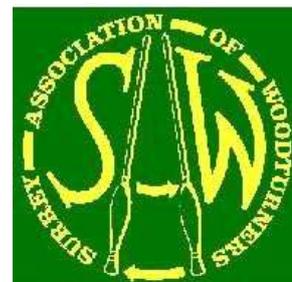


Surrey Association of Woodturners

SILVER JUBILEE YEAR



Newsletter March 2014

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

New Members

Welcome to Max Dickson

Member No. 695

PAID UP MEMBERSHIP 130

(As of going to press)

Look out for TOP TIP's

There may be 1 or 2 in each news letter. There that's your first one.

In fact if you have a tip to share email it to me at colin.spain1@virginmedia.com

Keep it short, and if we are happy with it, I will include it in one of the newsletters.

Items for the Diary

<i>11th April</i>	John Wyatt	From Forest of Bere
<i>12th April</i>	Yandles Show	Coach trip
<i>26th & 27th April</i>	Rural Life Centre	Club Demonstration
<i>3rd May</i>	Surrey Heath Show	See stop press 2

STOP PRESS ***SILVER JUBILEE NEWS*****STOP PRESS**

Whilst it will not have gone unnoticed by many members it is worth repeating that 2014 is SAW's 25th anniversary and therefore our **SILVER JUBILEE**.

Throughout the year this fact will be emphasised at all of our functions with selective advertising, theming and activities.

For now two elements need to be brought to the attention of all members both of which revolve around the October Open Day.

Firstly to mark the occasion of our **SILVER JUBILEE** it is proposed to offer a special first prize for the day's raffle of £250. Special tickets are to be prepared and will go on sale at club nights ahead of the Open Day to give everybody, including those who for unavoidable circumstances cannot attend on the day, a chance to win big. Members unable to attend club nights can contact the Treasurer for tickets.

Secondly. Obviously to mark this landmark occasion we would like as many members as possible to submit pieces for judging on the day and additionally we are looking to add an additional element of a Silver Jubilee themed item. The chosen theme is to be "Automaton" "Animation". Clearly pieces with moving parts take more time in planning and production so this early notice is being given. This themed item is in addition to the normal faceplate and spindle work so if the themed item seems too daunting then the other two categories remain open to all.

Keep an eye out for more **SILVER JUBILEE** activities at club night and future newsletters.

Stop Press 2

Surrey Heath Show 3rd May at Frimley Park Lodge the club have been invited to have a stand at this well attended show again this year. S.A.W. will be there and we would love to see any members who would like to drop by. We are working with the organisers and hopefully next year we will be able to include it in our calendar of events. The turn out last year was staggering and it is on our doorstep.

100 CLUB

The 2014 AGM saw the inauguration of the Surrey Association of Woodturners 100 Club and initial take up was brisk.

Full Rules and Regulations were distributed and can now, or will shortly, be found on the SAW website. In essence, for a subscription of only £1 per month members will be allocated a unique draw number. Half of the fees paid will be used to fund a monthly draw offering two prizes and an Xmas Super Draw offering three prizes, the remaining funds will be applied to the club. A member may purchase more than one unit.

At the time of going to press 63 units have been sold and the first two draws have been made. The first draw took place at the February meeting where Len Scott was first out of the bag, winning £15.25, followed by Mike Whitehead who took home a cheque for £9.15. March saw wins for Neil Lofthouse, £15.50 and Colin Rowe £9.30.

Applications continue to be received and members may still join the 2014 draws up to the September Draw date. Based on current numbers the Xmas Super Draw first prize will be £60.30. If you want to win it you have to be in it. Interested then contact David Stratton.

Paul's Postings

Hi To you all,

It has been some time since my last posting to you all. In fact Christmas came and went and the New Year flew in. We had the AGM which went well and as usual was well attended. After that we tried something new with me, Richard, Colin and Dorothy looking at shape and form and discussing our own opinions on what we were looking at.

February I was not at the club to my own loss, (Sylvia was not well and I did not want to leave her on her own, isn't love grand). It was a demo that I was looking forward to and by all accounts I really did miss a good evening. Mark and Lisa Raby really did put on a good show. My loss.

