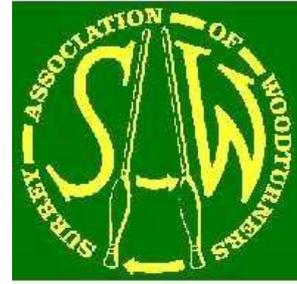


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter March 2011

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Jim McCready	Mandy Clarke
Nigel Clarke	Peter Hart
Dorothy Read	John Smith
Mike Spaven	David Stratton

Paid up Membership 154

Items for the Diary

Friday 8 th April	Practical (Bottles)
Sunday 17 th April	Seminar Stuart Mortimer
Sat.30 th /1 st May	Rural Life
Friday 6 th /7 th May	West's Wood Show
Friday 13 th May	Mick Hanbury
Friday 17 th June	Club Turner

FEBRUARY EVENING

Our demonstrator was Stuart King, who last visited us 5 years ago. He started by showing us his old hat with the crown worn away from using a pole lathe and his small hand made turning tools made from small diameter tool steel. These had been ground into a point tool and various others to suit Stuart's requirements.

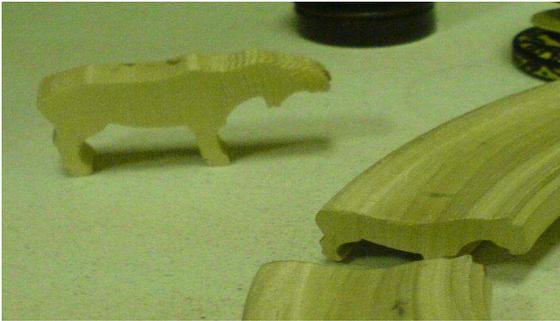
He showed us a video he had taken in Morocco showing a street trader using a home made lathe to make a chess piece. The wood was rotated by a stringed bow in

the right hand. The left foot held the tail stock in place, while the skew was held between the toes of the right foot and the left hand. It was amazing to see the finish he could obtain. Stuart explained how the traders in the Souk would place small necklaces on the neck of your womenfolk forcing you to part with a few pounds. Stuart mounted a scrap billet of wood from B & Q in the chuck and produced another chess piece using a round skew.



You need to keep a reasonably tight grip on the tool when using it.

We were next shown a video taken in Erzeberge, a toy making town in Saxony. The area's back ground had been in mining



now worked out. Animal's like horses are carved in the round.

A knife is used to cut the items up. A small horse would sell for about £20.00.



Further DVD's followed. The Dean brothers working in the woods of High Wycombe as Bodgers producing beech chair legs. Another video showed Stuart as the expert on the Generation Game assembling a Windsor chair. Another video was Stuart demonstrating how to make flowers from hazel twigs on Allan Titchmarsh's show.

A piece of alternative ivory was fitted in the chuck. Using his miniature tools Stuart proceeded to make a small finial. Stuart warned that these shavings can be subject to spontaneous combustion. He suggested that you wear a face mask to prevent ingesting the fine shavings. A small circular saw was fitted in the chuck in a trailing mode. Stuart then cut in to the edge of the finial to produce petals. First divide the circumference into 4 and the further sub divide. Using O'Donnel jaws meant that it was easier to use the saw blade.

Stuart then mounted a Hazel branch in the chuck and proceeded to show us how he make different flowers.



Using a skew and Tombo Ink Pens he produced a daisy and daffodil. Paul produced a Iron wood splitting wedge as a test which Stuart used to produce another flower. Next as his last demonstration he did the same with a garden trowel which had the point honed.

A very entertaining evening.

Hands On Day 20th Feb

The event was organised by Colin, with four tutors Colin, Paul, Richard and myself. Unfortunately we only had nine pupils. The Committee will have think about how we can ensure that we do not run at a loss in future, especially as the rent has increased slightly. A common problem for most members is tool sharpening so Paul spent some time on do's and don'ts.



