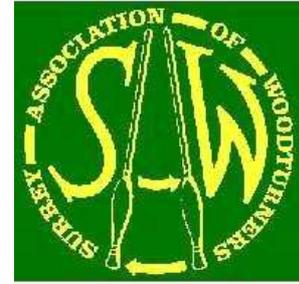


# Surrey Association of Woodturners

## Newsletter March 2012

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



### New Members

Andy Byrne

### Paid up Membership 141

There are Three wood shows not taking place this year:-

Alexandra Palace – Warco & W L West.

### Items for the Diary

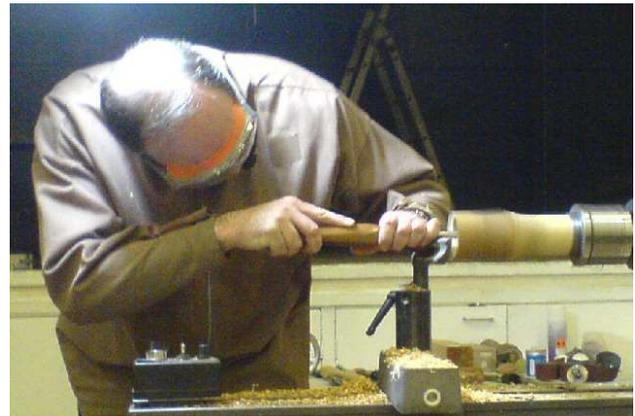
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Practical
Sat/Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 April	Rural Life Centre
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Richard Findlay
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Club Turner

## FEBRUARY EVENING

Our demonstrator for the evening was Paul Hannaby. He planned to show us how to make goblets. Paul talked about the different timbers he uses. He fitted a Yew log between centres which still had bark attached. He checked that the log would rotate freely. With the lathe at 1200 rpm he roughed the tail stock end to a cylinder. Callipers were set to the chuck jaw size. The end was trimmed and a spigot cut to fit the chuck. The log was then reversed and fitted into the chuck. If the tree is cut in winter it is more likely to retain the bark. The end was trimmed and with the tool rest adjusted to the correct height a gouge was used to drill into the end to the correct depth.

Paul started to hollow using an upside down cut. The gouge is used upside down with the bevel rubbing and cutting at 1 to 2

o'clock position. Paul grinds the bevel at 42'.



He continued to hollow using a ring tool cutting at 6-9 o'clock. This reduces the chance of a catch. The lip of the cup was shaped and a scraper used on the bottom. He then sanded through grades 100 to 400 grit. Spray sanding sealer was applied and renaissance wax used. Paul had found problems finding a way the waterproof the cup if to contain liquid. The best product was Rustins Plastic Coating or Melamine. Paul uses renaissance wax as this does not show figure marks. Using a spindle gouge he started to shape the outside. Frequent checks were made of the wall thickness. Sand as before, apply sanding sealer and wax.



The stem was cut in 1" sections. The tail stock was fitted and a polystyrene ball used to support the bowl of the goblet.

The foot was completed as the rest of the goblet and parted off.

Paul showed us a plastic phial containing a miniature goblet. A panel pin had been modified and used as a tool.



He had several different goblets to show us, details of which can be found on his website.

After tea he used a square block of London Plane to make a goblet with a twisted stem. This was mounted between centres and reduced to a cylinder and a spigot cut at the end. This was reversed into the chuck and drilled and hollowed out as before. Then it was sanded, sealed and waxed.

The tail stock was refitted and a polystyrene ball fitted to go into the mouth of the goblet. The whole length of the stem was cut to a diameter of about 10 mm. Paul uses three grades of rat tail files and a small square rasp. He does not mark out the twist like Stuart Mortimer, but does it all by eye. The coarsest file is held at the foot of the stem at an angle of 45° to the lathe bed. Start filing rotating the chuck by hand. He continued with this groove until he reached the top. The file was then used to cut another groove mid way between the spirals of the first cut.



The other files were then used to deepen and smooth these grooves. By varying the

cutting angle the tops of the grooves were rounded.

The stem was sanded with the lathe still and with it running. Sanding sealer and then renaissance wax was applied and the goblet parted off. A very interesting evening.

