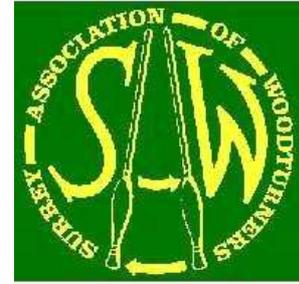


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter May 2010

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Terry Wilkinson Andrew Kirkwood
Les Pulling Paul Raubusch

Paid up Membership 160

Items for the Diary

Friday 11th June Sarah Thirlwell
Sunday 20th June Hands On Day
Friday 9th July Tony Handford
Friday 13th August Practical Evening

APRIL EVENING

This was a Club Turner demonstration with a slight difference. There was me, Peter Stent for the first half and Colin Spain for the second half of the evening. We were both using the new Warco lathe donated to the Club by the Company.

I started by explaining that working with wood was in the blood as my Grandfather had built wooden SE5 fighter aircraft at the Farnborough Aircraft Factory. At Farnborough Grammar School although studying science subjects to "A" level, woodworking was one of my favourite subjects and I still had a pair of wood and brass candle sticks in the form of Victorian Street Lamps. It was not until May 1996 when on holiday in Norfolk and visited some craft fairs that my interest in wood turning was re-awakened. I attended my first Saw meeting in August and bought a Record DML24 in September 1996 with

money I had from working weekend overtime. I became SAW Treasurer in January 2007.

I intended to demonstrate the small items I make to sell at school fetes and other fayres.



Log Pets are just pieces of branch shaped and sanded and decorated with stiffened string to form pigs, mice, cats and snails which I sell for a £1.00.

The animal back scratchers are similar but require a little more work. The body I usually make from an old piece of fence post turned between centres and shaped to the required animal. As it will be painted it does not have to be perfect. A pig will have a snout. An elephant will be rounded at both ends, while a cat or mouse will have a pointed nose. This is sanded to 400 grit and given a coat of sanding sealer.

The feet I make from Beech such as an old chair leg. This turned between centres to form a leg about 2" long, 1/2" diameter with a 3/4" ball on the end for the foot. To finish off the foot, this is held in "D" jaws of the chuck to shape with a small spindle gouge and then sanded to 600 grit. These are

given two coats of sanding sealer. This has to be repeated for four feet.

With a 1/2" drill bit in the pillar drill holes are carefully drilled in the body to give the correct splay of the legs and the legs glued in with thick super glue. Make sure all the legs are at the right depth so the animal stands on all four feet and is level. Any tear out around the leg holes needs filling as does the chucking point at the nose of the animal.

Before painting with modeller's plastic enamel paints I wrap masking tape round the tops of the legs. To make whiskers I suspend thin string with a weight on the bottom and drizzle thin super glue down it. Curly pigs tails are made by wrapping pink string around a metal bar and applying more superglue. Little plastic eyes I buy from Brenda's in North Camp. Ears are cut out from felt in the shape of a leaf. A drop of thick glue in the hole, place one end of the ear over the and poke it in with the point of the scissors. With the Elephant some glue has to be added to the grey trunk to create the correct curl.

After tea Colin demonstrated how to make a William Tell Apple. This is an apple with a wooden arrow through it. The only measurements to remember are a 9mm hole in the apple and a shaft diameter of 8mm or a little more. The arrow is turned between centres from Beech. Make the shaft long enough so people can see there is there is no join in it. The point and flight then have to be cut on a band saw to the thickness of the shaft. The point is then boiled for 20 minutes while a wooden mould is made from a scrap piece of hard wood which has a 9mm hole through it. This is cut on the band saw along the length of the hole. At the end of the cooking time the arrow point is placed in the wood and clamped to compress the point.

Colin had pre-drilled a block of Bubinga with a diagonal hole for the arrow and smaller holes at each end for the screw chuck. This was mounted between centres and using a 3/4" roughing gouge reduced to a cylinder. This was then removed and fitted to the screw chuck.

