

Surrey Association of Woodturners

## Newsletter May 2007

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



**New Members** - None

**Paid up Membership – 163**

### **Items for the Diary**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May Dave Springett Seminar

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June Gary Rance

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July Chris Wallace

### **DO YOU MEAN ME?**

Reading through the SAW newsletter today, I came to Colin's piece about a new member and realised he was referring to me! It was a great opportunity for me when Colin offered, as I am a complete novice who just likes the feel of wood. The opportunity to try my hand at turning on a lathe on loan from the club and to have a guiding hand was wonderful. Those two hours of tuition answered so many questions and helped me so much. I can now come along to the club nights with a greater understanding of what the demonstrator is trying to convey and I feel so much more confident to ask questions and seek advice.

Many thanks to the club and many thanks to Colin.

Ps. I've already got loads of sawdust and shavings!

Roger Sudding.

### **A Plea from the Editor**

This is your Newsletter. I am sure you do not want it full of my thoughts and opinions. If you have been impressed with an exhibition you have visited or tried out a new tool, write and let us all know your opinions about it, good or bad.

I have just borrowed John Berkley's DVD "Screwplines" on thread chasing. It is very good. John instructs in detail for each of three boxes that he makes so you get to remember the techniques. The standard of photography is very good. The overhead shots show very clearly how John is holding the tool and the angle at which he is cutting.

### **April Evening**

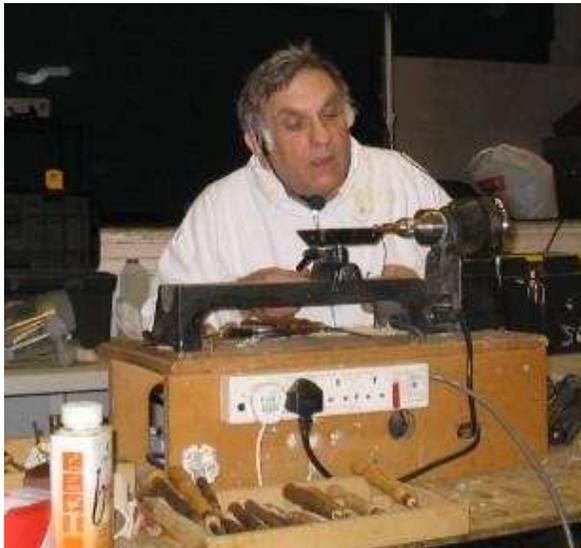
This evening was to be an experiment. The committee knew we had a lot of experienced turners in the club and wanted to get them to demonstrate, however this can be a daunting task to entertain 150 people while you are demonstrating your work. So we decided to have two trainees as it were and that Paul would provide the chat.

Mel Martin was on first using a Carbatec to show his miniature turning. To start, he showed various slides of his method and objectives and some of his minute work such as a bottle about 15 mm high with a cork you could remove!. The goblet that he intended to copy was 17.4mm high and had a 2.1mm stem with a captive ring.

He uses straight close-grained timbers such as Box, African Blackwood or Yew. However he enjoys using plastics. The

tools he usually makes himself from Obo nails or small bits of square sectioned steel that he can buy for about £3.50.

He holds the work in different collets or glues it on to a wooden sacrificial chuck.



Among the nuggets that Paul told us was that Mel passed "O" Level woodwork many years ago. This knowledge has been used over a very long period while he has built an extension to his property to change it from 2 to 4 bedrooms. He attended evening classes at Yateley but was upset to find only one lathe shared by 10 students. The good thing was that he met a couple of SAW club members who invited him to join.

He is also a member of REMAP, a charity providing practical solutions to problems that disabled people encounter. He can put you in touch with your nearest group if you are interested.

With a piece of amber coloured plastic fitted in the lathe he cut the inside of the goblet with a tool that had that shape. This was polished with burnishing cream on a bit of leather. The outside was shaped and polished and the transition to the stem made. The hook or recess tool was then used to start the captive ring after the outside of the ring had been formed. It was necessary to polish each stage as he moved closer to the chuck or the stem would break. He usually has some double-sided sellotape or blue tack to keep the ring

out of the way while the base is finished and parted off.



