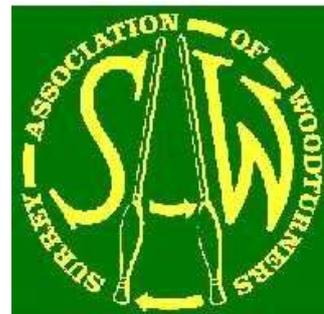


# Surrey Association of Woodturners



## Newsletter May 2016

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

### New Members

Welcome to David Lee Member No. 731  
Welcome to Steve Hunt Member No. 732

### PAID UP MEMBERSHIPS for 2016 are 143

(As of going to press)

### TOP TIP's and articles

If you have a tip or article to share please email it to me at [colin.spain1@virginmedia.com](mailto:colin.spain1@virginmedia.com)

If a tip keep it short, and if we are happy with it, I will include it in one of the newsletters.

### Items for the Diary

5 <sup>th</sup> June	Axminster Basingstoke Store	Club Demonstration
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Jim Gaines	Club Turner
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Workshop Day	Club Tuition
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Guildford Model Steam Rally and Exhibition	Club Demonstrators
15 <sup>th</sup> July *	Tony Walton	Professional Turner
30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> July	Rural Life Centre	Club Demonstrators



**Apologies to Geoff Goddard.** In the March Newsletter I credited the award presentation by John Sherwood our Chairman handing out the trophies to the winners of the 2015 Club Competition for the Advanced Class to Sid Dodd instead of Geoff, and also a sorry to Sid.

### \* Important notice

Please do not forget July's club night is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday (15<sup>th</sup> July) and not the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday.

### Newsletter Photos

Hi resolution Images of most of the pictures are available if you would like a record of your work, please E-Mail Colin Spain on:- [colin.spain1@virginmedia.com](mailto:colin.spain1@virginmedia.com)  
(Sorry, in .jpg file format only)

### Please note

Paul Nesbitt your Vice President has a new personal Email address his old Blueyonder Email is no longer valid, please update your contacts with Email Home - [paul@startedbynature.co.uk](mailto:paul@startedbynature.co.uk)  
His work Email remains as - [paul.nesbitt@Anixter.com](mailto:paul.nesbitt@Anixter.com)

### Top Tip

Now that the hotter weather is here, check your workshops for any potentially dangerous cans/ Spray cans or bottles of inflammable fluids or gas, make sure they are out of direct sunlight. Especially where sun shines through windows and can act like a magnifying glass.

## John's jottings - May 2016

Another couple of busy months have slipped by. Phil Jones was our professional demonstrator for April. He was perhaps more serious than some of our other demonstrators but was detailed in his explanations for the less experienced turners. Gregory Moreton is an old friend of the club and always good value and ready for some banter. Robert's interjection at a critical moment nearly caused a heart attack. I hope lots of members have tried Gregory's final exercise of the hollow tube, would be interesting to see some on the show and tell table. The trip to Yandles did not manage to fill the bus, hopefully enough members will sign up for the September show and the bus will be full.

Those members who represent the club at outside events have been very busy. We have demonstrators at Axminster's Store, National Trust at Dapdune Wharf, Rural Life Centre, and the Surrey Heath Show. A very big thank you to all who took part in these events, as I remember a couple of them being on the chilly side. Thanks also to those members who came along just to support as at Axminster. We would love to see more members taking a turn at one of these shows.

The bequest from the late Dr. Margaret Cothay of her woodworking equipment was a real surprise. So far we have raised over £300 with some more to come from the lathe and extraction unit. Thank you Margaret.

Please note the change of date for our July meeting; it is 15<sup>th</sup> July the third Friday. Before that next month we will be treated to something a bit different. Jim Gaines will be taking us through the stages of preparation for segmented turning. This is an evening not to be missed.

John Sherwood – Your Chairman

### Top Tip



A simple idea from our Paul, mounted behind the lathe is a piece of aluminium strip with punched indents marked as 0mm and the four most frequently used measurements for the chucking sizes for setting your callipers.

## August Practical Evening: Competition piece – 'Mainly Faceplate'

When I chatted to members about the next competition at the March Practical evening, the response to whether we should have a set piece or general guidelines seemed to be split 50:50!