HANDY HINT- One of the members advised that a drop of Tung Oil on the

thread made life easier. Colin had a Skewy gouge fitted into a shaft he had made from two Halfords rummer grips and some spare collets from another tool. This he used to form the top of the fruit. Which he finished using a skew in a shear scraping mode. Then he would normally sand to 600 grit and apply sanding sealer. This process was repeated on the other end.

Then the exciting part. The clamp was undone and the squashed arrow head was passed through the apple. This part was placed in a flask of boiling water for a few minutes to make it expand to its former shape. All that was needed was an Ebony stalk and a clove in the bottom.



Items with cloves fitted cannot be sent to Australia as being a seed they are not allowed into that country. Both Colin & I enjoyed demonstrating and from some of the comments so did the audience.

HOW DID I GET INTO THIS ?

By Val Pascual

I was first introduced to woodturning, not as you might expect in the humble surroundings of a garden shed cum workshop, or even at a "Wood working show" ... whatever shape that might have taken ... it was simply not a place you

would find me. Nor was it at school or in college, even though I do work at a college and even spend some of my time in the Art and Design Department where ... yes, you guessed it, there is a workshop and I do believe a lathe or two reside there also ... well, I know there are now but two or three years ago ... I am not sure I would have known what a lathe looked like let alone what it was used for (either a metal or wood one) so back to the beginning ... and however unlikely this might sound, I was first introduced to woodturning on the car deck (now was that A, B or C ... sorry, can't quite remember!) of a ship in the Norwegian fjords. I am sure you might be wondering just why ... well, I could answer, well, why not? And for now, that is where I will leave that, but in my odd bits of free-time (oh, I guess it might be helpful to say that I was a volunteer working in the kitchen on said ship) I would wend my way down to the car deck and watch in fascination at all the wonderful activity ... oh yes, I was fascinated, but more than that ... it didn't take long before I was hooked!



The Ferry GANN

But back to my introduction to woodturning itself ...

Well, to start with, a lot can happen in a year ... or if I am totally honest, just over a year but it has spelt for me my introduction to woodturning and ... just in the past few months, at the SAW Club Open Day, I 'celebrated' my first anniversary ... a little over a year ago then, on that October morning I remember walking into this big hall and desperately looking for someone

who might know who Richard was ... I had spoken to him on the phone but knew little else. Thankfully, I did find him, or at least someone very kindly pointed him out to me on the stage ... ooh ... very official looking it was up there ... lots of wonderful things made from wood (of course!) that one just wanted to feel and pick up and hold and ... oh boy ... it did rather make me think I was somehow in the wrong place! These were of course all the Competition pieces, which were being judged ...

And then I finally saw a familiar face ... no, not Richard, although I had now met him and picked up a membership form ... so it was now up to me if I was to decide to take the plunge ... but no, there was Stewart from the ship ... can't say I knew him that well and nor him me, and the fact that I was totally out of context here and not carrying a tray of plates, or wearing a navy apron or poking my head out of the kitchen to see if all was well in the dining room was likely as not why I suspect poor Stewart had little clue as to who I was. However, for me it was wonderful and made me feel a little more at home and think that maybe, just maybe, I could be serious about this daft idea of mine ... and the rest of the day I spent happily watching the various demos going on ... admittedly rather overwhelmed by it all but determined one day to give it a go, even though the thought of "How on earth can I ever make it happen?", was very much in the forefront of my mind.

Thankfully, as it turned out, that was less up to me than I realised at the time ... and boy am I grateful to so many of you ... for your amazing encouragement, acceptance of me as a total beginner ... and a total stranger to all this ... so this is now the start of the story of me ... well, getting started.

I think it was the first Club night I turned up to ... well, that would have only been November and there was someone standing at the front saying that they had this lathe to give away ... I had met Paul

and one or two others by now and the next thing I knew I was being put forward as a good candidate to be the recipient of said lathe. Hence my introduction to 'tall Richard' (useful as I discovered later, as I too am reasonably tall and this meant the lathe was already mounted at a good height!).