It was a good job we had the video camera and screen otherwise people at the back would not have seen what was happening. A very interesting demonstration but not for someone with failing eyesight.

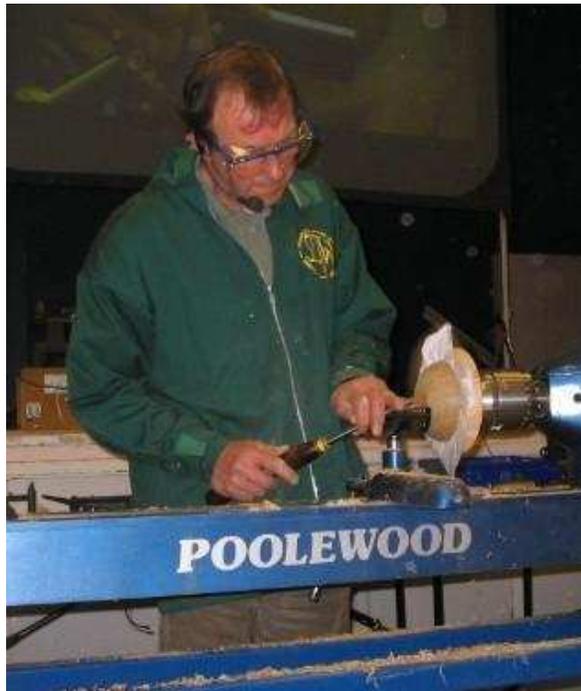
During the tea break the lathes were changed so that the Poolewood was in place for John Sherwood. He intended to make a candleholder in wood similar to the brass ones that older members may have used to light their way to bed.

John is a retired farmer married for 38 years to his wife Claire, living in a lovely old building with lots of barns and out houses on a fair size area of land. He sells his wood turning at Farmers markets at Farnham and Ripley. Several years ago the family bought him an Axminster 330 for Christmas. Three months later he joined the club. Later he bought Mike Morley's Coronet, but none of Mike's skill came with the purchase. He prefers to work with green wood which he finds plentiful.

This was to be John's first major demonstration. He mounted a blank of Iroko on the lathe and proceeded to make a spigot and shape the underside and sand it. The wood was reversed in the chuck and he hollowed out for the brass candle ferule to fit..

As a kiln he has an old dairy fridge with a dehumidifier in it. I asked John what grind he preferred on his tools. His reply was that following a session with Ray at a Hands On Day, he had the following week bought a

Tormek grinder. (An expensive Hands On Day) Once the ferrule fitted the rest of the bowl was shaped.



A jamb chuck was made with a hole through the middle so the object can be removed if the fit is too tight. In this case some wet kitchen towel was used to ensure a good fit. The spigot removed and the bottom decorated.

In his workshop dust extraction is by a Camvac and a Trend Airstream.

A smaller piece of Iroko was fitted in the chuck and the handle turned in the way that you would make a napkin ring. A wooden disc the diameter of the bowl had sandpaper fitted around the edge. This was fitted to the lathe and a groove or notch sanded in the handle so as to fit on the edge of the bowl. This was glued and secured in place with a small wooden peg. Time ran out before the wax finish could be applied.



A very interesting demonstration and possible subject for a small critique later in the year.

### **A contribution from Tom Dobson ( An ex Member) taken from the archives.**

On a recent stay in the Cotswolds, we visited Snowhill Manor, now the National Trust but formerly the home of the architect Charles Wade. He was a great collector of crafted items, both large and small, filling his house so full that he had to move to an adjacent outhouse ... Still retained as he left it (primitive) but echoing still with his presence. He had a collection of some 70 Samurai suits of armour and clocks of every description. The outhouses too filled up with well crafted items, beautifully created. I tell this simply to introduce a poem of his : "Craftsmanship". Which I feel most Woodturners would appreciate-

