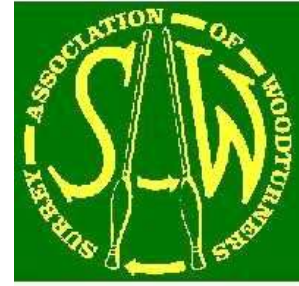


Surrey Association of  
Woodturners



## Newsletter June 2013

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

### New Members

Barry Hitchcock

**PAID UP MEMBERSHIP      145**

### Items for the Diary

Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Club Turner	Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Hands On Day
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Derek Blake	Sat/Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> July	Guildford Model Eng.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	Practical Evening		

I am sorry for the late arrival of the Newsletter but I have been in hospital as a result of a heart attack.

Because there is so much to be included in this issue the article on the iridescent vase has been delayed.

## WANTED

**We need examples of your work for the “Show & Tell table.**

**We also desperately need more judges for the competitions. Please volunteer. Full training will be given.**

## APRIL EVENING – Les Thorne

Les introduced himself as a production turner of mainly spindle work. He intended to demonstrate for us a concept box. The only way I can describe it is, two large mushrooms joined together without their stalks and dimpled surfaces.

Les started talking about safety, glasses etc. He uses a soft mask from the USA called “Dust be Gone”. Always turn at a speed that you are comfortable with, but as fast as possible.

He placed a hexagonal block of Ash between centres. Les explained that it is safer to always trim the edges off on a band saw. He used a roughing gouge to reduce this to a cylinder. With a 3mm parting tool he marked the middle approximately and then with a 10mm parting tool

(which it just so happens he is the sole agent for) he cut two spigots either side of the centre line to fit his chuck.

He removed the drive centre and fitted the wood in the chuck. Les then cut through the centre so that a reference mark was left on each half. The outside was shaped with a spindle gouge.



Using a gouge at 11.o'clock he started to hollow from the centre out rolling the tool to about 9.30 as he went. He then used a Simon Hope carbide tipped tool which is ideal for cutting cross grain. This he used to undercut the hollowing. A skew was used to refine the fit for the lid.



After tea the other half was fitted in the chuck and the semi completed half fitted in to the box. The tail stock was brought up to keep the half in place while the spigot was carefully turned away. Masking tape was wrapped around to hold the items in place.

A Saburr burr was used in a Dremil to texture the hemisphere. Flap brush was used to clean up.

Ebonising lacquer was sprayed on and the result allowed to dry. Silver gilt cream was dry brushed over the item.

The tape around the top/bottom was removed and the item removed. This half was shaped and hollowed as before. A Rolly Monroe tool

with scraper bit was demonstrated as well as a French Curve scraper before returning back to the Simon Hope tool. The work was sanded trough 5 grades to 400 grit.

The grain inside was filled with a spray lacquer and paste wax.

Les made a jamb chuck and fitted the half so that the spigot could be removed and a curve created. This was textured by using a decorating elf tool. The flap wheel was used to clean up. Masking tape was used to tape over the jamb chuck. Black lacquer was sprayed all over. Sanding removed the ridges. Spirit colours were applied in patches. When dry satin sanding sealer was sprayed all over.

This was the end of a very entertaining and informative evening.

## RURAL LIFE 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL



As usual it was raining on the Saturday when we set up. For once Paul was not there so Jennie took the reins. There was the usual band, Colin, myself, Jennie & Chris, Paul Raubusch, Dorothy and Peter & Rodney. We arranged three display tables where the club lathe usually went.

Sunday was better weather and we had more visitors. Although we gave out lots of membership applications, I have not seen any completed ones yet. We all enjoyed ourselves which was the main object besides promoting the club.

Because we were near where Basil lives, he called to receive his trophies from last year.



## SURREY HEATH SHOW Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May

The arrangements for this were somewhat rushed. Colin, Dorothy and Peter, John Creasy, Paul Raubusch and myself met in the rain at 8.30 to put up two gazebos. Outside club demonstrations always seem to attract the rain, however it did not last long.