I learnt not to put a tool to the side of a grindstone as it will shatter with disastrous consequences. You can only do this on a slow running wet wheel such as a Tormec. We then split up with two or three pupils to a tutor. My pupils wanted to practice with a

skew, make Stuart King style flowers and a Pot Pourri Bowl in Wenge.



I did not get chance to check what was being practiced or made on the other lathes but I did notice Colin with a thread chaser. Although the day is intended for newcomers who have completed their Mentoring Scheme more experienced Members who wish to be shown a particular application are welcome to attend and we will try to find a tutor for that skill.

Photographic Tent

The club now has a light tent, for taking photographs of competition pieces, however it will also be available on practical nights for members to take photos of their own turning, you will need to supply your own camera.

The tent comes with two lights, with natural daylight lamps, you place your turned item in the tent where it is presented in a diffused light for the photograph to be taken. If anyone is willing to run a session on photography during a practical night can you please let a committee member know.

March Evening

For those of us who had been at Ally Pally it was a rush to get back. Our demonstrator was Mark Sanger an ex Aero Engineer and Policeman. He intended to show us how to create a box with a finial lid.

He fixed a piece of Sycamore on a 10mm screw chuck and cut a spigot for the chuck. He made the outside shape of the box and shear scraped it. A straight scraper was used to finish the outside, As the burr only lasts for about 10 seconds it was necessary to tweek the edge with a small stone.

The box was unscrewed from the screw chuck and reversed into the chuck jaws. Clean up the face with a pull cut. Mark the hole which should be one third of the diameter of the top. The top was shaped and shear cut. Mark used a gouge to cut down into the box to the required depth but this can be done with a drill. He started cutting out the centre from the top down. Mark then used a Crown tool with a point cutter to continue hollowing out. On small vessels he used finger and thumb to check wall thickness. He sanded the piece down to 320 grit with the lathe in reverse.



To sand inside a drill extension bit was fitted with a cut down arbour and a 240 grit pad. A wire coat hanger was bent to a suitable shape and covered with Gaffer tape. Using hook and loop tape various grades were used to hand finish inside.

The box was placed over a jamb chuck of the right diameter and taking light cuts the spigot was almost removed. If about 1mm is left this will raise to base and give a pleasing result. Continue to cut away the base. Mark sands 180, 240 and 320 grits. A hack saw blade was used for the final cut and the nib removed with a power carver.

The box was buffed on a white buffing wheel with lathe at about 1,000rpm using the white compound. Renaissance wax was applied and buffed again.



To make the base of the finial a piece of Black walnut was mounted between centres and a spigot shaped. With the cylinder held in the chuck, Vernier callipers were used to measure the size of the hole in the box and transfer the measurement to the base of the finial. This was cut to size. The outside of the shoulder was measured and the wood reduced to the correct size. A 4mm dimple was cut into the base and the corner of a skew used to countersink . a 3mm hole is drilled in the centre and the base decorated. A 3mm parting tool is used to cut off the base curving the top face while doing so. Screw this on to the remaining wood in the chuck to sand the top.

To make the finial, sketch your design and photograph it and scan in the PC. This can then be scaled up or down as desired. A print of the design is cut out and glued to the desired timber. Using a band saw this cut out. With different sanding pads running in a drill chuck on the lathe the preferred shape can be created. Using the 3mm screw this is secured to the finial base. A small button is made from Sycamore to be glued in to hide the screw head.



In the last 10 minutes Mark showed us an alternative made from Tulip wood. This was mounted in the chuck as before and shaped as required, A hole was made in the lid. The lid will be set into the base so a parting tool was used to form the side of the lid. This was cut off with a parting knife leaving a register mark for later. The bowl was shaped and a series of grooves cut for decoration. It would be scorched and the lid glued on. An interesting and informative evening.