March was our first practical evening of the year. John Creasey and Colin Rowe pulled out all the stops to make this a big evening and well done to them both, there was so much going on. A big thank you to those that worked through the evening demonstrating.

After that club night members were at the Princes Mead Shopping Centre. For the first time I was unable to attend due to other commitments. It was reported back to me that it went well as usual and members were able to sell some of their work. Thank you all for a good show.

The next club night we have John Wyatt who comes from the Forest of Bere Woodturners in Hampshire. Having spoken to John I think we are in for a good evening with something very different to look forward to.

There are lots of things coming up and the first is the Rural Life Centre weekend. This is the ideal venue for members to try out their skills with an audience in such a friendly atmosphere.

Then we have Sue Harker for our May club night and then later that month we have Andy Coates for our seminar.

Booking forms for the seminar and Rural Life are on Neil's table. While you are at the table take a look at the forms for all of the events that are coming up. I think the coach is full for the Yandles trip, have a good day you all.

Next month my choice for the table top is for a bell as Bill Riley did such a good job of demonstrating them. So get busy please. Last month Brian Mitchell won the finishing competition and I owe him a bottle of wine which he will get for next time.

That's it for now; just remember that shavings on the floor are a sign of a happy turner. So keep those shavings flying.

Paul

TOP TIP

If any members have any old tools they would like to get rid of this contact was recently passed to me by a member: WOODWORKING TOOLS required, complete kits or individual items.

Modern or Antique.

Contact Michael on 01923 771562

Workshop Day feedback - 23rd February 2014

The latest Workshop Day appears to have been a great success; I personally really enjoy these days, the arranging and the participating. I get so much out of them myself, sharing my knowledge and quite often learning something myself. You never stop learning with woodturning.

Robert brought the clubs new lathe an Axminster trade series AT1416vs on its first outing. Robert was up until 10:00PM the previous night finishing a rather stylish trolley stand for it. This is to replace a rather sick Warco lathe, which has gone beyond the call of duty.

There were ten students and four tutors, with Paul who is used to teaching several at a time running two lathes. So we had two per lathe, just right.

I got there at 9:00AM and Paul and John Creasey were already there, by 9:45 we were ready to get started, so I assigned each student to a lathe suitable for what they hoped to achieve and we were off, shaving flying everywhere. A break at 12:30 and through until around 4:00PM when everyone pitched in and helped clear away.

A few thank you notes:-

Had a great day Sunday, John is a good teacher, I Learnt a lot, I made an apple, a goblet and turned wet wood to make a bowl. How diverse is that.

Thanks for a great day.
Roger Chivers



Hi Colin

Just a note to thank you for setting up another, useful, enjoyable and interesting workshop day for us.

As always the tutors are great, not only because they give up their time to help us, but also that they are always ready and keen to pass on their knowledge in the process and in this regard, my personal thanks also go to John Sherwood.

We always come away with some extra information and useful tips on how to do things correctly.

My only request is that we get some taller lathes, or I will have to get my legs and arms reduced!!

Regards Paul Sternberg

Hi Colin,

I would like to say what a great time I had at the workshop day. Before that day I had had a short session with Paul Nesbitt so I was a beginner. Although there was a range of experience amongst the attendees I was able to learn at my own pace. As I was learning I was able to watch the more advanced people which gave me ideas and aspirations. I am very grateful for the generosity of the teachers who were all fun people and willing to answer questions and share their skills. This was a great chance for me to have an introduction to woodturning and meet like minded enthusiasts. Many thanks for your time



Dave Everitt

My thanks go to the tutors on the day John Sherwood, Paul Nesbitt, Robert Grant.
By Colin Spain (Organiser)



February Club Night – Mark & Lisa Raby.

Mark Raby is a renowned expert on wood finishing. Mark along with his wife Lisa came to the Club for the February Club Night and gave us a wonderful inspiring amount of information and ideas for finishing our turned projects.

Mark started his introductions by summarising his skills as a wood-turner, quoting himself as “I am to woodturning what Larry Grayson was to Rugby Union.” Whilst he’s not the best turner in the world he does know a thing or two about finishing and he promptly started to impart his wisdom by offering two primary rules to finishing preparation. Firstly, when sanding never jump more than 100 grit at a time and secondly, if your hand gets hot when sanding or applying a finish then you are doing it wrong.

