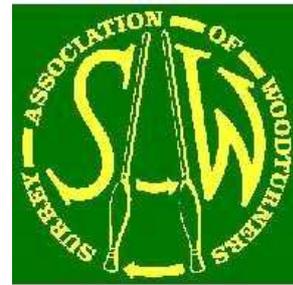


Surrey Association of Woodturners



LOTTERY FUNDED



Newsletter November 2010

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

New Members

Dave White Gaynor White

James White Richard Hook

Colin Rowe

Paid up Membership 174

Items for the Diary

Friday 10th December Xmas Special

Friday 14th January AGM. - Show & Tell

Friday 11th February Stuart King

Sunday 20th February Hands on Day

OPEN DAY 31st October

Although the forecast a few days before was reasonable, on the day it drizzled for most of the day. There were plenty of stewards to help set the two halls up and the judging of the competitions by Nick and Les was completed by about 10.00 so we could open the doors soon after. There was plenty to see.



Nick Agar was demonstrating in the small hall while in the main hall were Jennie, Alan Hazel, Les Thorne and a rotation of Joy and Donald Bell, Paul Raubusch, Richard Davies, and John Creasey all using the Warco small lathe during the day.



Lindsey and her husband were both ill so the club had to provide stewards to sell their items on the Warco stand. Outside under cover David Bracken and a colleague demonstrated planking logs as well as chain sawing, while Phil was selling his timbers as well as turning on his lathe in the other marquee. Southern Fellowship of Wood workers, and Orchard Wood Turners had stands and demonstrated. As chairman of the sub committee Robert Grant needs a special mention for all his hard work both before and on the day.

OCTOBER EVENING

Our demonstrator was Jennie. However we were a little thin on the ground for audio and video technicians as several were away and Chris had to set up Jennie's

equipment. Dave had been given a crash course and did very well.

Jennie & Chris joined SAW as a result of wanting to build some furniture to match an item bought then. Chris made an Oak table using an attachment on a Wolf Sapphire drill. They joined SAW then went on courses with Reg. Slack, Tobias Kaye and Melvyn Firmager,

There is no room in the garage for the car. This has been extended several times over the years and now has equipment for Jennie's wood turning etc and Chris's metal working. At Christmas and Birthdays they usually buy each other tools. Should you visit you need a large ball of wool to lay a trail so as to find your way out!

For demonstrations Jennie has a Charnwood lathe which Chris has modified with a larger motor and inverter to give more power and slower speeds. Jennie was inspired by seeing Jan Sanders use of colour and showed us an early example which had blue colouring and then Liming wax applied. Jennie showed us the different colour which can be air brushed. She demonstrated how she uses a beading tool. She talked about the use of plastic beads and compounds such as Inlace. Jennie likes to cover leaves etc. in a large recess with resin of a complementary colour or maybe with powder such as brass.

Chris has a CNC mill on which they can produce trophy plaques. The designs and wording can be fed into the computer. I am not sure if this has a spell checker! By using different cutters it does produce some very fine work. This design and lettering is then filled with the resin compound of your choice and the surface cleaned and sanded to give an excellent item.

Jennie went on to show us how she creates a thin bowl from a piece of Sycamore. With the cost of wood as it is, she suggested that rather than take heavy cuts to get near to the desired shape, we should practice finishing cuts all the time to improve our technique. From the edge of the spigot she showed pull and push cuts to create the outside of the bowl. Take care, as some shavings can be hot. Jennie then shear scraped any torn grain with a ¼" skew and sanded the piece.



Reverse the piece in the chuck and starting from about 1cm from the outer edge start your cut. The bevel needs to be in line with your intended cut. Some people use thin parting tool to make a cut for the bevel to rub. To ensure the timber does not flex too much the middle is removed last and the thin section is turned a step at a time. Once the desired thickness has been obtained it is impossible to go back to the top edge again because it will have changed shape and will vibrate.

Both Jennie and Chris like their gadgets. When I queried the thickness of the wall of the bowl, Jennie proudly showed off a digital calliper which measured the thickness as 1.8mm. If the piece vibrates too much, you carefully support the back as you cut – or you can try using a heavier tool.

Jennie showed us how she uses stick on transfers and then removes parts of the shape with her dental drill. This was a really interesting evening. For more details visit Jennie's web site.

www.artycraftywoodturning.com

November Evening

Paul had other commitments, so Jennie had the job of introducing Chris Eagles. Chris lives in a little village near Evesham which has a population of only 71. He did not like driving on the motorways to get here. He does not rate himself as a professional turner and does not do production work. He will undertake commissions, he helps 5 antique furniture restorers and is a tutor at the college that was the start of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Recently he made a candlestick 5 foot 4 inches long. He has a bench made to the correct height to take his variable speed Vicmarc 100, with drawers and a shelf for his tools. His Creusen bench grinder is mounted on a box so that you can see to sharpen your tools without having to bend over. He talked a little bit about health and safety and then went on to show the axes he uses to split wood. He invited a member to use a Fro to split a sycamore log in half. This was cut down only 10 days ago. The Fro is a long blade sharpened on the underside which is supported by a vertical handle. This should be driven into the wood using a maul but in this case a lump hammer was used. Splitting it through the heart wood reduces the tension and will stop splits forming. One half was then split further to form a square section. Chris then used a side handed axe to trim the square section to a round, which he mounted between centres. He used a gouge to reduce this to a cylinder and used the gouge upside down to give a finishing cut. He then showed us his skew with a curved blade.