Tom Dobson

### CRAFTSMANSHIP

Some ever would be where they're not,  
Would ever have what they've not sot.  
True happiness - contented mind.  
Sufficient near at hand will find.  
Absorbing interests lie all around.  
Will by observant mind be found.  
Create something however small.  
There lies the truest joy of all,  
When brain and hand together strive,  
Real happiness comes alive.  
In the pursuit the pleasure lies.  
The how and wherefore to devise.  
Though vision dreamed will far excel,  
The work achieved, yet it is well,  
To have attempted is not in vain.  
Failure urges one on again.  
Great Craftsman asked once to  
decide, which was his greatest work  
replied. Simply with those two words

"My next" .For "ever better" was his text.

CP Wade

## **STYLES & BATES**

Because we could not arrange a coach, some of us shared a car. Richard kindly drove Colin and myself to the show. As usual we were welcomed by Dave & Janet Bates and eventually by their dog Alfie. There were displays by Record, Robert Sorby & Crown tools and a pyrographer Dawn

We had interesting talks with members from the Garden of Eden Club and the Kent Branch of the AWGB. On their stand Colin spent a frustrating 10 minutes before solving a puzzle by spinning it to release the locking pins holding the lid on. We also met Simon Hope from Colchester with his two young children, who you may remember showed us at the Club how to use pewter.



An interesting day, when because of the discounts, we all spent a little more than we intended.

## **May Bank Holiday Weekend**

This was a busy time for a select few of us with two wood turning demonstrations to put on at W L West's, and the Rural Life Centre.



At Tilford we had five lathes in use. The turners were Paul, Ben, Ray, Olly, Brian, myself, Nick Smith and George Nichols. We had two more lathes when Colin and Rodney & Claire joined us after showing the flag at West's.

Saturday was good when the model trains drew the crowds. There were fewer on the Sunday and hardly any on the Monday due to the wet weather. My memory of the Sunday was a young blind girl using a very delicate sense of touch to explore the flowers that Ray had turned in the style of Stuart King.

## **How did I start woodturning ?**

**By Ray Taylor**

It all started while I was on holiday with friends in Wales in about 1990. It was a nasty wet day which meant that there was not a lot to do, so we had a look at a local village hall where we got around to looking at the notice board, (as you do) my friend who did a lot of woodwork at that time, said "have a look at this, someone is advertising woodturning lessons" how do you fancy having a day's lesson? I thought about it for a couple of minutes and said yes why not . So we rang the guy and booked a day's tuition. When we arrived in the morning we were greeted by a very friendly Welshman who started off with his preamble about safety and various turning related topics. Then down to the serious business of actually getting turning. After a bit of practice on cutting convex curves, concave curves, beads and flats, we got down to our projects, in which I was put on one lathe to turn a Bud vase and my friend was put on the other lathe to turn a small bowl. Which I am pleased to say both turned out quite well. After lunch we changed places where

I made a bowl and my friend made a bud vase. (I still have my original pieces at home now). Feeling a bit pleased with our efforts, we finished our holiday and went home. After a couple of weeks my friend bought himself an Axminster 900 and got settled into turning. I unfortunately was too busy at the time making wrought iron gates, fences balustrades etc, In 1992 I retired from my job as a commercial diver and got even more blacksmith work until 1994 when I had 2 small heart attacks and was told by my consultant that I must not do any more heavy work. After a short recovery period my wife suggested that I might like to do some more woodturning, which I thought was a very good idea. To my surprise she bought me an Axminster 950 lathe and most of the accessories for my birthday, (what a super present from a super wife).

I then got down to some serious practice and as turners usually do I started to give my turned items to relatives and friends (thus saving money on presents) This soon progressed to requests from friends and friends of friends, which I started to charge for. After a couple of years my lathe started to wear badly and was getting to the point where it needed to be replaced. Fortunately at about this time I joined S.A.W. where I met and got friendly with Paul Nesbitt. After a while I told him of my lathe problems, to which he suggested that I visit him to have a look at his Poolewood Euro 2000. Which I tried and soon found that I liked it a lot and decided to investigate further. I talked to my wife about buying one. I checked how much money I had saved from my woodturning sales, I found that I was about £200.00 short of the cash I needed, So I asked Maureen if I could sell my birthday present to which she readily agreed, and so with Paul's assistance I purchased my Euro 2000, and as I was unable to justify the purchase of a stand which I could easily make myself, I took all the dimensions from Paul's lathe and went home and made said stand and soon had it up and running and I haven't looked back since.