He then went on to explain that the biggest enemy to getting a good finish is using kitchen towel because its designed to absorb liquid so it wants to soak up the finish not transfer it to the wood. Use safety cloth which is designed for the purpose.

First Half

Mark started his demonstration by explaining how he goes about preparing a piece of wood for final finishing, first by sanding to 600 grit, then using a proprietary product such as webrax to give a smooth finish to the work, making note that the last grade of webrax is white and is non-abrasive so is perfect for applying waxes and acts as a buffer. Finally use a tack cloth to remove fine particles then the piece is ready for an applied finish.

As a side note he recommends accidentally leaving your webrax in your smock pocket so when the wife washes your smock you get clean webrax!



Mark then proceeded to show us a typical three stage finishing process used a lot by turners, focusing on how to get the best out of each stage and product.

Stage 1 - Sanding Sealer

Mark recommends the Mylands brand of Shellac based sanding sealer, it has a handy peel and reveal label giving lots of detail on how to use. Mark chose to use a shellac sealer because it was going to form the basis for the next finish which was friction polish which is shellac based itself.

Mark talked through the other types of sanding sealers available commenting on cellulose sealer being the most popular with its advantage of being universally usable as a base layer but noting to be careful of over-thinning it. Mark recommends only thinning to 20%, the Club sells 50% thinned sealer he warned of using good thinners, cheap thinners have a high water content and can create a blooming effect. He also commented on acrylic sealer, which is virtually universal except for when being used under melamine lacquer.

If using a melamine lacquer then the best sealer to use is cellulose. The audience asked why would you want to use a melamine finish, Mark responded by explaining that melamine copes well with being handled and is hard wearing which particularly suits items for sale at craft fairs. Although never shake melamine lacquers just invert the bottle because you get aeration bubbles which can show as an orange peel effect.

Stage 2 - Friction Polish

Mark again used a Mylands branded product, commenting on the best way to apply friction polish is little and often and to feed the polish on to the work rather than apply one heavy coat, run the lathe at 1200 RPM to get a good application.

Stage 3 – Carnauba Wax

Mark finished the process by applying Carnauba Wax. He mentioned that it is not always obvious if your finishing wax stick is pure carnauba or a mixed blend so the best way to check is try to make a mark with your thumbnail, if it marks then it's not pure. Carnauba is hard and a stick should last years. When applying carnauba do not apply too much, very little is needed, once applied use a buffing cloth to



polish, take note a buffing cloth



is not a safety cloth so hold it carefully so it can be pulled from your hand in a catch. Finally leave the piece for 10 minutes to let the wax harden off.

Colin Spain asked about the perceived difficulty in applying carnauba wax to very large diameter platters, Mark said carnauba is not usually the issue, it is friction polish that gets hard to apply evenly on large surfaces due to it being wet, he recommended that the finishes be applied in stages then blended.

Alternative Finishes

Mark went on to demonstrate and describe some alternative finishes available on the market and their benefits over the traditional three stage finishing process described earlier.

- **Hard Wax Oil**

Treetex has amazing properties. It is a hard wax oil, so has all the benefits of easy application of an oil, and all the benefits of a wax in giving a hard, durable, long term finish. A further advantage is being extremely waterproof. Mark showed us several products treated with the finish he demonstrates at trade shows including a water filled vase, a goblet with red wine in it, a cup and saucer with black coffee in it, and even a plate that has been through a dishwasher 18 times.

Treetex is applied straight on to bare wood so it penetrates, because of this you don't sand back too much after application. Treetex is not officially food safe but all the components are and it is in the process of becoming food safe approved. Mark usually applies three coats - two immediately after sanding then a final one after three hours.

- **Food safe Wax**

Beeplenish is a food safe wax which makes it an easy and quick way of finishing a product that needs to be food safe without the constraints of using an oil finish. Beeplenish contains Manuka honey, it goes a long way, apply a couple of coats to get a really good finish. Leave it to set as with all waxes before handling, you can use sanding sealer below the wax but remember to de-nib before applying the wax.