Paul's Website details –

paul@creative-woodturning.com and [www.creative-woodturning.com](http://www.creative-woodturning.com).

## **Congratulations**



Dave & Bett Booth were married in Wokingham on 10<sup>th</sup> February and honeymooned in Bath.

## **HANDS ON DAY 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

The last Hands on Day was in February last year. There seems to be a decided lack of interest in these events. Of the nine members who had put their names down, four did not show up for one reason or another. This meant that those left had almost one to one tuition. We had Richard, Colin, Jennie and myself each with a lathe.



Robert spent an hour and a half in the morning on sharpening tools. He

emphasised the need to always use a jig to ensure that the grinding angle was always constant. He continued to give advice when requested during the rest of the day. I helped members with bowls, Jennie instructed in spindle work.



Richard was hollowing and Colin was dealing with boxes in the morning and bowls in the afternoon.

I ask some of the pupils for their comments.

### Hands on Day by Alun Davies

I am not sure that Hands on Day is the best name for this event. Problem Solving Day might be better. I spent most of my time talking to the instructors and showing them what I had turned and talking about the problems I was having, and how they showed in the work I was producing.



Being fairly tall, I found the lathes tricky to use as they weren't the right height for me, but they were able to show me where I was

going wrong, and what I need to change to correct the errors.

It was a good day, I have learned a lot, and it was a way of getting over the exact problems I was having.

Maybe we should have a club night of Problem Solving?

All in all, it was a good day and I got a lot out of it.

### HANDS ON DAY by Peter Duguid

On arriving at hands on day, I was unsure on what to expect.

We sat down and watched demonstrations on sharpening gouges, skew and parting tools. We asked lots of questions on the subject which was good.

Then we went on the lathes. I did some bowl turning and learned how to use bowl gouges.

Peter helped me a lot answering lots of questions. We then had lunch and returned to the lathes. I learned a little about hollowing out vessels using hollowing tools. I found everyone was very helpful. The tuition was very good.

Peter asked me to record my thoughts on the day. I got a lot more out of it than I expected. I enjoyed it a great deal. It was a day well spent for all the help we all had. I am looking forward to the next hands on day very much. I am sure it will be worth going to again.

### The South East Woodworking show

This was the second year the show had been run at the Kent County Showground. The Exhibition hall was now complete with all the facilities. David took his Vicmarc & Phil his Graduate in his van with me going as extra muscle. It is a long way to go but is the only large show in the south, other than our Open Day, now that Ally Pally is no more. Because the hall is carpeted we had to have the lathes on hardboard sheets. It did not take long to set up the displays etc. Saturday it was back again, this time in David's pickup with John Creasy as an added passenger. For a one hour slot on

the lathe he had more boxes than the rest of us put together.



There were plenty of stalls selling tools and equipment, other turning clubs. Plus lots of demonstrations large and small to watch. Jennie had her own stall and always had a large crowd. Mark Baker was the main attraction in the corner. On each day the show closed at 4.00 so we had plenty of time to get back for our Club Night.



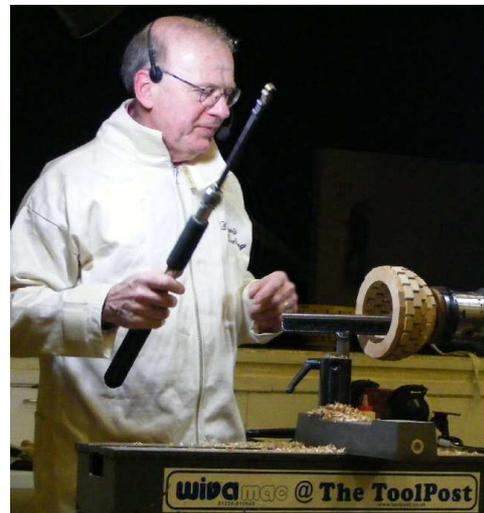
Sunday was a repeat of Saturday except we travelled in Phil's van as we had to bring everything back. We kept on having problems with the power supply. We are not sure if it was a kettle being switched on or a problem with Phil's lathe, but we could only use David's lathe. We had lots of people helping to pack up and so we were ready to leave at 4.30. I don't know about everyone else but I enjoyed it, all the more so because I did not have to drive that distance!