This meant it was impossible to get a dig in when using a planing cut. It was also good cutting end grain. Thus he made a tool handle.

To make a natural edge bowl with the other half of the sycamore log he used a circular disc of stiff card secured to the centre of the bark. This would be cut around with the band saw. He had another log already cut to shape which he mounted between a Stebb centre in the head stock and a ring centre in the tail stock. A spigot was made to fit in his Oneway chuck. This he prefers to the Vicmark due to it being of manganese and its better engineering. A gouge was used to shape the outside of the bowl, turning the gouge over for the finishing cuts.

Chris has several ply templates, one gives the size for the spigot, others give grinding angles and one thick one in the form of a triangle with a hole in the middle is used to sharpen his point tool.

The blank was put in the chuck and Chris showed us different tools to take out the centre of the bowl.



First we were shown a hook tool, then a ring tool, which is sharpened on a slip stone or card file and finally a Rolly Munroe tool which has a very controlled cut and does not clog as the shavings come out of the top of the cutting head.

Chris then placed a small log of wet Eucalyptus between centres and cut a spigot so as to mount it in the chuck. He used the hook tool, ring tool and Rolly Munroe to shape the inside of a shallow goblet. A low wattage energy saving light was rigged to shine into the bowl. From the

colour of the light showing through, he was able to judge the goblet thickness as he shaped and formed the stem. He cooled the goblet with a water spray. Rather than having a straight stem Chris prefers a shape similar to a tree trunk. The base is shaped and using a parting tool the goblet is undercut and removed. This would be dried out in a microwave on defrost for several bursts of 10 seconds. A very entertaining and informative evening.

Axminster Tools – "Strictly Woodturning" Event, 28-29 October 2010

Donald and Joy Bell (bell@marchland.org)

Axminster Tools – "Strictly Woodturning" was a woodturning event with a difference – 130 "delegates" (is that the right word?) 11 expert demonstrators, a competition, a dinner, discounts at the shop, and the *piece de resistance*, a contest against the clock involving all the experts. In the final play-off (somehow "turn-off" is not the right word) Jason Breach narrowly defeated Nick Agar 41 points to 39. In fairness it must be said that Nick's bowl blank was riddled with woodworm – the dust cloud rose 10 feet above his head! Also Jason works for Axminster and his wife Madeline was one of the four judges on the panel – yes OF COURSE it was a fair contest! (well, it was their first wedding anniversary).

Each morning and afternoon session of the two day event provided an opportunity to visit the demonstrations of two expert turners. Each one was in a separate classroom of the Axe Community College. Usually there were about a dozen people at each demonstration. This meant that it was possible to ask questions, make comments, request a pause for "up close" examination and handle or photograph the finished pieces. Or even take one home for finishing. Joy did this with one of Les Thorne's boxes and entered it (anonymously) in the SAW competition two days later (Les was one of the judges, and he was also demonstrating his "boxing clever" at SAW).

Unfortunately there will not be a "Strictly Woodturning" event in 2011, though there will

be the AWGB event in Loughborough – at twice the price.

What did we learn? – well, woodturning can be a lot of fun and there is always something new to try. Mark Hancock produced a goblet with a thin stem and a captive ring – actually it was a very, very thin stem, seriously bad for the blood pressure of those watching who were of a nervous disposition. Then he proceeded to steam it into impossible curves.

In complete contrast, Colwyn Way, one of the Axminster turners, showed how to make simple Christmas decorations, a great variety of them – he made it look easy – maybe a good topic for a future article for SAW.

Stuart King, on a visit to Marrakesh, had made a video of a street vendor turning a chess piece with a captive ring. He had a bow lathe, at pavement level, and used only one tool for everything – a sort of Gary Rance skew. One hand operated the bow, the other controlled the skew and his bare foot held it on the toolrest. On the day, Stuart made some of his flowers from freshly cut sticks of holly, coloured of course, and also made a vase to put them in.

Several turners gave us an insight into the procedures for producing pieces in large numbers. Glen Lucas sometimes gets an order for hundreds of big salad bowls from a big American department store. When he takes deep cuts from a big blank, he works left-handed to make sure that the shavings go straight over his shoulder and into the skip. He can fill 3 skips in a day! Les Thorne demonstrated the use of the Gary Rance "copy fingers" for repetitive spindle turning – the strip metal "finger" rests on the piece until its diameter goes below a set value, then the finger drops.