- **Cutting Wax**

The purpose of cutting wax is to get rid of difficult to remove fine scratch marks. Mark had a piece of spalted beech sanded to 320 grit which had a few difficult to shift scratches that 400 grit would not improve. Mark used some webrax to apply the wax with the lathe stationary applying the wax liberally. After letting it dry for a few minutes and with the lathe turning he rubbed the excess off. Once completed you can then finish the piece with whatever finish is desired now the scratches have been removed.

- **Coloured Wax**

Mark demonstrated a technique to add a little colour to a piece of bland or plain wood by applying colour using normal paste wax with mica powder added. To emphasise the grain he first used a brass brush which opened up the grain to accept the colouring wax. He used a safety cloth with lathe stationary to apply then cleaned off the excess with the lathe running. As a further process Mark then applied some holographic powder into the wax to add a glitter effect, when hit by light it gives a shimmer.

Second Half

In the second half Mark focused on techniques and products that added colour and pattern to finished pieces.

Gilt Cream

The first project was using gilt cream, Mark took a piece of ash which he had prepared by opening up the grain with a brass brush going with the grain then applying ebonising lacquer, then acrylic sealer and finally de-nibbing with webrax. Mark suggests using kitchen towel to apply the cream rather than an expensive safety cloth as you are just transferring the gilt cream to the piece rather than using it to create the final finishing process. Let the gilt cream dry then allow it to set. Once set and you are ready to remove the gilt cream use light oil. Don't use Danish Oil as it is too thick. Mark used citrus oil.

Spirit Staining

The next project was spirit staining. Spirit stains are very fast drying and offer good UV resistance, the stains come in a kit with several colours including white which is not for colouring but is used as a blender for other colours already applied. While applying to a prepared laburnum vase Mark gave us two rules to remember. Firstly, the stain must go onto bare wood and secondly, the slower the lathe is turning the heavier the stain will take. Mark recommends applying the stains using an application cloth.

The first colour applied was black, working from the base of the vase upward Mark applied the colour to a small section leaving a feathered edge to make it easier to blend the following colour, he then repeated the process working up the vase adding lighter colours as he went, next was purple, then royal blue, then light blue, then green. As he went along Mark made sure he was blending the new colour over the previous colour, he completed the





application with orange, and then red at the top of the vase. Mark then put yellow over the entire project this has the effect of lifting all the colours and allowing them to blend together nicely. Mark mentions that if you don't like the finish, then take any colour and wash it in till you get your desired effect. Once the colour is right, you must seal the pieces with cellulose or acrylic sealer, the best way is to use a spray sealer as the thinners in liquid sealers can lift the colours and alter the effect. When spraying, cover your lathe and turn the piece by hand to avoid runs in the sealer.

Mark also supplies metallic spirit stains, these give a metallic glint to a piece of work, he showed us pale gold being applied over the vase he had just coloured, noting how it makes the grain structure more pronounced.

Burnishing Cream

Burnishing cream is very much like T-Cut for your car as it is a mild abrasive. Shake well before use as it has a high solids content which is inclined to settle. When applying the cream use an application cloth with the lathe running and follow the contour of the work so you apply it evenly. Because it is a mild abrasive when first applied the work will be dull, don't worry keep going till the finish starts to come back, when it does use a clean cloth and go over the piece until there is no residue. Then take a buffing cloth and buff the piece. What the burnishing cream has done is made the surface very smooth so as the light hits the surface it bounces back and you get a deep gloss finish. Mark commented that the depth of shine is not down to how many coats of finish you apply rather how smooth the final surface finish is.

Acrylic Paint

The next project was using Jo Sonja acrylic paints. Mark had a prepared medium sized bowl that had been painted black. There are six colours in the set and surprisingly all of the colours look white initially. Mark started by applying the first colour using a finger tip technique then showed a range of application techniques including foam brushes, paint brushes, bubble wrap, sponge and feathers. Mark discussed the requirement to have a dark background or dark wood for the paints to be seen in their best light.

General Tips

Mark finished his demonstration by giving us some general tips on applying oil finishes noting the primary rule of don't rush. Mark mentioned that he likes to impregnate oil into a piece when sanding, this creates slurry which can fill gaps and keeps dust down. When finishing using oil Mark recommends putting on a coat, leaving it for five minutes before removing any excess with kitchen towel then leave at least six hours to dry, de-nib, and apply a second coat. If a third coat is needed leave it 24 hours before applying. There was a question from the audience asking what the difference was between finishing oil and Danish Oil, Mark answered this by saying that finishing oil does not affect the patina of a piece but that Danish Oil will darken it down. By Robert Grant



Mark's demonstration was recorded and a copy of the recording will be available to borrow from the Club Library from the April Club Night onwards, it is well worth borrowing as Mark gave such a full and detailed presentation, thank you Mark you are indeed a Finisher Extraordinaire.