Web details :-

Username: liddedform@marksanger.co.uk

Password : lidded

A members comments: -

I would just like to say what an excellent demo Mark Sanger provided for the club, covering :- design, shaping, hollowing, finishing and polishing - all topped off with a finial. Particularly as he actually completed the finishing of his lidded hollow form. Very few of the demonstrators have demonstrated finishing, so actually seeing the 'negative rake scraper' in use producing ultra fine shavings, followed by polishing mops with rubbing compound to produce a really fine finish in a very short time was good for me. Mark gave me a demo afterwards to show how to correctly raise the burr on the scraper using his diamond file. Then to give us all the necessary info via a web-link I feel makes Mark very good value for the fee. Although I always take notes it's hard work concentrating on the demo and writing my own notes at the same time.

Hope Mark gets invited again.

Regards

Arthur Martin

Alexandra Palace

Several members drove up on the Thursday to set up the stand. On Friday I was given a lift by Robert with the Warco lathe and two other members. There was a lot of interest in what we were doing, consequently I did not finish the Pomander I was turning.



However it did not seem all that busy. Phil and I visited Ashley Isles and Simon Hope to buy tool steel and sanding arbours for the shop and raffle. There were three small lathes and the larger one lent by Warco in continuous use by a variety of demonstrators. On the Saturday the bus came with a small party of members. Jennie was one of the judges with Les Thorne and Richard Raffan, of the show competition. Congratulations to Basil Gridley and Colin Spain for getting second prize worth £250.00 for their pieces. There appeared to be more visitors on the Saturday, some of whom were female turners. We met up lots of professional turners, Nick Agar was promoting the Norwegian Wood turning cruises. Phil Irons was promoting a new range of finishes, the gloss was like glass. Our thanks to all the members who demonstrated or helped steward.

PRINCES MEAD

Every one arrived soon after 8.am and the display stands and seven lathes were soon put up. There were a lot of items for sale. Three members even brought their wives to take the money while they were turning.

There was a lot of interest in what we were doing, and a lot of different items were sold.



It is strange how sales go. About five or six years ago when I was into fruit I made a banana and a bunch of purple grapes. They have been brought out each year and they were bought by someone looking for unusual fruit. I will have to start fruit making again. As usual we all enjoyed ourselves, any money taken was a bonus.

SURREY TIMBERS LTD

With the need to replenish my stocks of fruit I required some suitable timber. John Sherwood had told me about this firm so I paid them a visit. They are at Henley Park, Normandy on the site of the old Vokes factory. Kevin Bolger is the Director who has a partner with a similar firm in the USA. There is a good selection of local and exotic timber. Kevin cut off for me a foot length of 2" Yellow Heart for my bananas and Lemons costing £8.42 and a foot length of 1" Purple Hart for my plums and grapes for £5.70. If we mention the club name to Kevin he will give us 10% discount. He is exhibiting at our Open Day.

**This article has come from
The Tool and Trades History
Society.**

Carpenter's Paper Cap

These caps are more commonly known as 'Carpenter's Caps', probably because the John Tenniel illustrations in Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass" are well known.

However, perhaps surprisingly, references to this popular form of tradesmen's headwear are comparatively rare. Mr. Sayward, has pointed us in the direction of that useful book 'Occupational Costumes of England from the 11th Century to 1914' by P. Cunnington and C. Lucas, where the compilers' research reveals that in addition to carpenters, 25 other types of tradesmen were depicted wearing such caps in the late century.

Braziers, Manchester operatives, Stage hands, Bookbinders, Masons, Sugar-loaf cutters, Coffee grinders, Paper makers, Tallow-chandlers, Coopers, Painters, Tinmen, Glass blowers, Picture frame gilders, Tobacco workers, Glaziers, Plumbers, Warp-scourers, Gold beaters and polishers, Printers, Wheelwrights, Grocers, Soap boilers, Wine merchants employers, Hatters

There are in fact more. After looking through 19th Century and Edwardian Manuals, journals and an encyclopaedia it would be possible to add the following trades.

Boiler plate punchers, Iron foundries, File cutters, Brass founders, Needle makers, Fish hook makers, Calenderers, Newspaper sellers, Floor cloth manufacturers, Calico printers, Paper stainers, Gilders, Candle makers, Cork worker, Rope makers, Coach builders, Cutlers, Saw makers, Coppersmith, Decorators, Sugar refiners, Cotton carders, Dyers, Tanners, Gunsmiths.