Last year I was told by a couple of friends that I should apply to be on the Register of

Professional Turners, which I did and after my assessment I was very pleased to find that I had been accepted.

I found that I have enjoyed every minute of my turning, joining the club, and meeting all the members.

Happy turning and I hope to see you at the next meeting. Ray Taylor



The original pieces

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Denis & Elizabeth Lambert have just celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss. Denis says it is due to give and take and never go to bed without resolving a disagreement.

### **SURREY ARTISTS OPEN STUDIOS** By John Sherwood

Surrey Artists Open Studio is a two week event from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June when artists and craftspeople of surrey open their studios to the general public. It is an opportunity for the public to see craftspeople in their working environment and foster a keener interest in the "arts" in its widest interpretation and woodturning in particular.

The event covers a broad spectrum of visual arts: painting, sculpture, ceramics, textile, printmaking, woodturning and photography. Some are very traditional, others more radical.

Studios and workshops are not open all of the time so you will need a guide which has all of the opening times and is available free from 01483 – 757258. As there are

245 artists at 118 venues from Sunbury to Haslemere and Farnham to Oxted it should be quite easy to make up a short tour of several studios in your area. You never know what you might be inspired to take up!

Web site. [www.surreyopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.surreyopenstudios.org.uk)

John's workshop will be open as part of this event so if you want see how he has converted farm buildings to his workshop and wood store go and have a look during the period he is open.

## **NEWSLETTER IN COLOUR**

Those of you who advised Paul of your E-mail address will have received a letter advising of a new way of distributing the newsletter and thus saving on postage. Any one with internet access and uses Broadband will be able to use this service. Broadband is essential or it will take ages to receive articles with photographs in colour. At present because of the printers set up, I have to limit the number of pages to multiples of four. This often means that some photographs are left out.

So we could have the black and white version of the newsletter with few photos being posted to members and a colour version with unlimited photos being posted to the website for those who opt for the download method of delivery. You need to follow the instructions in the letter to apply for this service.

## **MAY EVENING**

Our demonstrator should have been Paul Ridler but on the Wednesday he advised that he had to go to Somerset where his mother was seriously ill. Phil Wolsoncroft agreed to stand in as all his equipment was on the van. He had been demonstrating to the Herts & Beds Wood turners where he had a lot of stick from Garry Rance who was operating the camera. There he turned four bowls which he intended to finish as our demonstration.

The first was a Sweat Chestnut bowl with lovely figuring. As usual he was using his Union Jubilee lathe. At home he has a Turnstyle made of extremely heavy metal and bolted to the 6" thick concrete floor. Thus he can turn 27" burrs without any fuss.

He trued up the inside as there was slight movement from Tuesday and then power sanded using 80, 160, 320 and 400 grits. Although the Camvac sucked in some of the dust there was a large cloud going over the top of the safety screen. The bark was removed from the edge and the sides near the edge sanded with the lathe stopped. This process was repeated on the outside of the bowl. A coat of Mazola cooking oil was applied by brush. There followed some discussion on food safety. ie. the possibility of nuts in the oil and use of spalted timber for food bowls. Three coats of oil would be applied.



The next bowl to be finished was Horse Chestnut. Again it was trued up and sanded as before. The fissures were filled with thin superglue and powdered metal. Small containers of powdered brass, aluminum, and copper can be obtained from John Davis at Andover. It was sanded and oiled as before.

The next bowl was Burr Wych Elm which had attractive green areas in places. After trueing up and sanding, Phil used a burr in his Dremel to enlarge some of the fissures. These were filled with superglue and aluminum powder. A final sand and then coats of cooking oil.