Segmented Bowl Kit by Jim Gaines Part 2

You may remember in the January news letter I had been asked by an elderly couple if I could complete a kit that their deceased son had bought to make them.

I have now completed the bowl, following the instructions that were included. Special tools required are a fine tooth Accurite bandsaw blade and a disc sander.

Templates were provided to give the correct angles of 15 degrees which is calculated as follows:-

$360 \div 12 \text{ sections} = 30$ therefore the end of each section is 15 .

If each angle is even half a degree out the total could be 120 or more so careful cutting and sanding is required. The problem with a bowl kit is if a mistake is made there is not enough wood to make a replacement. All in all it was an interesting exercise and I look forward to trying something similar in the future. The problem now is how do I charge a pensioner for twenty hours doing something I enjoy?

Jim Gaines



The South East Woodworking and Power Tool Show

On Friday 7th March 2014, I visited the South East Woodworking and Power Tool Show at the Kent county showground. With the demise of the Alexandra palace show and the Harrogate show being so far away this is now our nearest show and a major woodworking event. Whilst this year the club did not have its own stand a number of S.A.W. members attended and Jennie & Chris Starbuck in the guise of artycraftywoodturning had a stand.

Considering it's billed as a woodworking and power tool show, it was very much a woodturning orientated event with a lot of familiar faces demonstrating such as Mark Baker and fellow surrey member Les Thorne who was sporting a very fine beard and demonstrating turning rippled sycamore and textured / painted salt and pepper mills



There was all the usual trade stands selling their wares, on the turners Retreat stand I did spot a new must have gadget, their suction chuck, costing £250 it's pretty neat and was one of the best I have seen for the price.



There were stands for local woodturning clubs such as Orchard, Garden of England and Kent who were showing some spectacular segmented work.

As with most shows there was a big crowd around the "Interesting Bits" stall, I spotted Jim Gaines and wife browsing, good job I did not take my wife as I'm sure she would not have let me spend quite as much money as I did on things I did not know I needed.



Jennie & Chris's stand always has a crowd of interested observers and this show was no exception.

By Robert Grant



A recent experience by Colin Spain

I was recently asked via email to consider a turning job for a company, fairly close by, would I consider a small turning job to make some table legs. I said via email I may be interested and I would call them. They then sent me the plans and spec for the job. On speaking to a very pleasant man, it transpired his company had been given the job of sourcing replacement furniture for an insurance company who were acting on a claim for a gaming company that had had a fire. The table legs were for a 17th century gaming table that had been badly damaged through the fire and water. He said he had been asking many turning companies but had been dismissed because the job was too small (only 4 legs).

So knowing the sizes I proceeded to make enquiries as to prices for wood stock, they wanted oak in a fairly good quality not too many shakes etc, in keeping with a piece of 17th century furniture. Well it transpired pretty quickly the best I was going to get was laminated oak, and the cost was going to be around £475. Thanks to Jo at WL West's for her help on this.

On speaking to my customer again I suddenly realised that the drawings he had supplied were wrong, his drawing showed completely round legs, I pointed out I thought this unusual, and he said no they are square at each end, not according to your plan their not. I don't own a planer thicknesser, so the wood would have to be supplied planed all round to the exact size, so no margin of error. At this point I phoned Richard Findley, would this be a job he could do? Yes he said put him in touch. So I did. I have not heard anything since, so let's hope he did.

What worried me was I would have had to lay out nearly £500 to do the work, with no margin of error and at more than £100 per leg I stood to lose too much, and suppose they didn't like the finished items. Does not bear thinking about.

So think hard and fast and ask a lot of questions before agreeing to do a job. After all I am a hobby turner, I do it for fun, and I sell at small craft fairs to get some money for more wood.

Have you had any experiences like this? If so let me know and I will publish them here.