Half the members I spoke to preferred knowing exactly what they should turn so they could research the specific item and get ideas about how best to do it – while the other half wanted the freedom to interpret and choose what they wanted to make from a loose framework of guidance. So, we can't please all of you and have decided, after last year when entries dwindled to 5 by December, that this year we would set open challenges. However, in order to help those of you who like more guidance, here are some ideas.

Faceplate work is usually done on wood where the grain goes across the blank i.e. perpendicular to the lathe bed. This is not an absolute rule though! Any item that you have to hold at one end while you turn or hollow the other end can be called 'faceplate' work. Faceplate work does not even have to be held on a faceplate. Nowadays, screwing wood to a faceplate tends to be used for very large and unbalanced pieces of wood and most of us use a simple screw chuck or a 4 jawed chuck to hold our work. You can even get an idea of how to do it with jam chucks from Richard Findley's article in Woodturning this month!

So, what kind of objects will the judges expect to see?



**infinite** number of designs you could choose – If it is relatively flat, you might call it a **platter** and if it is relatively tall, you might think of it



as a **vase**. The outside curve might be **simple** – or it might have an **ogee** shape – or it might **curl over** and **out** at the rim (what I call a reflex rim) – or it can **curl in at the top** on the way to becoming a hollow form! You may even decide to hollow it out through a small hole, making a definite hollow form of some kind. You may decide to add a **lid** to increase the interest and complexity.



The rim could be treated in many ways. It can be **flat** with clear sharp corners – **rounded over** (convex) like a bead, **hollowed** to form a concave feature, **slanted down** to be shorter on the inside and draw the eye into the bowl – you could **carve** away areas to give impact or



leave it with a **natural edge** – with or without bark.

There could be features on the outside curve like **beads** (best seen in odd numbers 1,3,5 etc) or a **raised band**



that is then textured. You may wish to try increasing the complexity by **segmenting** your blank before you turn it. Already you should be able to see that there are huge numbers of possibilities that give you scope to make your entry interesting and individual rather than plain, round and brown. **That is not to say that a simple bowl with good proportions and even wall thickness, beautifully finished, made from a piece of wood with interesting grain cannot be stunning.**



You may decide you want even more of a challenge. How about making something like a **tazza**? This would have a face-plate turned base and top joined by an elegant spindle. Although the spindle would be turned between centres, the majority of the piece would be faceplate turned so it would be counted. Just use your common sense – if you took more time on the faceplate elements than the spindle turned ones, your piece would be acceptable. If you decided to enter a **bud vase** however, the judges are likely to see that as a spindle piece, despite the fact that you held it from one end to drill the hole and turn the inside of the neck. Basically the item is not really turned inside.





A **box with a lid** can also be a faceplate piece. It starts to get more complex if you start to add finials and stems – but keep to the rule of thumb that if there is more turning done from the end rather than the side, it should be fine. Similarly, a **lidded goblet** often has more faceplate work than spindle work.



How about making a faceplate piece then **deconstructing** it by cutting it and putting it back together in another form – or a **multi-centred** faceplate design like Nick Agar – or **extreme carving** – or **piercing** – or **colouring** – or **texturing and colouring** – or **inlay** work. You could even make a **hat!**



Hopefully that has given you some ideas and I will look forward to seeing your pieces in August.

Happy turning

Jennie Starbuck

*The pictures in this article have been taken from image searches using Google. Unfortunately they are not attributed so I have not been able to put the turner by each one.*

## Presentation to Axminster Basingstoke of SAW plaque

During our demonstration in April at Axminster Basingstoke John Sherwood presented a SAW plaque to Sam Triggs the Assistant Manager of the shop and will be displayed whilst in attendance. The event was well attended and Denis Findlay turned some Goblets and Pendants whilst John Sherwood showed how to turn Spinning Tops. Douglas Boud was our front man and handed out membership forms and our schedule of events throughout the years whilst also answering the spectators questions. This event occurs on the 1st Sunday of even months throughout the year and members are asked to support the effort put into this by all the demonstrators and front people throughout the year a big thank you to everyone concerned with these events.