It was a couple of weeks before I could contact Richard again to try to arrange delivery (he had very kindly agreed to bring it to me as he had a vehicle it would fit in

As for the location-to-be ... all I could think of was my father's garage (all you fathers out there, just remember how we sons and daughters appreciate you) but of course the garage (and here I suspect many of you might relate to this, oh, but no, I guess most of your garages, if you have one, are already converted into beautiful, clean and tidy workshops ... but this garage was full, yes, FULL of junk ... you know, that kind of junk that one puts aside 'just in case'!!



Only this 'junk' had been collected for over 50 years since my mother and father had moved to the country and to this house ... hmmm ... so picture this ... I come in with my harebrained scheme of wanting to

convert a very old, junk-ridden (sorry Dad) garage into a workshop, where I, yes, I, could play on a lathe and turn some wood. Well, if my Dad didn't think I was crazy (he was kind, or wise, enough not to say so), some of my friends certainly did!

The race was on ... in a couple of weeks I had cleared just enough space (those were the first few trips to the dump) to put the lathe ... phew ... at least I could get that organised and before Christmas too! The only problem then was not being able to do anything in the garage for a long while yet ... the 'junk' being only one of the reasons why. Apart from several loads of rotten firewood that had to be removed, I soon discovered that the place was riddled in woodworm. At this stage I truly began to think I was barking up the wrong tree ... oh, well at least when they are living, they don't have woodworm.



Everything, and I mean everything, was riddled ... even the dead twigs of ivy that clung on for dear 'life' as they hung miserably from the roof and walls were neatly perforated with holes! The living, green ivy was just covering most other aspects of the building! So, to put it mildly, this was not a good start and did not bode

well. Again, my sincere doubts returned that I would ever make it into the world of woodworking, let alone, woodturning ... even at a very amateurish level, which is all I really wanted.

Surveying the scene did lead me to really question my sanity ... but to cut a long story short(er) I did persevere and after several more loads to the dump (well into double figures by now!), two complete sprayings of the whole caboodle with Star Woodworm treatment (plus the mask and goggles fit for the purpose!) I progressed to having a space which I could begin to dare dream, might one day, become a workshop. My father meanwhile, I fear, looked on in resigned silence!

So, now I do have a workshop, with not just the original and well-loved Myford 8



lathe but also a Record CL3 (almost up and running ... well, at least it is in one piece as I collected it in a dismantled state and spent the best part of a week trying to work out what bit went where, but it sure is one heck of a good way of finding out what each bit is called and used for and ... well, here's hoping that when I do finally

get it going, I will learn to use it too and do it justice!.

In the meantime I am continuing to play on (oh, sorry for any of you serious types out there ... 'work' on) the Myford. One of my first delights was when I made my first spinning top. Oh yeah, I hear you murmur ... what's so special about that!" Not a lot really I guess ... except for me it is the smallest piece I have ever worked on and was also the first piece I had ever made from start to finish on my own in my own workshop having decided that that was what I was going to make in the first place! Yeah, again, maybe no big deal but ... I have come to love the term 'designer firewood' and 'design opportunities' that were introduced to me over this past summer by Paul, or maybe Richard, or both or ... whoever was looking on at me yet again, making a dog's dinner of whatever it was I was trying to do ... and before you get excited, I have only really been doing 'between centre' work and making things like 'V' cuts or trying to produce curves or beads or well, probably not a lot really but it is fun and totally absorbing.

The 'design opportunities' have now become a major aspect of my wood turning 'career' and there is one case in particular that is worth a mention ... it was a bowl that 'I' made under the close, watchful eye of Paul ... and yes, you guessed it ... a classic design opportunity when it began to change shape in a manner that was not quite according to the original plan ... due to my somewhat misdirected attentions! Well, the bowl was duly 'saved' (thanks Paul) and is now in pride of place here in my flat.