March Practical Night

Firstly let me apologise due to an oversight the night was not properly documented, so here is the best I have been able to do with the information to hand, sorry if there are errors.

Our thanks go to John Creasey and Colin Rowe for organising the night, there was a lot on offer. Apart from all the usual such as the raffle, the club sales table, and Neil's table being expertly run by Brian Rogers whilst Neil is away, there was also the Show and Tell table which is becoming increasingly popular.

This month demonstrating we had:

Jim Gaines – right - demonstrating turning Wizardry, describing how to make a Singapore Ball and a Star in a Cube, amongst other things.





John Sherwood – left – demonstrates deep hollowing of what I can best describe as a daffodil trumpet this has a natural edge.

I believe he used a Roly Munro hollowing tool.



Bill Riley – right - was demonstrating the making of bells amongst other things.



Bob French – Left - was available to discuss and explain judging and available to discuss any turning problems you may have had. I recognize that vase he is holding that was sold on Saturday at Princes Mead.



Denis Findlay – Right - demonstrated how to make Hollow Easter Eggs here he is shown standing by some he had made.

Here – right – Our youngest member Alfie Bradley-Nesbitt is seen here turning a small bowl in American Black Walnut. During the evening he made several bowls and even managed to sell one to a visitor.



Geoff Goddard – Left - had chosen Chisel Handles & Lighthouses for his demonstration, Geoff uses the handles to repair older tools that then get sent off to third world countries.

Robert Grant – Right – Sharpening was on the menu tonight. Robert focused on showing and explaining to members how to determine if a tool was sharp enough or not by having a lathe with a piece of wood on it, using what most members thought was a tool that was still sharp but was not really and showing them how it cut, then sharpening the tool and showing how much better the cut was with a sharp tool. I repeated this process for a number of tools including roughing bowl gouge, spindle gouge and bowl gouge.



The show and tell table had a large number of items on it with the topic for the night being finishing which followed on from last month's meeting with Mark and Lisa Raby. The winning piece judged by Paul was from Brian Mitchell. Well done Brian a bottle of wine is coming his way.

Richard and I were up on stage most of the night judging the competition pieces, Richard judged the Open and I judged the Standard. I have to say that there were some really good

turnings there, which make the job of judging that much harder, so thanks guys and gals. I find it really difficult because you have to be objective and even if there is a piece that you really like it does have to be judged using the criteria laid down. So as a judge your favourite piece might not and often isn't the piece that gets the marks. By Colin Spain

Top Tip's
Always take the tool to the grinder before doing the final cut – it needs to be really sharp for the best finish.

Princes Mead

Well Princes Mead comes round again and all too soon it's over. I have to say this is one of my favourite events of the clubs year. All those that take part have so much fun and this year was no exception. Paul usually runs it but was not available this time as he was pre booked, early on the venues organisers brought it forward by a week, and this caused some confusion with the date, but all came right in the end. The day started with most of us turning up at about ten minutes to eight in readiness to unload and get set up for a 9AM start. We were still waiting to get in at fifteen minutes past as no one had the centres keys but these turned up thankfully and we were in and miraculously set up in time.



Those turning were myself (Colin Spain), Richard Davies, Rodney Goodship, Jim Gaines, on our own lathes with Peter Hart and Dorothy Read sharing a lathe. John Creasey, Phil Wolsoncroft, Douglas Boud, and Paul Sternberg were stewarding and manning the sales tables, as was Rodney's wife Pat doing a sterling job; most of us had items to sell.



Richard was turning baby rattles and small goblets, Jim was making spinning tops, Dorothy was making a square edged bowl, Peter was making a goblet, Rodney a platter, and I was making pens. There was as usual a lot of interest shown by the public, I would be very surprised if we do not get some new members signing up, our leaflets were disappearing fast at least 35 went. One gentleman I was speaking to was asking which lathe he should consider, about 10 minutes into the conversation I said we are only down the road at Mytchett come and spend an evening with us ask some questions, and if you like us you can

join. "Oh I would love that" says he "But it's a bit too far, I live in France". Ahh says I.



All in all we took over £300 with 10% being given to the club this helps with the parking charges. We have seen better takings but at the end of the day if you have enjoyed it and the club get new members who can complain.
My thanks go to all who took part. By Colin Spain