John Creasey

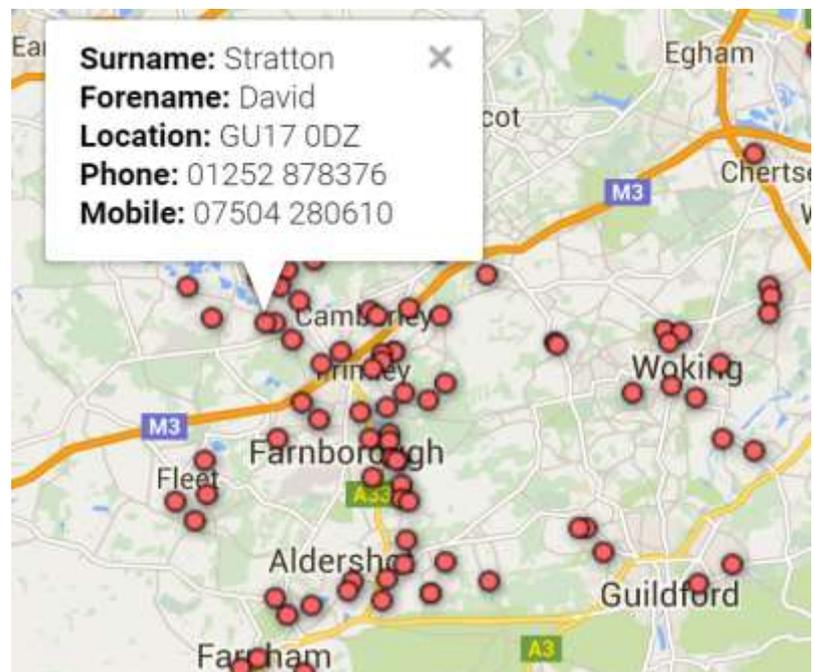


## Do you know who lives in your neighbourhood?

.....A funny title for an article in a woodturning newsletter but let me continue. SAW is a large Club and your committee is always trying to introduce new ideas to the club to improve the experience for members. One of the ideas we have been looking at is to try and give members the opportunity to be able to identify other members that live near to them. This could be for setting up a car share to SAW events or being able to have someone local to call when you have a turning related problem.

We have a large catchment area extending all the way into London and down to Alton and beyond, so it can be difficult to identify where someone lives. Even if you have a list of names and addresses in front of you, it is difficult to identify where someone lives in relation to someone else. Fortunately the internet has come to our aid in the form of Google maps. A clever person has found a way to pinpoint on a Google map the location of all current members and if you click on the pin it can display a name and contact details. It was interesting that during a demo at a recent committee meeting even some of the long standing committee members did not realise how close other club members are to their own location.

A small example of the map has been included here in the newsletter however when viewed online this is a interactive map that allows you to zoom in and out and pan around to find your own location and see the members that are close to you.



The committee would like to make this map available to all members of the club but there are a couple of issues with this. Firstly, in order for this to work the map needs to be online and if not protected it will theoretically be available to everyone with access to Google in the World - not an ideal situation! So, to limit it to SAW members only, the plan at present is to have the map in a secure area on the SAW website accessed by a username and password in a similar way to the newsletter. For those who do not have internet access, we are looking at getting something organised for club nights. Secondly, the current club constitution prevents us from sharing member's data outside the committee without member's consent, which would mean a change to the Constitution and Handbook at the next AGM. So to start things off we are requesting that if you are happy for your name and contact details (Name, email address and/or telephone number) to be present on the map please can you confirm this by adding your name to the list on the club table by the end of the July club night.

Colin Rowe

## February Club Night – Mark Baker

Mark, just in case you didn't know is the editor for the woodturning magazine and a very proficient professional turner.

Mark started the evening by demonstrating turning a small square edged bowl out of a beautiful but expensive piece of Thuja, an oily exotic burred wood which smells like pencil shavings when being turned.