Well, in all of this ... and it is for me a journey I am delighted to have started, and I hope will continue for many years to come, I have been really blessed with such a massive amount of help, support and encouragement that have got me to this point (remember it was not much over a year ago, that I did not even know the meaning of the word woodturning let alone

what it involved ... I certainly had not gone on that ship as a passenger to indulge in the delights of this wonderful craft (sad though that may be). But perhaps the most important thing for me to say is that I have never been made to feel I am a no-hoper (I might have ... okay, have ... thought as much myself!) but no one has ever made me feel that I was just never going to get anywhere (well okay, you all get 100% for diplomacy and tact!) but no, seriously, it has been so encouraging to feel that one can ask those 'stupid' questions, or look in utter amazement when something very simple is explained ... and not to be made to feel a fool (well, until you try to solve one of Rodney's wood puzzles ... then it is easy to look, and feel, a fool!)

Last summer I thoroughly enjoyed being able to get to two of the shows ... the WARCO one in Chiddingfold (actually a heaven for any steam-locomotive lover, and when recounting what I had been doing at the w/e to my work colleagues on Monday morning, I did rather feel they were seeing the word 'Anorak' hanging over my head!) and secondly, the Rural Life Centre in Tilford ... well, a step back in time for starters with a sort of rural museum of life over the last century I guess ... or maybe that is just what I saw and fascinating it was too ... but the most enjoyable part was to just have a go and dare to turn ... something!

This year too I have been fortunate enough to get to Alexandra Palace and Princes Mead - two great days at which everyone was remarkably patient with me and very encouraging. I thoroughly enjoyed both outings and learnt so much from watching others far more accomplished turners than myself (admittedly, not difficult!) but also from having a go myself. Definitely a worthwhile experience. Oh, I have yet to finish that bowl Phil, and have also been challenged to make an egg cup for my 'ostrich' egg ... watch this space!

In addition to all this, and well worth a mention, I have been part of the mentoring programme which has given me a wonderful boost to get going but admit I am not too sure how good I have been at following it as I feel sure there are several pieces of 'homework' that I should by now have produced and shown to my mentor for his comment and critique (oops, sorry about that!) but I seem to get all too easily distracted (hence the spinning tops, the bottle (solid I'm afraid), the pear, and now the 'rings' that I am working on ... and after tonight, maybe even a 'William Tell' apple!) ... but then again, maybe I should just put all of these down to 'design opportunities' ... ones not to be missed!

RURAL LIFE CENTRE MAY BANK HOLIDAY

Because Paul's van had died we were not able to take the big club lathe. However we had seven small lathes being demonstrated by Colin, Myself, Brian, Harry, Val, Paul,



Claire and Rodney at various times. John Creasey and Peter Cockram did a little bit on Paul's lathe. Other stewards were Eric Voles and Douglas Boud. Our Catering Manageress was Joy. Because Paul could not bring the frame tent we had a small display in the Churt building. As usual Rodney spent a lot of the time explaining the many puzzles that he had brought along. Apart from cold fingers we all enjoyed the weekend, except Paul who had a touch of food poisoning. We all came away with some pieces of Laburnum that had been cut down in the café seating area.

W L WEST 8th & 9th MAY

This was another wet and windy Friday and Saturday when a few members turned up at West' to brave the elements and demonstrate on three lathes. There were members from other clubs for us to meet up with, Forrest of Bere, Cheam, and the Southern Fellowship of Wood Workers. plus Les Thorne.



Paul managed to get the bits of his tent in the car so we had a bigger display of our work. On the Saturday we had another lathe when David Bracken joined us. Despite to cold and wet we managed to enjoy ourselves.