These would appear to be substantial evidence that these simple caps were by far the most popular form of tradesmen's and occupational headwear for a great deal of the 19th and early 20th Century, and the lack of reference to them is probably due to the fact that they were so commonplace and therefore not considered worthy of reference.

Papermakers' Hats

It was in the paper making trade that the tradition of wearing paper hats lasted well

into the 1930's, and possibly did not completely fade out until the late 1950's or early 1960's.

Mr. Simon Green, Director of Hayle Mill at Maidstone, one of the last hand made paper manufacturers, informed me that some years ago he tried to encourage the workforce to resume the tradition but most regarded the hats as "rather soppy", although they are occasionally still made for works' parties.

Mr. Green kindly gave me some folding instructions which, in contrast with Mr. Seward's delightfully simple instructions, are rather complex and mathematical. Furthermore, they have the extra work and complication of cutting additional strips to hold the flaps together.

Richard Filmer 1987

Newspaper Hats in the 1980's

Having thought that the tradition of paper hat wearing was completely lost I was delighted to find, on visiting a North Kent stonemason's yard on a large modern industrial estate, that there were at least two masons wearing hats of newspaper. They were not as fine as paper makers' hats, nor as neat as the "Saward" cap, and two matchsticks were needed to pin the "cuffs" together.

The masons were wearing the caps in an entirely unselfconscious manner and had simply not given any thought that they were anything unusual about their headwear, although they freely acknowledge that their colleagues preferred the modern "American-style" peaked cap.

The newspaper caps are, of course, extremely practical. With pneumatic tools and grinders the masons' workshop is dustier than ever and some form of headwear is essential. The caps can, of course, be made in a few seconds and replaced as frequently as desired at no expense whatsoever.

Footnote:

Since we started wearing the hats at Amberley in 1994 we have been informed that similar paper caps are still worn by plasterers in Italy, and by house painters in Germany and Hong Kong.

They were certainly being proudly worn by pressmen in the USA and Canada until the late 1950's.

Printers and Engineers in the rotary print machine rooms of London newspapers were using them up until the 1980's, when they moved from Fleet Street to their modern automated print works.

They are still used as temporary containers for Printers' ink in many printshops around England.

Dave Rymell 1996

CHAIN SAWS

At the practical night on 8th April we will have one table set up for chainsaw maintenance. No, we are not going to repair your chainsaws for you or even sharpen your chains for you.

The session idea has come from last October's Open Day where a few members were asking questions regarding the maintenance of a chain, its bar, and the parts of a saw that need regular maintenance. It aims to help members understand the working of a chainsaw and to be able to identify areas of a saw that need to be monitored and maintained.

The workshop will run in the first session of the evening only.

NEW ADDITIONS TO DVD LIBRARY.....

8 new DVDS bring the total in the library to well over 50 now – there are dvds for all levels – **Robert Sorby on Starting Out**, **Mick**

Hanbury on tool sharpening, 2 from Mark Sanger (professional turner at March club night), Bob Chapman on bowls, Nick Arnull on platters and 2 from Sue Harker.....

so come and have a browse....only £2 a month to borrow.

A Paschal Candlestick

By Richard Davies

*I once said to Colin "I wouldn't mind the odd commission, something to get my teeth into".
"Be careful you may get what you wished for"
He said...*

"I know a Woodturner," said John, (he's the churchwarden for Thursley parish church). My wife does his admin for him. This was about two years ago. We'd presented him and Delma with a bowl a few years back before that for a golden wedding present. It was Walnut with brass inserts running through it and polished up to look like gold. Then finished with gold Rub & Buff paste.

So I was asked would I like to do a candlestick for a church? "Just let me know what it's like and I'll knock something up", said I thinking of something about 18" tall. A few months later my wife Philippa came home with copied pages from a church suppliers leaflet showing some designs that had been rejected as too modern for a twelfth century Norman church and could I give it some thought.