At home Phil will complete several bowls from start to finish in three or four days.

## Colin's Columns

What a time I have had since the last newsletter..... Take a tip from me when your wife says can we change the lounge curtains? Run, get out in the workshop and hide. In fact since she asked that question the only thing that remains the same are the curtains, but they should change this coming weekend. The fireplace has gone, a new carpet is down and the lounge has been completely re-papered and painted. Sadly this has kept me away from the cabin so no turning apart from what I managed at WL West's and the Rural Life Centre.

## Stuart Mortimer - is fine

I am pleased to report that the news I gave out on Friday at the club night that

Stuart Mortimer had had a heart attack has proved to be wrong, I am sorry if this caused any concern to anyone at the club, we were given the information in good faith, it may have been a mistake of identity as apparently there is more than one Mortimer woodturner.

## Limpsfield Grange

Coming up on the 16<sup>th</sup> June we have the Limpsfield Grange fete, which we have been asked to attend. We are having a small stall with hopefully a small lathe (power permitting) there will be a sales table with proceeds going to help the school. If you have not already done so please bring pieces for us to sell there, it does not need to be big, just saleable. There will be a box at the June club night to put them in. Events like this not only give the club a good name but also help publicise the fact that we exist.

## Lottery Grant

As you all may now have gathered the committee are in the throws of applying for a Lottery Grant. Although I am assured that the process has been simplified this still involves a lot of work, part of which was the questionnaire I had you fill out last month. We have to show things like, the percentage of club members that will benefit by having what we ask for. We are hoping to get a new lathe to replace the ageing Poolewood, one that breaks down into several pieces and be easier to transport for health and safety reasons, new video and sound equipment including a portable hearing loop for those of us who wear hearing aids.

I feel the club has a very good chance of securing a grant, and Chris Sheppherd the director of The Rural Life Centre has very kindly agreed to be our independent referee. I will keep you posted on any further news.

### **April club night**

Well we said we were going to try something a little different, and judging by some of your comments it was a very successful evening.

It does take some nerve to get up there and do a demonstration to an audience when all you have done before is a demo at a show or a practical night. John Sherwood, and Mel Martin, did very well with both structured and informed demos with Paul doing the commentary. If you would like to have a go please give me or one of the committee a call.

### **Shows - May**

W L West's Wood Show & Rural Life Centre: Woodcrafts Weekend.

These two shows are both highlights of the clubs year, and I look forward to them both. This year they overlapped by a day, and therefore we were more spread out, but I don't think this detracted from the overall enjoyment of the weekend.

We arrived at WL West's at 8:15 on Friday and after the hot spell it felt decidedly cold, but by midday had warmed up and later we were sweltering. It was obvious that West's had done a lot of work on the power as this year there were no problems. Weather wise both days were similar. I love the friendly banter between the professional

turners (I.E Les Thorne & Nick Agar) and the club it shows how much we are appreciated. Turning wise we were on form and it was the first show I have done where I did not go through the bottom of a bowl (some say my trademark). There was a lot of interest from folk especially the younger generation this time. One young lad of about eleven even had his own lathe and a lot of support from dad, well done dad, plus lots of questions. John Sherwood was turning a small bowl out of a Red Myrtle a lovely piece of wood with a fair bit of burr, on his last few finishing cuts the rim broke, John super glued it back on but again during his last few cuts it literally exploded in spectacular fashion, a great shame. Jennie was giving demos on piercing using her dental drill this generated a lot of interest and steered people to our touchy feely table, with many favourable comments. Other turners supporting us were Claire and Rodney Goodship, Neil Lofthouse, Richard Davies, Alan Hazel. We missed our catering manager Roy there as he was administering to those at the Rural Life Centre.

Overall visitors were down on last year, but money taken on the tills was up.

On Sunday and Monday I moved over to the Rural Life Centre but I will let someone else tell you about that.

