing teas and coffees. Roy Edwards was updating the honours board for us. I was selling timber from an old deceased member Norman Carey for the family. Also in the centre of the hall was a tree recognition competition being run by Nick.

Also in the centre of the hall Geoff Goddard was exchanging wood turning books against the promise of tool handles being made for the Mytchett Baptist. See their letter of thanks further on in the newsletter.

The main competition was on the stage. Bernie was recording the entries and Brian and Richard were the judges.

ALEXANDRA PALACE

I got up early on the Saturday and drove to Lightwater where Robert was to drive myself and a new member Colin Stone to the exhibition. Several members had set the stand up on the Thursday. SAW was sharing the stand with Cheam.



Paul and family were already there as was Phil and Jennie and Chris. On the Cheam stand Bernie walker was using Jennie's lathe while she was demonstrating piercing and decorating.



On the Thursday Phil had been to Warco's factory and collected on loan their 1642 variable speed 1.1KW lathe plus a smaller MS1018 550 watt variable speed lathe which the company had donated to the club to promote its introduction to their range. Phil and all the others who used the big lathe were impressed with its power and how rock steady it was.



The smaller lathe is very similar to the Axminster AWWVSL lathe except it has a more powerful motor. 3 Belts give a speed range of 650 to 3,800 rpm. There was one problem you had to remove a plastic plate from the end of the lathe bed if you wanted to take off the tail stock. A cross has since been cut in it to overcome this problem. The tool rest was only 5 3/4" long which stops you making a good planning cut with a skew on a long item. A very kind club member has made me a longer one! With a slowest speed of 650rpm you would not be able to do any thread chasing. However it is a very good small lathe with plenty of power, ideal for taking to the various external shows that the club goes to.

Our numbers were increased on the Saturday when 15 club members arrived on the mini bus hired by Don. Sunday was quite because of it being Mothers day and the first Grand Prix. We did find one wood turning mum who had been taken to the show as her Mothers Day treat! Lots of potential turners were sent next door to the AWGB stand to find where their nearest club was. I was pleasantly surprised at the number of couples where the wife was a wood turner and the husband worked in metal. I don't think we recruited any new members for our club, but we all enjoyed chatting with like minded crafts persons.

Jim Goodman Pt 4 – I call my Mentor!

You may remember in my last news clip I had been told by Jennie that I was allocated a Mentor and was asked to fill in the Mentoring Scheme Questionnaire and send it to him. The form seemed pretty straightforward until I was asked questions such as.... do you want to:

a) make a living from woodturning, b) become a professional wood turner or c) create artistic pieces for collectors!! As there was not a question about producing more than just a pile of shavings I opted forto make lots of eggcups for Xmas presents! (Although I was thinking to myself that it would be nice to get to the stage, eventually, where maybe I could demonstrate at the Rural Life Centre or Princes Mead events – maybe one day eh?)

Anyway back to reality, I made the call to my Mentor to set up my first session and arrived with my tools tucked underneath my arm. Firstly he wanted to observe me “attack” some spindle turning and I did say that I was having trouble keeping my work parallel and turning beads, although I could turn hollows and ogees. (He did not seem impressed!)

After observing my attempts at spindle turning, I was given the following advice: “You would have more success if you ran the lathe at the correct speed, presented the tool at the correct angle and stood correctly in front of the work”! Oh - and it would also help if your spindle gouge was sharp and did not have a point!! So there was I thinking that I had been making some progress in my early months of turning, when in fact I was making hard work for myself. We then spent the rest of the session going back to basics and making positive progress with a correctly ground tool!

I left my first Mentoring Session feeling a lot more confident and by following the correct techniques, the next week went well. I thought my spindles were looking good but I would have to see what my Mentor had to say about them at the March club night. I was making steady progress until the weekend before club night and my ability to use my spindle gouge started to go “pear shape”! The point had reappeared and I was not having much success getting rid of it.

I duly turned up to the club night, which was a practical night and found that my mentor was demonstrating after a mad dash back from Ally Pally and he looked kn....ed! Anyway I finally cornered him and got a couple of “brownie points” for my efforts - then lost them again when I presented him with my pointed spindle gouge! This time when he told me how to rectify my bad sharpening technique I listened very carefully.

The next day I set to task and got the profile of my spindle gouge to where it should be and to much relief found that I could now produce beads, hollows and ogees that looked acceptable.

To have a break from just turning spindles, I thought I would have a go at making eggcups, and the first two went very well and were even the same size!! After telling a friend that I had made a couple of eggcups I got commissions for six!! The good thing is that they are for three people who want two each, so I have only got to make pairs that the same size! As I said, my first two went well and I have attempted the third a number of times but I seem to have hit the “eggcup wall” and cannot get beyond the third cup. I even got the third and fourth as far as the sanding down but was too heavy-handed and they split. I will soldier on and report back to any interested parties!