We were amazed at the size of the show with more than 100 side shows and stalls. We have decided that next year we want to hire a portable generator and take a lathe to demonstrate. We had a good variety of items for sale and most of us were pleased with the amounts made. Because we were not charged for our pitch we donated a percentage of our takings which was gratefully received. Several visitors expressed an interest in joining the club. We shall have to

see.

## MAY EVENING Richard Findley

Richard was back by popular demand. He comes from Leicester and started as a joiner with his dad. He started full time turning in June 2010. At home he uses a Wadkin RS8 lathe.

This evening he intended to show us spindle turning. He brings his own lathe to demonstrations, which has a bed extension to take the long lengths of timber. He talked about safety. In the workshop he uses a full facemask respirator. He showed us three spindle gouges of different sizes all with the same grind however he does take the heel off. Also displayed were two different skewers.

A length of pine was mounted between the chuck which had 4 engineering jaws, and a ring tail centre. He explained the difference between live and dead knots and the need for care working around them but usually they do not need to be glued.



Using a slicing cut he formed the pommel at each end. Those who saw Richard the last time he came will remember his long wooden tool rest. One end fits in the banjo and the other is clamped to the side of the tail stock. He then roughed the tail end to a cylinder and using a template marked the position of the parts of the shape. On the template each mark had a small notch that a pencil would fit in to mark the wood.

He then cut the various beads using the tip of the tool. Then the coves were cut working from each side. He then moved to the other

end of the leg and shaped that in a similar fashion.

He then fashioned the middle and used a straight edge to check the taper.

He sanded with 180 grit. As the leg will be painted you do not need to worry about keeping crisp edges as the paint will chip off.

He showed us the steadies that he uses for larger work.

After tea we talked about the grind on his skew. Richard then showed us how he makes knobs with a coloured ring. He had a commission to make lots in different sizes and different woods. He has two methods of production depending on the grain direction required.

For through grain a block of wood, in this case Oak, 5mm larger than required is mounted between a ring centre in the head stock and a revolving centre. This was roughed to a cylinder of the required size. Richard has found by experience that you need to leave at least 10mm of waste at the end. Carve the required shape and sand. A thin band of colour was required and a 2 mm parting knife was too thick. After experimenting he found that a 1mm drill bit in a small wooden handle was just right but did have a tendency to snap.

His next problem was the filling. Coloured resin was not that good but ebony Brummers stopping was just right. This comes in lots of different wood shades and only costs a few pounds for a 250gm. tin which lasts a long time. It dries dull but will sand and polish. When parting off leave a small nib to be removed later.



For cross grain the block is held in the chuck with the four engineering jaws reversed. A spindle gouge is used first to reduce to a cylinder and to the shape from the template. Richard found it better to work uphill. The sanding can be completed using a disk mounted on the lathe. As usual this was a very informative and interesting evening.

## Woodturning in Sydney, Australia .... Part 2

Neil Lofthouse

In the April Newsletter I wrote about a visit I made to the Northern Beaches Woodturners club at Narabeen. As I was leaving, the President of the club Jack Butler asked where I was staying and he said I must visit the **Western Sydney Woodturners** who were close by to Baulkham Hills.

A quick look at their website [www.westernsydneywoodturners.com](http://www.westernsydneywoodturners.com) revealed that they



are open virtually every day so I turned up one morning to find at least 15 members beavering away in truly impressive facilities: an enormous workshop fitted out with 21 lathes plus a whole range of other machinery, tools etc etc.....how different to ours...



I was made very welcome and shown around by several of the members including another POMME, Vice President Ken Vodden, who has written up a piece on **my** visit to his club on page 5 of their March newsletter entitled **‘Visit from a Foreigner’** where he has given SAW a plug – do have a look at their interesting website.

## **MARY ROSE** by Peter Stent

As a friend of the Mary Rose Trust I was invited to a preview of the exhibition now that the new exhibition hall has been built and the remains of the ship are upright. I was disappointed that you could not take photographs but there is an embargo that the press cannot use theirs until the grand opening in June. The other upset was that the new guide book had not come back from the printers.