As the blank was quite thin he did not use a screw chuck or faceplate but drove the piece just using a Steb centre drive in the headstock and a ring centre in the tailstock, this as mark explained is ok for driving small pieces but if you need to drive larger pieces he recommends tapping threads in the holes of a faceplate and using machine screws to create a larger Steb drive, particularly useful if you are turning Australian burrs or natural edge pieces as you can adjust the depth of the machine screws to suit the piece.



Mark started by using his bowl gouge using a pull cut to get a flat bottom and to make the spigot, he then proceeded to profile the wings, thinning the blank down to close to the final depth, this was done to try and minimise break out of grain on the wings and also to reduce the risk catching knuckles which really hurts. He then went as far as he could in shaping the outside of the bowl piece using the same bowl gouge.

Mark then talked through his thought process for continuing, is it time to sand or is it time to carry on trying to get a better finish with a different tool. There is nothing wrong with sanding at this stage if you have got a reasonable finish or you don't have the tools, skills or confidence to use other tools.

Mark decided to carry on trying to improve the finish and used a negative rake scraper, he mentions the edge only last for 7-10 seconds of actual contact so keep sharpening it or use a diamond stone to re hone it.



Once completed the bowl outside has a finish suitable for sanding and the wings are flat and don't have any chips. At this point mark would normally sand the outside. The lathe would be stationary and he would use a sanding block to sand the wings and then taking care not to catch your fingers power sand the outside of the bowl shape, once done reverse the piece ready to turn the inside.

Mark reversed the piece using the spigot being held on the serrated jaws of the chuck for a strong grip and proceeded to use the negative rake scraper to flatten the top of the wings until they were at the final thickness.



Once the wings are completed its just a case of turning the inside of the bowl section, Mark likes to keep the tailstock in place for as long as possible even with the strong grip of the jaws. He then removes the tailstock and proceeds to use his bowl gouge to take out the bulk of material in the bowl. Mark reminds us to be very conscious of the wings and take particular care when entering a tool into the wood, think about your approach, right angle, elbows out of the way.



Mark then went through the same thought process as with the outside of the bowl, shall I sand it or can it get a better finish with another tool. In this instance mark decided to use his curved scraper to improve the finish and take out the ridges left by the bowl gouge beforehand sanding the wings and power sanding the bowl.

Once completed mark reversed the piece again into a home-made jam chuck using a scrap piece of wood and kitchen roll to protect the sanded surface and tidied up the jaw marks on the foot. Once completed he passed the piece around the audience for their critique.



Next mark showed us turning a larger dimensioned winged bowl using a piece of london plane (Lacewood). The piece was still a bit on the wet side and was likely to move a bit after turning, there were some faults in the wood and mark talked through how he would decide which way round to mount the piece based on the faults and the shape he was aiming for.

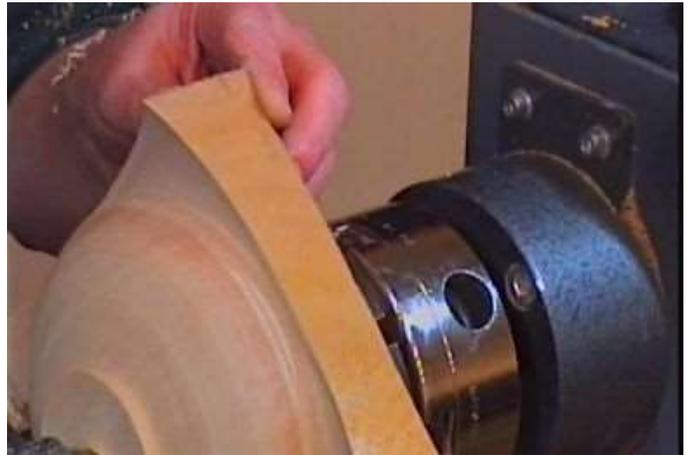
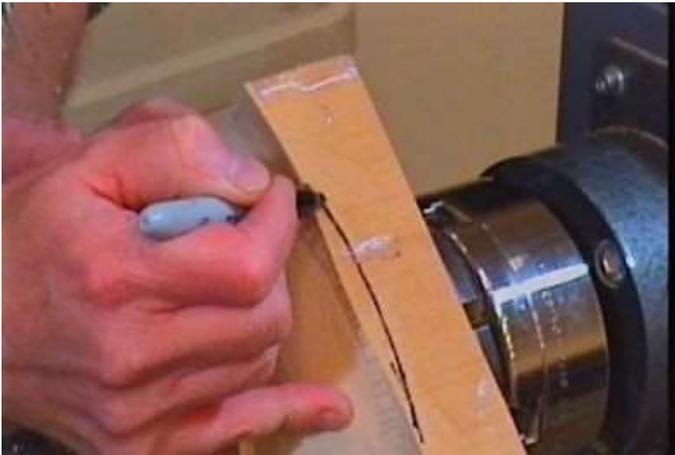