By chance, I met the vicar during the dedication of the glass vestry doors that Philippa had been involved with. He said the candlestick had to be 4' 6" high! That's about 1.5M in new money. "Just do a few designs for Nancy to

chose from” he said. The Paschal candlestick was to be donated to the church by Nancy a parishioner in memory of her late husband.

Slightly panicked by the size, I thought I’d better do some work on a specification. At 4’6” tall it meant 5 separate pieces. Two spindles and three cross grain pieces for the base, joining boss and Bowl. I started to put some sizes together and researching where the timber would come from, I would also need a brass candle insert for safety. I was told the candle maybe 18” to 24” tall. So the sizes were fixed and were just about the largest my lathe would tolerate and then I was pushing my luck.

Suppliers started laughing at the thought of such large pieces of wood when I tried costing timber. The base was settled on at as 18” diameter by 7½”, the bowl was 12” diameter by 4½” and the boss was about 6” diameter by 4” tall. The two spindles needed to be about 4½” square by 2’ long. The thinking behind the design; A large base would give me a good surface to spread the weight. The size and weight would also provide a bit of stability for the unevenness in the floor. The rest of the ‘stick was simply scaled from there keeping in mind the it needed to be large enough not to look top heavy or out of balance with a candle of up to 24” tall on top.

I sent my three designs to the vicar and Nancy for approval. Nothing happened for a long time and I thought the thing had just gone away.

Then, in December of 2009 Philippa came home and said “Oh John tells me that the faculty (a document

needed to approve anything for a 12th century church) has been approved by the diocese”. Interesting, as I’d only provided sketches with no sizes. The ‘stick could have been any size. It seems the vicar had put this in hand without further thought!

As nothing had happened for about a year, I had to start again. At this point I still hadn’t settled on a company for the timber due to the large sizes. John came to the rescue with an introduction to a specialist Oak supplier who had some really large old and hard Oak, although some of it would need to be laminated from smaller stock to make up the sizes for the base. I also found a supplier for the metal candle insert.

The good news was all the wood was over-size so I had wood to play with. The bad news was, all the wood was over-size so the base was over capacity for my lathe. When the base blank arrived it took two of us to lift because it was about 1 ½” thicker than I’d specified. “Oh I made it a little bigger” said the supplier, “as it has some splits (some of these were 2” deep) but I’m sure you can get a circle out of it”. To be fair everything he’d done was right, he just assumed that I had an industrial sized lathe.

I made the base, boss and bowl first then the two spindles to achieve the remaining height.

The Bowl was from a rectangular piece that needed planning down to thickness and then putting through my band saw to get a roughly round to fit it on my lathe, before turning.



The blanks are the Base with splits on the far left, two spindles, Boss and Bowl with a 12" rule to give scale.

The base was laminated and looked like a dozen bricks out of a wall still cemented together. I could lift it as long as I could keep it at about table height. I couldn't have picked it up off the ground because I couldn't have straightened my back! Paul Nesbitt came to the rescue. He has a petrol chain saw and nice chunky Poolwood lathe. I marked out the circle off centre of the blank to bypass the splits. On the pre-arranged day I whizzed over to Paul's where his chainsaw made short work of the irregular shape and between us we manhandled the brute on to his lathe. Thanks for all your help Paul. I made it nominally round and then the real turning then began.



The base blank on Paul's Lathe.

It took a day to reduce the thing down to something resembling a very

large squat cone about 18" diameter and almost 8 3/4" tall. I came away almost black from the tanning in the wood! I could now lift it without getting a hernia. So I took the cone home to finish turning on my lathe. It took another two days of solid work to get the base turned and sanded ready for applying a finish. A pyrographed inscription was then added on the base by yours truly.

This was something I'd only done in the past for maker's details and put somewhere out of sight. Anyway a little practice and many spell checks later (can you just imagine getting the spelling wrong?). I produced what was for me not to bad an inscription.