The museum is on three floors with the ship on your right and the artefacts displayed on the left. The ship is still being dried out and long sausage like tubes are suspended over the wreck pumping out hot air to dry it. They will continue to do this until 2017. Because of this there is a wall between you and the ship with different size windows in it so you can see the ship. They are at different heights to cater for adults, children and wheel chair users.

*A picture from the website.*

You enter on the middle floor and then descend to the lower deck. Then you ascend in a glass lift to the top. As you go up there is a marvellous view down the length of the vessel. What I found interesting amongst the bronze and iron cannons that you could touch, was all the wooden items particularly the wooden bowls, some of which had splits and a couple warped to an oval shape. I managed to talk to one of the conservators who said that they had been extremely lucky; very few of the items had been affected by the conservation process. Of course all had been turned on a pole lathe. There was one bowl that must have been about two foot in diameter. The knives had original handles but the metal was modern as the original blades had rusted away.

## Surrey Artists Open Studios – June 8<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>

Surrey runs a group that any artist can join called Surrey Artists Open Studios

[www.surreyopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.surreyopenstudios.org.uk). Rather like the open gardens scheme (The yellow Book) – members can opt into a 2 week Open Studios event in June. Every member taking part has to open their workshop on Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup> but can also open any day from Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

This year two SAW members, John Sherwood and Jennie Starbuck are opening their workshops /studios to visitors and SAW members are very welcome to come along. One of the reasons for opening is to try to sell work – in Jennie’s case to raise money for her local hospice – but it is also an opportunity to bring woodturning to the general public – which is one of SAW’s aims.

Details of dates, times and addresses are on the SAOS website. So, if you feel like having a look at someone else’s workshop and their work – and are interested in

what Surrey Artists Open Studios organisation provides – please come along.

Day time opening - 11am to 5 pm - evening opening (Thursday only) 6pm to 8.30 pm -Days open shown by ‘X’

	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
John	X	X				X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X
Jennie		X				X		X	X				X			X





## PAUL'S POSTINGS

Hello one and all.

It's that time again where I go through my ramblings from the last two months.

I have had another busy couple of months but this time I have had a chance to get some turning done. This of course was in between the household chores that I have. No not the housework, I mean the decorating and building work.

At our April club night we were entertained by Les Thorne. He never fails to give us all a good demonstration. On this occasion he made a decorated shell box with both halves being decorated differently. Although colouring is not my thing the techniques he used to make the box help us all in our quests for ideas on how to achieve things for ourselves. This was a good evening where nobody left early because they were bored.

The club has had a good working relationship with the Rural Life Centre for ten years and for the first time in that period I could not attend. I have been told that it was a good event even if the weather was not perfect. My thanks to Jennie for taking over the running of this event and of course to all the helpers over the weekend.

The next club night we had another good turner that we have seen before, Richard Findlay. An evening of just spindle work, which is not something we do see very often. It was a good demonstration mixed with good descriptive talking. I found this to be a very enjoyable night and I am sure we will ask him back again.

On the Whitsun Bank Holiday Monday Alfie and I attended the Rowledge Village Fayre on behalf of the club. Alfie did the demonstration for the whole time and I manned the display of work. It was nice to see a few of our members there and have a chat with them. It is always nice to talk to people about woodturning and tell them about our club. The fayre was a very well organised event and well attended.

Each club night we have a table for you to place a piece of your work. This is not an arena for criticising but more a talking a point about the particular piece. It is also for the odd or unusual item. This table seems to not be as full as it was last year and I wondered if the idea had worn off. If so tell me or give me your thoughts on how to improve it in any way so that we can get more items on there for discussion. I feel that this is a good way for people to improve their skills by talking to someone about the item and how to deal with possible problems they encountered. I do hope that this can continue.

The club has two slots in its calendar for club turners. I am looking for a member who feels confident enough to do a demo for an evening later in the year. I and other people are on hand to offer any advice about doing one of these demonstrations. If you are even remotely interested to have a go, please talk to me or any one of the committee members. This could be your first step into doing a club demo somewhere else to show off your skills.

**A date for your diary.** We are planning to exhibit at the Sandown Show 13, 14, 15<sup>th</sup> December. This always used to be a good show.