Mark repeated the same steps as he has done for the small piece, pull cuts to clean up the face and to apply the spigot then thin down the wings to protect the edges and your knuckles then remove waste wood to start profiling the outside of the bowl shape.

Now the wings are getting bigger it's important to use good tool technique when cutting the wings, mark went through the correct procedure, using his bowl gouge at the 3 o'clock position start at solid wood and find the bevel and draw the tool back along the wing parallel. This won't cut wood but does now set you up in the right position to move the tool in a mm or two



and then slowly push the tool back towards the centre making a clean parallel cut to the wings or in this case a clean curved cut to make the curved underside of the wings. Mark then showed us the benefit of marking out the rest of the curve he was trying to achieve on the blank so he had a guide line, this makes it much easier to turn the underside of the



wings making a clean attractive curve, mark kept repeating the cuts, stopping the lathe each time to inspect till he had his final smooth curve.

Mark for the demo did not sand the piece but reversed it ready to start the inside of the bowl and the sweep down of the wings, as before he starts with the tailstock in place for maximum



support. Mark then marked out the wing thickness on all four sides to give himself a guide to turn too.

Mark was aiming to achieve an undercut on the rim of the bowl, once he had removed as much material as he could with the tailstock in place this was removed and he commenced with removing the bulk of waste wood from inside the bowl.

Once the tailstock was removed the remainder of the bowl was removed, as mark was aiming for an undercut his entry cut was adjusted to create this, once the bowl shape is made Mark used his french curved scraper to refine the finish inside the bowl. As this was a demo piece



marked stopped at this point so he could finish the piece in his workshop at a later date.  
By Robert Grant.

## Rural Life Centre – April

The Rural Life centre is now under new Management as Chris Shepherd retired at the end of last year. (I would just like to say that Chris was a good friend to the club, whilst I was Chairman it was Chris that sponsored S.A.W. in our successful Lottery application. CS Editor). The weekend started early on Saturday and everyone arrived and got started on setting up the workshop, moving a few things around and setting up lathes etc. Once that was done we all started to set up the display area in the adjacent building. The members were Paul Nesbitt, Alfie Bradley Nesbitt, Rodney Goodship, Claire Goodship, John Creasey, Mike and Max Bennett, Paul Sternberg and Paul Raubusch. My Wife Sylvia sat and watched over the display area. Our Chairman came along and spent the morning with us, which was nice. The weather was good for both days (dry) the sun came out and it was warm in the sun, but when the sun was hidden it was cold. We saw a fair number of people, did lots of talking and had fun with them and Rodney's tricks and toys.

Sunday we lost Claire, John, Paul, Mike and Max but we Gained Harry Snelling, Douglas Boud. We had a much busier day with a lot more people because of the added attraction of the Vintage Car Day. The weather was the same as Saturday. The day passed quite quickly as we were kept busy talking to many more people. It then came time to clear away and like a well oiled machine we all worked together and it all started look like a workshop again. We sold a few things as well, which is always a bonus. All in all a good weekend with good company and we all had a bit of fun. Thanks to all for your contribution to the weekend.



David Stratton giving advice to Rodney Goodship



Display of work in the adjoining shed



Visitors playing with Rodney's tricks and toys



Not sure who is giving advice to whom?  
Rodney Goodship, Paul Sternberg and  
John Creasey.

By Paul Nesbitt

## **The Surrey Heath Show**

This is just a one day event and is now a regular part of our diary. Colin Spain who organises the event on the clubs behalf wasn't able to attend this year due to a recent operation, and was sorry to have missed out.