## **MARCH Evening**

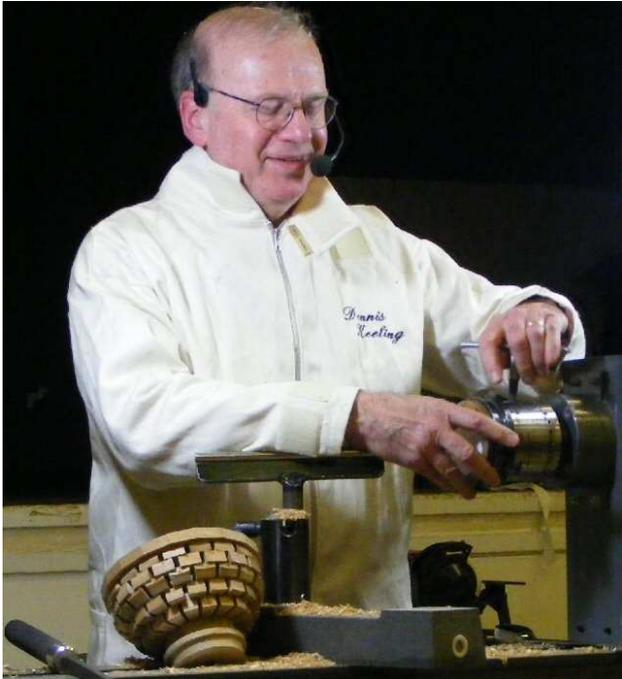
A lot of us had been at the South East Woodworking show in Kent that day. Our demonstrator was Dennis Keeling who has lots of articles about segmented turning in the Woodturning magazine. He started turning at age 10 using his Dad's Wolf drill as a lathe. He moved into engineering and software. His wife bought him a Myford lathe 18 years ago. He visited Bud Latven in 2003 and then became very involved in segmented turning in the UK and in the USA where there is a very big following of more than 100,000 members.

Dennis then showed us a series of slides detailing how he makes a segmented bowl. All these 40 slides are on his website so I do not intend to detail them here, except to say that he uses Titebond glue for its quick grab quality. He had several unturned bowls both closed and open segments. He then proceeded to show us how they were shaped.

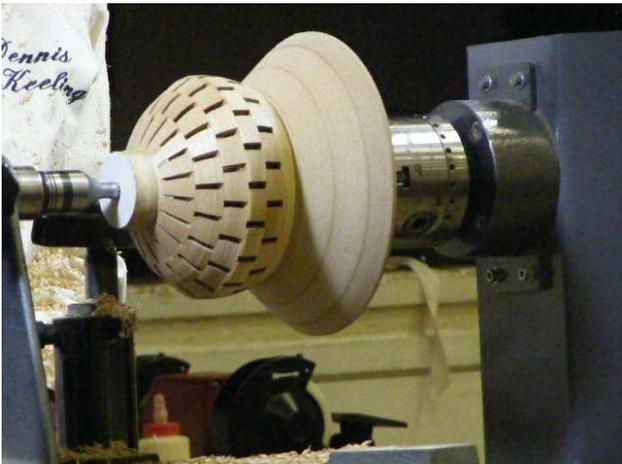
He started hollowing with a Woodcut hollowing tool to take the edges off the pieces.



He uses an expensive American tool but Simon Hope sells one similar with a tungsten tip. At this point the paper joint that Dennis had between the base of the bowl and the chucking spigot broke. So another unfinished bowl was mounted in the lathe chuck.



After completing the correct contour Dennis changed to a pear shaped scraper which he used in shear scraping mode. An MDF cone was fitted in the chuck and the tail stock used to hold the inverted bowl in place. A bowl gouge was used to shear scrape the outside using a pull cut. Very delicate touches are required as you get towards the foot of the bowl.



Any whiskers in the holes are removed with a mouse tail file. He sands through grades 120 to 400 grit and applies spray liqueur. To make a bowl takes 12 hours over 9 days. Preparing timber and building 8 days

at 1 hour a day. Turning 2 hours and finishing 2 hours. It will be interesting to see how many members have a go.