As my Mentor was busy demonstrating on club night we did not really have time to sit and discuss what my next project would be but he said that he would e-mail me with instructions. So what would he task me with, a pair of matching candlesticks, or an ornamental vase, some goblets maybe? No, none of the above!!

I have to produce some more spindle work but this time I am to and I quote “measure out the spindle after it is round so that each bead or cove are the same size”!! I think I am still trying to run before I can walk so I had better get some more spindles produced. But I am determined to get the rest of those blasted eggcups completed as well, before the next meeting and who knows, I may even get a couple more of those “brownie points”!

PRINCES MEAD 20th March

There was the usual crowd outside Princes Mead at 8 o'clock waiting for me to give them change for the parking meter. After borrowing a couple of trolleys in did not take us long to unload all the equipment and display material and start setting it up. Phil had large display of bowls, some natural edge and managed to sell a few. He used his lathe to make more bowls until the knob of the speed control came loose. John Sherwood was working on a commission making a very nice tooth pick box with a very tight fitting lid and then started making fruit. Paul was making light pulls. Colin was

making 6 tool handles with copper ferules that he had promised Geoff Goddard in return for some books. Claire was making pens and Rodney was sharing the lathe to make French knitting kits, leaving wife Pat to sell their items. I made several egg cups small enough to take a Cadbury's cream egg.



Val was “pollylatheamous” firstly working with Phil on a bowl, then using the new Warco lathe to make an Ostrich egg in Beech and then working with John to make an apple. Everyone enjoyed themselves chatting to the public. Eric and Jim helped as stewards. We have one potential new member when he retires later in the year.

Paul's



February club night

Paragraphs

The turner for that evening was Les Thorne,. It does not need me to say too much about this because as always Les entertained as he normally does with a terrific demonstration and lots of information about the techniques being used. What a great evening.

Hands on Day

Another fully subscribed hands on day and all went well. The day started with the set up and there were plenty of people ready for that. In no time at all we were ready to go. There always seems to be an interest in deep hollowing, so Paul gave a short talk and showed various types of hollowing tools. It WAS then time to get on the lathes with two students to a tutor and all eager to learn. The morning was over before you new it and a brief stop for lunch and we started again. The end of the day came with a quick clean up and a parting of the ways. They all agreed that they had a great day and learned lots. Thanks tutors.

Alexandra Palace

This started with the set up on Thursday and through to the dismantle on Sunday evening. A great show with the hall being used to its maximum. We had two lathes running and stewards talking to lots of people. The days went very quickly because we were all so busy, especially for getting back to the club on Friday night. Everyone had a good time. Thank you for all those that participated.

March Club Night

This was practical night and it was a very busy evening for me, with rushing back from Ally Pally grabbing some fish and chips before getting on the lathe. The evening was based upon the hire tools

the club has. Each turner was demonstrating how to use the tools we have for hire. I did not see much of the evening because it was so busy. All the demonstrators had an audience around them. I hope from this that members will be tempted to try the tools for projects or even before they buy. Thanks to the demonstrators.

Princes Mead Shopping Centre

We all arrived at our due time of 8am just as the security guard opened the door. We were in and set up like any well oiled machine and ready to turn on time, we were talking to the public throughout the day and certainly had some potential new members. Some members were able to sell some of their work, which is a bonus. As always a good time was had by all. Thank you all for your part in another successful outing.

Running an event for SAW

The committee has been asked in the past if members who cover events could be covered on the clubs 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.

April Club Night

Our Club turners for this evening will be Peter Stent and Colin Spain.

Rural Life Centre

This year the event is for the three days over the bank holiday. My wife and I will be staying at the centre as usual. This is a very enjoyable weekend for all that attend. Again we are looking for volunteers for the usual help; list is on Neil's table.

West's Wood Show

Yet another event that we enjoy ourselves at. A chance to see other clubs, tools, timber and other crafts with wood. Again we are looking for volunteers for the usual help; list is on Neil's table.

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.

SUNDAY 31st October SAW OPEN DAY

A date to be noted in your diary. Some of you may know that we will have as our professional demonstrators and judges, Nick Agar and Les Thorne. We also want some club turners to demonstrate. The sub committee feel that in order to make a reasonable demonstration the turner needs up to 1 ½ hours. This will mean that for the period of the show we are looking to have four volunteers. We are arranging to borrow a large lathe from Warco.

If you are willing to show off your skills then please advise Robert or Peter.

The following are photographs from recent events



Joy at hands on day



John, me and Donald at hands on day

Dear Surrey Woodturners

Re: Your support for our work

Thank you very much for the promise of several chisel handles in exchange for some of the books on advanced wood turning that were not suitable for our work.

This work is to provide tools for the people in underdeveloped countries so that they might follow or learn a trade and thus lay aside the indignity of dependency and become self supporting.