The day started at 8am to start setting up. Phil Wolsoncroft arrived with a very large party tent which he has donated to the club (3 metres X 6 metres). Thank you Phil. This was the second time out of the box so nobody knew how it went together, so I took charge of the instructions. All of the poles were numbered so that part was quite easy and with good team work we had the tent up in no time at all. Chris Wild arrived with the generator which he loaned us for the day, thank you Chris. We then started to set up the lathe, or rather Alfie did. Everyone else set up the display tables. Myself, Douglas Boud, Phil Hamilton and then Paul Raubusch arrived. Then we were ready for the day. The weather was fantastic but cold each time a cloud came over, so it was coats on coats off for most of the day. Once the gates opened it was non-stop people all day. Alfie started the demonstrations by making a few bowls and then Paul R. took over. Both of the demonstrators talked to a lot of people throughout the day and the rest of us just sat back and enjoyed the sun each time it came out. No not really we talked to a lot of people also and we were able to sell a good number of pieces, so much so we donated £56 to the Surrey Heath charity.

The end of the show came (I am sure I saw a fat lady singing) so we started to clear away and that well oiled machine took over again. Stock packed away, tables collapsed and now time for the tent. If we had filmed it going up it would have been like watching the film going backwards. It was down and packed away in no time at all. Oh and Phil I have done what John Creasey calls plasticized the instructions for you, or in normal terms I have laminated them for you.

Thanks everyone for another great day.

By Paul Nesbitt

### **At lot goes on at the Surrey Heath show**



## An evening with Phil Jones

For the April Club night we welcomed Phil Jones. Phil, a member of the Middlesex Woodturners, is a Woodturner by profession having started turning in 1982 and since 1988 running his own business, Acorn Woodturning Ltd, which is now based in Ford in Buckinghamshire. He was enrolled into the Register of Professional Turners in 2004. For more details and examples of his work and workshops please visit his website at:

<http://www.acornwoodturning.co.uk/>



The evening's demo would contain a mix of turning interspersed with some very sound, and always relevant, advice.

Phil started his demo by covering the essential Health & Safety aspect of the activity ably explaining the risks of inappropriate work wear. His advice is born out of good practice and experience and new and old turners would be wise to heed him. Whilst many attending might view most of his comments as embedded best practice it is always worth remembering that we have a many newer members for whom reinforcement of these important messages by experienced turners is essential to their safety and future enjoyment of the craft.

First up on the lathe was a simple length of pine on which Phil proceeded to produce a series of pommels, coves and beads using a selection of tools and highlighting the benefits of each. Whilst a seemingly simple demo it re-enforces the message that the best results come from being able to do the simple things well, and it would be a useful habit for occasional turners to run through a similar practice before committing the tools to more expensive timber.



The second, and principle, subject for tonight's demonstration was a small egg timer consisting of two lid/ bases (as the unit is flipped to operate, so the ends serve as base and lid alternately) and three columns encasing the glass timer. Phil talked throughout the demo highlighting the relevant techniques. As any final design would be very much governed by individual choice his final product would contain a different design on base and top and three different shaped columns, emphasising the variety of options available even on such a simple object.

TOP TIP. Part of the exercise involved creating three holes in the bases to house to spindles. Phil explained his simple technique. Having turned the base to shape he created a shallow ring mark on the side designated to be the inside face at the distance from the centre that he intended to locate the columns. This he achieved using a pair of dividers. Having set them to the desired radius he placed one at the centre of the base and, with the lathe turning, and then gently touched the other point to the face of the base. (This operation is similar to that used to scribe a line when creating spigots and recesses).

Now for the technical bit, jump to next paragraph to avoid. An equilateral triangle has three sides of the same length and three angles of 60degrees. A circle is divided into 360 and when divided into six equal segments will contain six segments with 60degree angles at its centre. If

a line is drawn between two adjacent points where the radius lines cut the circles circumference you will create an equilateral triangle, where the distance between points is the same as the radius. Two equilateral triangles will form a segment that is one third of a circle and thereby identify the point at which the three pillars will be equidistant.