MAY EVENING

Colin introduced our demonstrator as both Paul & Jennie were busy elsewhere. Greg Morton needed no introduction as between 1998 and 2002 he was a member of this club. He is envious of technology. He love

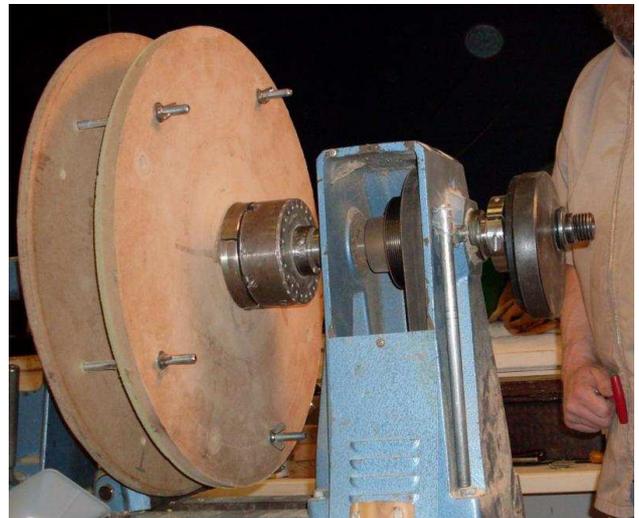
Australian burrs but finds them expensive, so he works on old fence posts. He likes to make intersecting bowls on one piece.

He started with a Laburnum blank which he mounted on a screw chuck in the lathe and turned a conventional base to the bowl. Then he had a series of discs of different diameter each with the centre marked. These he used to draw two intersecting circles on the face of the bowl. He had made a special jig from two discs of MDF, one of which had a spigot for the chuck glued and screwed to it. The other disc had a hole cut in it to allow the bowl to be carved.

The bowl was eased between the two MDF discs and the five or six retaining bolts tightened so that one of the required marked circles was visible through the end hole.



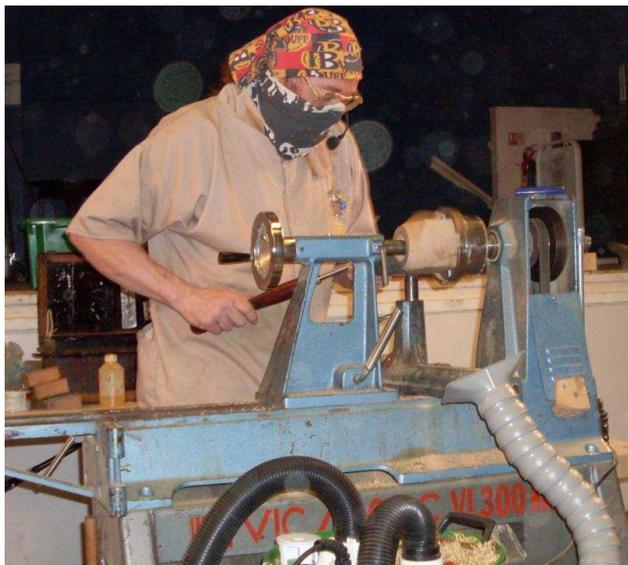
On the outboard end of the drive shaft two counter weights were fitted and adjusted to allow for the off centre bowl.



Starting at 330 revs the inside of the bowl was cut with a 3/8" Henry Taylor super flute bowl gouge. Sanding discs were cut from sheet using an old Hole Saw of the required size. Power sand to 320 grit plus webrax. Seal and polish. Greg bought up a lot of the paper towel Kitten soft when it was taken off the market. The closest he has found now is called Plenty.

Then unscrew the bolts and relocate to the second marked circle. Tighten and adjust the counter weights. Carve the second bowl in a similar fashion, being careful were the shapes intersect and sharpening the tool for the finishing cuts.

A popular item to sell to Americans is pen pots made from the legs of old desks from HM Treasury. Fit a block of fence post into the Jig side grain on. Use a 2" Forsner bit to drill in the side being careful with the speed and removing the waste.



Speed the lathe up a use a 3/8" gouge the cut up hill at 1700rpm. Use a wire brush in the Jacobs chuck an sand the weathered surface. Then sand from 120 to 320 grit.

To make a sphere drive a 4 pronged drive into the end of a piece of wood and mount between centres. Use a bowl gouge to reduce to a cylinder. Measure the diameter with callipers and transfer this to the side of the cylinder. Measure the middle of this and mark the wood. Then gradually curve the ends to form a ball shape. Cut of the ends and mount between cup chucks and continue to shape and rotate. Sand with 60 to 320 grit plus webrax.