To be continued in the May edition

A Day in the Woods with John Stinson

Just in case you missed the notice, I thought I would take this opportunity to outline the kind of experience John will be offering. He is incredibly committed to spreading the news about green woodworking and during the day will be passing on his skills and knowledge about the timber and how to process it with simple tools and finally shape it on a pole lathe. He provides lunch – cooked on an open fire, of course – and he even has basic toilet facilities on the site (it has a door!)

Saturday June 11th is fully booked but there are spaces on Sunday June 12th. If we fill these two days he will offer more days later in the year. If you get really hooked he also does a splendid day making a bow. In the next issue I will put some photos of this course in and give you more details. To be sure of a place on June 12th, phone Neil Lofthouse or add your name to the list next club night.

Jennie.

SUPER GLUE

My thanks to Paul for this article and the paper Hats.

The Inventor of Super Glue has just died aged 94.

It was invented by accident in 1942. It was not until 1952 that the potential of super glue was found and named. It was used by soldiers in the Vietnam to close wounds.

It was used on the space shuttle to protect heat tiles. It is now used to close wounds and surgical incisions instead of stitches.

Wood Dust and Words

SAW is a busy club, but you all knew that! Since the last newsletter we have had two club nights, Hands on Day, Ally Pally, and Princes Mead Shopping Centre demonstration. At the time of writing the new Southern Woodworking Show will be in the next few days. Thanks to everyone who has helped in organising and running these events without you all they would not have happen. I for one really enjoy them as the help, support, advice that we all receive during the events is superb, and at the same time we are promoting, and raising the profile of SAW.

If you are interested in getting involved in any event please have a chat with a committee member as there are always plenty of thing to do. Also if you are interested in participating at practical night have a chat with Colin, we are always looking for new people and new ideas.

At Ally Pally the club members found themselves modelling a line of hats, I was surprised to see they had survived and were on display in the photos of Princess Mead. Peter managed to get an article for the newsletter from Dave Rymell – our editor doesn't miss a trick 😊

I have had several responses from members regarding the sending of notices through the email system, these have been positive, however we can't stop reading out notices on a club night as not all members have email facilities. However I am hearing that the notices

can be too long and too much to take in, so we will try to keep them shorter and will pilot, for a few months, having a printed copy of notices at club nights for you to take away.

I had a letter from Phyl Jones Chairman of Quest Riding for the Disabled thanking us all for the donations of turned items and funds that we raised at the Christmas Club Night, the funds raised will be spent on leading ropes and special stirrups that the organisation presently require. We have also received an invite to visit, if you are interested in taking this invite up please discuss with Don Mitchell.

We need to get the Clubs Honour Board updated if anyone is experienced at this we would like to hear from you, if not the committee will need to draw names out the a hat to see who gets the job. The work entails using transfers to update the names on the Honour Board.

At the last committee meeting there was mention of the idea having a skills list that we can share with members, the idea being is that a list would name the skills and or knowledge that members would be willing to share within the club. Can you please let me or other committee members what you think of this idea?

I must admit I am really pleased at the way the 'show and tell table' has worked out, please keep your pieces coming in. Please remember that the show and tell is not about everything that works we learn from our mistakes as well. We won't have a show and tell on April's club night as its practical night which is the start of the annual club competition, as well as the split turned Chairman's Challenge.

The Seminar in April is with Stuart Mortimer; we have a few places left but if you have not put your name on the list you need to do this quickly, as we have now opened the seminar to other clubs.

The club turner on the 17th June (note that this is not the second Friday in the month) is Bill Riley. This is Bill's first time in front of the crowd at SAW and I am really please he has agreed to do the June slot.

The clubs' Facebook page has had some interesting items on it, from members asking for help, to a video of my new sanding device, in which Colin's reply was "How Much?". There is also information on SL Hardwoods open day is on 14th May, a pointer to a Vicmarc lathe that was on ebay, and a daily report on the Ally Pally show by Chris. I also put a link to a photograph display of old logging in the USA, there are a few photos there that would get health and safeties attention.

The club has bought a light tent for taking photos of our turned work, we will be making this available for members to use at practical nights, we are also looking at running a photography session at a future practical night.

Happy Turning
David