Ok armed with this information and a pair of dividers set to the radius of the circle marked at a point on the circle where the grain marks cut the circumference at 90degrees. This will be your first hole's location so make a mark with the divider point. Keep one point at this mark and rotate the dividers until the second point rests gentle on the circle mark. Without marking the wood rotate the dividers again until the dividers again touch the circle. This is the location of the second hole. Mark this point and repeat the operation. If you repeat the operation again you should, if you have done it correctly, end up back at the first mark.

Two critical points are. The dividers must be set at the radius of the circle drawn. Repeating the operation three times will prove this, and the first mark must be at a point where the timber grain crosses the circumference at 90degrees. This action, when repeated on the other base will ensure that the graining can be aligned when the unit is constructed.

Drill the three holes on each lid/base and that job is done. (Oh almost forgot don't forget to sand and finish each face as you move through the design stages)

The critical point about the three columns is the length between each shoulder. This should be slightly shorter that the overall length of your glass timer. This will allow you to create a small recess in the centre on the inside of each lid/base to hold the glass securely. Little cuts at a time with regular testing to achieve best fit.

All pieces completed with desired finish then just the simple matter of assembly.

It was hoped that everybody took notice of the demo as the Egg Timer would be the Chairman's Challenge for May.

Next task set for Phil was to turn a ball. This was obviously a task he has performed many time before as he had both a suitable blank and a Perspex template available.

First task turn blank, about 1 and a half times longer than the desired diameter, to a cylinder of desired diameter. Next take template, which had a section cut out slightly smaller than end diameter. This template was then place on one end of the turning cylinder and the cut section effectively burned down to exact size.



Find and mark, with a pencil, the centre of the cylinder. On either side of this mark measure out a distance equal to the radius of the cylinder and make further pencil marks, this will be the area that will form the ball. With a parting tool remove some of the waste on the outside of the ball area, leaving sufficient to maintain drive stability.

Using a series of small cuts gradually remove the waste from the ball area to create desired shape. Always err on the side of caution as remember you can always take another cut off but cannot stick it back on. Use the template regularly to reinforce the shape developing by eye.



Ball complete and time to spare Phil took the Egg Challenge and produced a very presentable output in a little over two minutes, less time that it takes to cook, but still a bit behind the time recorded by Bob French in December.

Overall an interesting and varied program with, I hope something for everyone. It was also very beneficial to have so many of the basic Health and Safety best practices reinforced.

David Stratton.

## Five go for a Wey May Day

No, not the latest Enid Blyton novel, nor our attempt to woo a Chinese oligarch to sponsor our club but a pleasant day demonstrating at the National Trust River Wey Navigation centre at Dapdune Wharf Guildford.

The weather held fine but other May Day events locally may have kept overall visitor numbers down. That said there was a steady stream of visitors to our demonstration and without the crush of numbers we were able to afford each of them more attention than on previous occasions.



Overall interest in our work was high with many complimentary comments on both the quality and range of work displayed, with several pieces finding new homes by day's end. Five turners on four lathes ensured that there was always something on the go, with many a visitor challenged to identify the output as it developed, with varying degrees of success. My thanks go to Mike Spaven, Paul Raubusch, Tony Wellbelove and Colin Rowe for their time and efforts on the day. At the end of the day a donation of £25 was made to the National Trust to

help with their works, which was gratefully received.

Dapdune is a very pleasant venue and one where individuals wishing to try demonstrating would be very welcome. Next trip by the canal set for September 24<sup>th</sup>. Make space in your diary and give it a try.

David Stratton

## **CLUB SHOP**

**Have you examined what bargains are on offer?**

**They include:**

Our own mix of sanding sealer and cellulose thinners now in stock.

Three types of super glue, plus Kicker.

Steel bar to make your own tools

There is also plenty of sand paper, and polishes.

3 grades of Webrax

Ebonising spray etc.

The shop has now got pen kits to sell singly or in 5s.

It also has 2" Velcro-backed sanding discs (60, 80, 120, 180 and 240 grit)

Tack cloths/ safety cloth packs.

We buy in bulk and pass on the discount to members. Any (small) profits go to the Club.