## Dust Extraction Filters

After I gave my talk on making a dust extractor I have had some people contact me to ask where I got the filters cartridge as they were having some difficulty.

So I did a Google search and found many suppliers to industry and lots of information on different filters for all applications.

I then tried the Axminster web site ([www.axminster.co.uk](http://www.axminster.co.uk)) and used Dust filters as a search key and found that they supply a wide range of replacement filters, including electrostatic and carbon filters. They have a cartridge filter for the RDC100H Vacuum extractor. This looks very much like the one I used. They also have an Electrostatic Filter for Jet AFS-500/1000B Air Filter which is rectangular so would need a slightly different way of fitting. I also looked on the B&Q website (<http://www.diy.com/nav/rooms/indoor-cleaning-laundry/vacuum-carpet-cleaners/accessories/Mac-Allister-Cartridge-Filter-SP-F-STANDARD-White-10287964>)

Both the Reading and Farnborough branches of B&Q have the Mac Allister Cartridge Filter SP-F STANDARD White in stock at £12.98.

This is the one I used.

Mel Martin

## **Hands-on Skills Initiative**

*Since the cost for hands-on day had to rise to £10 to cover the hire of the small hall, numbers have fallen and we have had to cancel several of these days.*

*The committee still feel that members ought to be helping each other develop skills but we have been looking at ways we can reduce the cost and make the timing more flexible.*

*Some members have been helping new turners in their own workshops through the*

mentoring process and we think that there is scope to widen this.

Members who feel that they can offer advice in particular skills areas will be happy to open their workshops to one or two members at a time who want to develop a particular skill - at times to suit.

Not only can the timing be more flexible, but it means that tutors don't necessarily have to pack up their lathes and transport them to Mytchett early on a Sunday morning three times a year!

The idea would be that a list of available skills would be published along with details of which members are prepared to tutor each skill.

The names of the tutors will be published with the area where they live and simple contact details (email and telephone number). The times available and any restrictions would also be published.

It would be up to individual members to make contact to book a session.

In an ideal world - this would be happening a lot **without any club organisation** - but because we are such a big club and because we come from such a wide catchment area - it hasn't!

We would not expect any payment to change hands - you would just need to bring your tools, timber for the project, safety glasses, smock (or equivalent) and sensible shoes to the session.

It may well be that the member you contact first will decide they have filled enough slots for the time being - in which case we hope that there will be someone else on the list you can contact.

Clearly, the mentoring is not just something that the committee should be doing. We hope that many of you will feel that you can offer help to someone else. If you would like to be included in the list of mentors, please contact Jennie Starbuck at [jennie@starbuck.me.uk](mailto:jennie@starbuck.me.uk) in the next couple of weeks. The aim will be to send out the booking details to all members by the May

meeting and to focus on bookings initially in the middle two weeks of June.

If it works - then it would become an on-going mentoring system and members could add their names to the list as they feel confident.

We have to 'give regard' to our old friends 'Elf' and 'Safety'!

As club members we are all responsible for ensuring that we turn as safely as possible and our visiting professional turners are always giving us advice about ways we can minimise risk. However, club insurance is not designed to cover 'all risks' and you should only meet up for mentoring sessions **understanding that safety is your own responsibility and your own risk.**

A few members offering mentoring sessions have teaching insurance, which is on the list - but for the most part any meetings are not covered by any club insurance and will not count as 'club events' for insurance purposes.

We will try to keep Hands-on days going for members who enjoy the social side of those days - but hope the new scheme will allow more members to take part in skills development.



## Wood Dust and Words – The Ramblings of a Chairman

At the time of writing this I have just been informed of the death of Phil Jackson, Phil, a long-time member of the club, will be sadly missed. Phil and his wife Margaret joined in 1997 and Phil was on the committee until 2006. He and Margaret did a lot for the club and took part in numerous events until his health

deteriorated. Our thoughts are with Margaret at this time. I have sent Margaret our deepest sympathies.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that two of the local shows we are involved in are not happening; well as soon as one door closes, another one opens! We will be promoting SAW at the forthcoming Guildford Model Engineering show on 7 - 8<sup>th</sup> July and will be looking for Stewards and Demonstrators.