A very interesting evening



SEMINAR 23rd May

Out of a membership of 160 only 23 members came to see a brilliant day's demonstration by Simon Hope. He made an Oyster box using aluminium threaded rings. A Pepper mill, a bowl from Spalted timber and another from a burr. If there is space I may show some of the photos.



Paul covered in shavings

PRACTICAL NIGHTS - NEW BLOOD WANTED

Not literally of course (Blood that is).

I am looking for capable turners to demonstrate their skills at the practical nights (3 a year); during those nights we try to have about 6 guest turners from the club. If you would like the chance to show off your skills in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere please contact me Colin

Spain, and I will do everything I can to help you with what you need, lathe etc. It does not necessarily need to be lathe work, as long as it is turning related.

There is a lot of talent in the club, and I know it is daunting to turn in front of turners, "am I doing it right, will they think I'm daft etc?" In my experience it is not like that, the onlookers are genuinely interested and respect what you do, and a discussion can quite often develop that helps the demonstrator pick up new ideas too. In other words both onlooker and demonstrator come away learning something. A great way to overcome your concerns and start demonstrating, if that's what you want to do.

My thanks to the members who have come forward so far.

Paul's



Paragraphs

April Club Night

Our Club turners for this evening were Peter Stent and Colin Spain. Well done to both of them for an entertaining evening. Peter showed us how he makes his back massagers and Colin made an apple with an arrow through it. A very enjoyable evening.

Rural Life Centre

This year the event was for the three days over the bank holiday. My wife and I did not end up staying at the centre as usual as I was not feeling to well. It was as usual a very enjoyable weekend for all that attended. The weather was not the best we have ever had but the visitors were still out in force. My thanks to all who attended and help get it set up and dismantled.

West's Wood Show

Another good event with lots going on. We had four small lathes running and a nice display of work on show. There was more on this year and some familiar faces to see again. The weather was good to us for the two days, although there was a cold wind blowing our way sometimes. Again my thanks for another great weekend to all of those that attended.

May club night

The turner for that evening was Gregory Moreton. Unfortunately I could not attend for that evening's entertainment, but I am told by some of those that attended it was a good demonstration.

Simon Hope Seminar

The numbers were down for this event, but that made it all the more entertaining for those that attended. The day was full of information and items for us all to attempt. Simon brought along a lot of his tools and products for sale and I could see money exchanging for goods throughout the day. He makes these himself and the quality is very good, as is the price. We held a critique of members work, which was highly praised by Simon. This was a very entertaining day and enjoyed by all.

June Club Night

This will be Sarah Thirlwell. This will be the first time Sarah has demonstrated at SAW. I have seen some of her work and it is quite different. It should be an interesting evening.

Hands on Day

The next day of training is due on the 22nd June. Hopefully you will have your names on the list by now. This event is getting more and more popular. I just need to remind you all that this event is for people who have a knowledge of the basic tools and how to use them. It is a means of being able to advance people who are already turning to a

reasonable standard and want to improve the quality of their work.

Running an event for SAW

The committee has been asked in the past if members who cover events could be covered on the clubs insurance. This has now been made possible and we will be introducing a pack for members who wish to either have a display of work, sales table or even demonstrate at a local show. For more information speak to a committee member.

SAW logos

If you have not yet collected your free SAW stick on logo please go to Neil's table and collect it. We also have for sale some humorous stickers please have a look and buy one to boost the club's funds.

Loaning a lathe

The club has two medium sized lathes which we offer for loan to members who do not

have a lathe at the moment. These two lathes have been out on loan and the people who had them have moved on and want to return them so that another member may benefit from their use. If you would like to loan a lathe to get you started please contact a committee member. There is no charge for this service.

Tools

The tools seem to be going out regularly on loan. Don't be afraid to hire these out for a try or a particular job you want to do. It is a very reasonable price for a month's hire on a try before you buy basis. We now have two additions to the tools with threading and long hole boring tools.