### **Honours Board**

Roy Edwards recently came up with an idea for an honours board, which I and the committee think is a very good idea, we are back dating it to when our records began, and it will show who won

the Presidents Platter, the Vice Presidents Platter and the Turner of the Year awards, thereby creating an archive of member's achievements and in which year.

It will also give members something to strive towards by getting their names on the board for posterity. We will be able to display the board on club nights and Open Days and at shows if appropriate. Roy has taken on the making of the board, and very good it is too. Once it is finished we will display it for all to see, well done and many thanks to Roy.

### **Next Month**

The 8<sup>th</sup> June sees our old friend Gary Rance demonstrating, always a well worth while demo with lots of banter especially if he brings his son with him.

### **Finally**

Thanks go to Phil Wolsencroft for standing in at the last minute at the May club night. It was unfortunate that Paul Ridler could not make it, due to one of his parents being taken ill. We will try to get him back at another time.

Colin your Chairman

Here are some photographs that there was not space for in previous issues.



Seen at Rural Life- a Swiss Tree Climbing Bicycle. The leg irons have spikes on the toes and the metal bands can be altered to the size of the trunk





## **TOP TIP**

We saw this at Styles & Bates being used by a member of the Garden of Eden Club. To stop your brush falling into the pot of paint or sanding sealer fit a plastic cable gland in the lid, which will hold the brush in place.

## Changes to the SAW Handbook for 2007

Members are reminded that the pages at the back of the handbook are there for you to note changes.

### **16. Membership (current)**

Any adult may join the club. Junior members (under 18) may join with the signed consent of a parent or guardian. Membership is limited to 200 in any one year as larger numbers would place too great a strain on the facilities available at the Mytchett Centre.

### ***To be replaced by the following:***

### **16. Membership**

Any adult may join the club. Membership is limited to 200 in any one year as larger numbers would place too great a strain on the facilities available at the Mytchett Centre. Junior members (under 18) may join with the signed consent of a parent or legal guardian. In order to conform to the new legislation designed to protect young people, it is necessary that a parent or legal guardian be present with junior members at all SAW functions. If the parent or legal guardian is not a woodturner, then they may be admitted to club nights and sign in as a visitor without being a member. They would however have to pay the normal adult rate for outings and seminars.

### **19. Newsletters (current)**

A newsletter consisting of up to 16 pages is sent out to members about every two months. It contains details of future events, what happened and what tips were given by demonstrators at recent meetings and a page where members can advertise, at no cost, woodturning related items for sale.

There is a list of all the current Committee Members on the back page so you see who you need to contact with any specific query. We welcome new articles for the newsletter from members.

### ***The following to be added:***

Members can opt to collect their newsletter from the Website. To do this a member should email the webmaster using the website contact stating that they wish to make this option. They will be emailed when each newsletter is ready for collection, a User ID and Password will also be included with the Email.

### **22. Open Day Competition (current)**

The Open Day Competition is the main competitive event of the year. All members, at whatever standard are encouraged to enter at least one piece.

There are 4 levels of entry; Beginner, Novice, Intermediate and Open. There are 2 competitions for each level of entry; mainly faceplate turned pieces and mainly spindle turned pieces.

The competition is normally judged by National judges. Trophies and certificates are awarded for all classes. Beginners are defined as turners with **less than 2 years** experience and who have not yet been successful in winning a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Open Day Competition. Progression through the other levels depends on success (ie 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>) in an Open Day Competition.

The President chooses one piece from the 'Open' class to award the President's Platter for the following year. The Vice President chooses a piece from the remaining entries to be awarded the Vice President's platter for the year.

### ***The following to be added:***

Members may enter up to three mainly faceplate turned items and up to three spindle turned items, however, only one prize (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>) may be won in each section.

## **28. Subscriptions (current)**

The committee, with advice from the treasurer, decides on the subscription amount that is necessary to run the club effectively for the following year. This is put to the members for approval at the AGM and comes into force from that date. The Subscription year is February 1<sup>st</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Currently the subscription is £20 per year.

### ***Change final sentence to:***

Currently the subscription is £22 per year.