SAW is also looking to have a small presence at Dogmersfield, Wichfield and Crookham Village Horticultural Society Flower Show and fete on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

Hands on Days: hopefully you will have noticed from a previous article that we have a new initiative - 'Hands on Skill's' Please contact Jennie if you are interested in being a mentor in this programme. This will replace the usual Hands on Day in June and if there is enough interest will run the November Hand on Day as normal.

The Committee is aware that it has had no new members for two years and there is a possibility, due to people moving, that next year there will be vacancies. So we are actively seeking interested members. To help this we are willing to invite members to Committee Meetings as a guest so that you can see what the roles entail. If you are interested please contact either myself or other Committee Members for further details.

The Forest of Bere Woodturners are holding an Open Weekend on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. SAW will be entering their club table-top competition.

Herts Woodturning are running two events for Scouts. 7th July at Gilwell and 19th to 24th August at Essex International Jamboree. If you are interested in getting involved or want more information please contact John Leach Tel 01279 657901 or woodturningsurf@aol.com

The clubs' Facebook articles have included a link to an index of the Woodturning magazine from issue 1 to 263. Notification of the updated club Handbook, Items for sale and what not to do with a roughing gouge video.

## **INCREASE IN POSTAL RATES**

The cost of a second class stamp will increase to 50p later this month. This will put up the cost of sending out printed newsletters by a third and have an effect on our profits.

I therefore intend to prepare the newsletters as before, but ones with addresses local to Mytchett, I will bring on a club night for members to collect. Any left at the end of the evening I will then post.

## **Princess Mead Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

We were in a different location this time, just inside the door from ASDA. There were 5 lathes, two new faces, Dorothy and Peter, Paul, Colin Rodney & Claire and myself.



Paul Nesbitt as organiser did not want to turn neither did Phil. There was a lot of interest. We had decided that members selling items would donate 10% to the club. This was £44.70, so it was a good event.

## Club Competition 2012

Those of you who came along to the evening when we looked at the judging process will know that we decided to 'tweak' the scoring system this year.

We want everyone entering the competition to feel successful, but the aim has always been to point out areas that might be improved so that members could make progress.

Every piece has been marked out of a total of 80 points. Bands of points were then set so that, for example, a score of 72 points was given 9.5 points for the overall competition if the piece was entered for the standard level but in the Open competition 72 points scored 9 points. This sounds complicated but it used to work! (It is harder for Open competitors to get high points scores while still being judged on the same criteria).

When we started using this system we were typically getting people scoring between 7 and 10 points but recently the range has been getting much, much smaller.

One reason has to be that everyone is getting better - which is great - but we feel that having nearly everyone score 9, 9.5 or 10 doesn't really help members target areas for improvement..... Hence the 'tweaking' - to spread the scores out a bit.

The areas that are being judged have not changed. The competition still focuses on skills rather than creativity. This competition has always been intended to help members improve their skills. The Open Day competition, which is always judged by professional turners, is our opportunity to be as creative and artistic as we can be. The professional turners do not give marks - just use their considerable experience to rank entries to get a first, second and third in each level.

When you enter a piece in a round of the club competition you will still get a judging slip showing you where you lost (or gained extra) marks and it will still look the same apart from the numbers scored in each section.

This year, you will start off with 30 points (rather than 70) and will still lose marks for things like torn grain, lumps and bumps, patchy finish etc. as before.

You will still be able to gain up to 5 bonus points for advanced skills.

We expect the range of scores to go back to being between 7 and 10 - so many of you will get lower scores than you have been used to recently. However, since all three rounds of the competition will be judged using the same system, the ranking at the end of the year should be similar. It should just be a bit clearer who is excelling!

As before, the winner of each section for each round of the competition (April, August and December) will be automatically awarded a 10, whatever their points score. The judges may also award a discretionary score of 9.5 to denote the second placed item if no 9.5 scores have been achieved.

We try to make the judging as open as we can and also make it objective rather than subjective. So that you all know what the judges are looking for -the sheet that they will use follows.

We hope that you will take the time to look at it and that, maybe, you will get a piece of your work and see what score you would give it based on these guidelines.

# Judging criteria for the SAW Club Competition - 2012

The final points score will be out of 35. Every piece starts with 30 points and points are then removed for faults. Up to 5 bonus points can then be awarded for advanced skills and innovation.