Many of our tools go to AIDS orphanages and vocational training institutions in Africa, and we are always pleased to accept donations of good quality hand tools that are no longer required in the UK. These tools often include many carpenters chisels which are perfectly sound in themselves but badly need re-handling; - and good replacement chisel handles are always in short supply.

The trades we support include all forms of woodworking, the trowel building trades, plumbing, and motor mechanics work. We also send out two to three hundred sewing machines each year, but we are always short of good quality hand cranked sewing machines for use in areas where there is no electricity supply.

All our tools and sewing machines are overhauled, sharpened or serviced prior to despatch and are given free of charge to those who are in need of them. On average, we are able to despatch between 15 and 25 tonnes of tools and other items, each year via reliable partner agencies who see to the despatch and distribution of the tools overseas and who organise or provide any training required.

We very much appreciate your support and would welcome a visit from and of you members who might wish to know more about our mission. Or you might like to visit our website

<http://www.reviventhrive.org.uk/>

Thank you again for your support

**Information about the Seminar with *Simon Hope* Sunday May 23^d
in the Mytchett Centre small hall.**

*To book a place on this seminar, fill in your name on the list on Neil's table on club night,
email me or give me a ring*



Simon enhances some of his work with pewter that he casts and then turns. He is also a maker of pipes for bagpipes. He is knowledgeable, highly skilled and interesting and this is a great opportunity to share some quality time with a real expert. Not to be missed!!! He will be bringing some of his range of tools for sale - but this is not the focus of the day!

Start time 10 a.m.

-but please try to be at the centre by 9.45 to help set up.

Finish time 4 p.m.

-but please allow 15 minutes to help put away and clear up.

Food & Drink

-The urn will be on all day for tea and coffee - bring your own mug if you don't like paper cups!

-Cake and biscuits will be available for morning coffee and afternoon tea, but please bring your own packed lunch.

Instant Gallery

-Please bring along a piece of turning for the instant gallery. Pieces will not be critiqued individually by Simon in front of the group, but he will be able to pick out shapes and details to help illustrate points that he is making. It should be possible to ask him about your own piece some time during the day should you wish to.

Please bring something if you can as it is good to see what other people are doing at the moment.

Seating

-The chairs in the small hall are the plastic stacking variety - slightly more comfortable than the metal ones in the main hall - but not much. Do bring a cushion or your own folding canvas chair for the day.

Video

Even though we are in the small hall, the projector and camera will be set up so that we can focus in on detail when required.

Cost

Please pay Neil on club night £10 adult member and £2 for juniors. Visitors £12 (Limit 50 - so book early)

FACEBOOK

It was one of those emails that you dread, could you write an article on facebook, something along the lines of an idiots guide! My first thought was the phone call from my mother a week or two ago where she was having problems and in need of some IT support. For over an hour I was trying to get her to click the Microsoft icon on the top left of the screen, and was fully frustrated that she could not see it. The penny dropped when she said “all I can see is some writing that says Sony” She was looking at the frame of the computer screen not the viewing screen, at that point I thought IT support was not for the faint hearted.

The clubs facebook page has been up and running for a month or two now and we presently have twenty two members, with a few of us being active. We have had request from non club members to join the group but have politely declined them. The SAW facebook group is for members only and is a way that we can help, support; discuss all thing SAW and woodturning related. Examples of the discussions so far have been Chris’s daily updates of setting up and running of the Ally Pally show where we were kept informed about the new lighting set-up for the SAW display, the fight with the lift and one item that grabbed my attention was a lathe that cost £7,000.

We’ve also had questions on the running of the practical night, a discussion on the video system after the last demo night that gave Chris and Robert some very good feedback. We also had a link posted that enabled us to watch a trailer of Les Thorns new DVD . Adrian posted a photo of his new lathe that he acquired via Mark Sanger its a Hegner! The thing I like about photographs of other peoples workshops is you can see all sorts of things like Adrian keeps his chisels on the workshop ceiling – great idea.

I posted some photos of a bowl from a branch an idea I stole from, or is it inspired by, an article in February’s Woodturning magazine. Colin posted a photo of the SAW Ally Pally display, and Jenny posted a link to a video of how the platters that were presented to the Founder SAW Members at the AGM were made.



So how can you get involved: First you have to join facebook as an individual, and then secondly join the Surrey Association of Woodturners group, you can do the second part by searching for Surrey Association of Woodturners with the facebook

search or by emailing saw.facebook@ntlworld.com with your name and the email address that you use to log on to facebook.

Facebook has more features than what I have mentioned and if you want to explore all of these I suggest you talk to an IT savvy teenager or pop down the local library and ask the IT assistant to show you around facebook. Finally Chris and myself are willing to help you get started.

Some more photographs from Alexandra Palace. My thanks to all the photographers