**Skills** - total 12 points - Item will score between 0 and 12

- **Tooling** Take off one point for each area of **torn grain (up to 4)**
- Take off one point for any **ridges** that can be felt or seen - **including bumps or dips in centre (up to 4)**
- **crispness of detail** - look for such things as beads being the same on both sides, clean line between side of bowl and base or any other change in direction, no torn/broken grain on decorative lines **(up to 4)**

**Design elements** - total 8 points - item will score between 3 and 8

- If curves have flat spots or are not smooth take off up to **2 points**
- If the piece appears to be too heavy / the proportions do not sit comfortably (this does rely on the experience of the judges.) **1 point**
- If decoration is used, it must enhance the piece. If it detracts from the piece deduct up to **2 points**.

**Finish** - total 8 points - item will score between 1 and 8

Take off points

- for any uneven finish (build up of rings, areas missed) **1 point**
- for any stained areas due to superglue etc. **1 point**
- If decoration is used and there are imperfections **(up to 2)**
- For oversanded areas leading to crazing or cracking **1 point**
- For inappropriately sanded detail that lacks crispness - rounded over edges, unbalanced beads etc. **1 point**
- For oversanding wood to leave dips between harder grained rings (especially on ash) **1 point**

**Timber choice and suitability including suitability of finish** - total 2 points - item will score between 0 and 2 points

This has to be down to the experience of the judges, but the wood used has to be reasonable for the item. The judge should take off marks if the item is meant to be used and there might be safety issues (eg babies rattle in spalted timber or timber that easily produces splinters- food containers in inappropriate timber like yew with inappropriate finish etc.) Points could be lost if decoration (turned or applied) detracts from rare grain figuring.

**Guidance:** Item should get the full 2 points unless the judge has a concern - the 2 points are not for 'attractive' timber - they are for 'appropriate' timber.

**Technical challenge** (Bonus points) - **Maximum of 5 for any piece.**

- Wall thickness is constant in appropriate places **1 point**
- An item has been rechucked and turned so that no chucking points are showing **1 point**
- The piece includes crisply turned spindle work **1 point**
- The piece is a hollow form turned through a narrow aperture **1 point**
- The piece is tall and thin so vibration has had to be controlled during turning **1 point**
- The piece has 'appropriate' areas of thin turning where vibration has had to be controlled **1 point**
- The piece appears to be original and not a copy of a standard shape/ object (this depends to some extent on the experience of the judges) **1 point**
- The piece has any of the following - (**1 point** for each)
  - Segmenting with clean joints
  - Inlaid veneers with clean joints
  - Other kinds of inlay if perfect (no chips or bubbles and with clean joints)
  - Multi centred turning with crisp edges.
- In the experience of the judges, the turner has had to use advanced turning skills to cleanly cut a particular shape or detail **(up to 2 points)**

We hope that this is helpful and that some more of you will take the plunge and enter a piece into the Club Competition at the April club night.

Here is a judges slip you can try out!

skills	Competitor number		
Execution /12	Tooling - torn grain	4	
	Tooling - ridges	4	
	Crispness of detail	4	
Design Elements /8	Curves have flat spots	2	
	Strange proportions	1	
	Decoration for the sake	2	
Finish /8	Uneven finish	1	
	Stained areas	1	
	Imperfections	2	
	Oversanded areas	1	
	Poorly sanded detail	1	
	Oversanded dips	1	
Timber /2	Choice and suitability	2	
<b>Total (-)</b>	<b>Faults score</b>	<b>-</b>	

Technical Challenge Score up to 5 bonus points	Wall thickness	1	
	No chucking marks	1	
	Crisp spindle work	1	
	HF narrow aperture	1	
	Tall & thin spindle(	1	
	thin turning faceplate	1	
	Original idea	1	
	Segmenting clean joints	1	
	Inlaid veneer clean joints	1	
	Inlay -	1	
	Multi-centred	1	
	advanced turning skills	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>Bonus points (maximum 5)</b>	<b>+</b>	

<b>SCORE</b>	<b>30 - minus faults + bonus</b>	
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Jennie Starbuck