Ray Key showed the use of superglue for a glue chuck (to move the blank a few inches away from the scroll chuck, for example). Make the surface of the blank smooth, put a scrap piece in the scroll chuck and make it smooth, too. Coat the blank with superglue and spray the scrap piece with accelerator. Bring the surfaces together, wait for only three seconds and then start turning!

And everybody, or so it seemed, had their own special way of shaping or sharpening a tool. And using it for push-cut or pull-cut or shear-scrape. Did you know that there are three types of groove in a bowl gouge – V-shape, U-shape and parabolic. Two of them are brilliant and one is rubbish (but don't ask me which is which).

The Axminster shop was offering a 5% reduction during the show - and they made a lot of sales. By the way, if you are an AWGB member and go to the High Wycombe shop you can get that 5% off all year round.

Excellent food, good company and lots to learn. We'll be back in 2012.

SAW CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

There appears to be some confusion as to when members should renew their Membership. Although the clubs financial year runs from the 1st January until the 31st December, The membership year has to be different. Otherwise no one would be eligible to vote at the AGM. So membership for most people expires at the end of January and they will pay the next fee at the AGM or the following month.

Children still at school are classed as Junior Members and only pay half the fee. After the 1st August a new member is asked to pay half the annual fee to cover them for the rest of the year.

From the 1st of October, the payment of the full fee (at present £25.00) will cover that member for the rest of that year and the whole of the next year irrespective of the fee being increased at the next AGM.

Some notes from Jennie

Mentor Scheme Insurance Cover

The committee have recently checked on the extent of the insurance cover under our existing policy for members taking part in the Mentor scheme,

Hands-on day and as club demonstrators. As with many things to do with health & safety and insurance, common sense has to prevail, or nothing would ever be achieved. We feel that members need to be aware however that if they are actually turning at a club activity they are not covered for personal accidents by the club insurance but members around them (or the general public) watching them are.

We hope that this will not put people off taking part as demonstrators, mentors, tutors or participants in mentoring and hands-on day.

A note will be added to the latest handbook. Current members should add this section to the blank pages at the end of the handbook.

Risk Assessment Review

The committee have done their annual review of the club health and safety policy and have agreed that it does not need to be changed for 2011. A copy of the policy is always available on the club events table run by Neil Lofthouse at the back of the hall every club night. We rely on every member to be aware of their own safety whilst taking part in a club activity and to inform a member of the committee as soon as possible if they see anything they consider to be unsafe.

December Practical Evening Events

Turner of the Year and the Club Competition

For members who were not present at the last club night for the notices (and

for those of us who have 'senior moments' and have forgotten, we will be running the 'Turner of the Year' competition at the December practical Evening.

Anyone scoring 9.5 or 10 from the 3 rounds of the Club Competition should bring in their piece (if they still have it) and hand it in at the table set up for the competition in the main body of the hall. The Club competition will be judged on the stage in the first half of the evening and any pieces scoring 9.5 or 10 on the night will be added to the Turner of the Year table.

After the tea, coffee and mince pie break members will be given a voting slip and they can vote for their favourite piece of work. The turner of the piece with the highest number of votes becomes 'Turner of the Year 2010'. Trophies will be handed out at the AGM.

Our Christmas Charity

This year we are supporting a local charity, 'Quest' which provides riding experiences for disabled children in our area.

There will be a collecting box by the tea/coffee and mince pies. We do not charge for refreshments at the December meeting but hope that members will make a donation instead to our charity. 'Quest' raises money in a variety of ways which include sales tables at public events. Any turned piece we donate to the charity can be sold during the year to add to charity funds. There will be a table in the main body of the hall for your donated pieces. They do not have to be 'Christmas' items.

Storage Facilities at the Mytchett Centre

The Mytchett Community Centre is currently finding it difficult to store equipment of all the organisations using their facilities. This along with a need to reinstate the referee changing rooms is causing the centre to rethink its storage allocation.

SAW has been using the centre for nearly 20 years and are grateful for the space we have been given, free of charge all of this time. However the community centre is a victim of its own success and the space we use is desperately needed for what it was designed for!

The committee has been discussing the issue and we want to be as co-operative as possible and help the Mytchett Centre team, who do so much for us.

The committee feel that the answer to the issue is to purchase a free-standing, secure metal container for all of our equipment. This would be in the grounds of the Mytchett Centre. Some initial investigation has confirmed that a container would be secure and would be able to be made free from damp and condensation. Other benefits for SAW would be the ability to store all of the club's equipment in one place, rather than the four different places we have at present, and to have access to the equipment for outside events with a minimal amount of fuss to SAW members or inconvenience to other centre users.

This option is not yet fully costed out but would most probably be in the region of £2,500 in which we would use the clubs contingency savings to cover, so would **not** be specifically asking for membership fees to increase just to cover the cost of this project.

The committee are interested in finding out the members thoughts on the storage issue and would like to hear your questions, comments or ideas on this issue. If you have any comments can you please direct them to the club secretary in writing or by email by the end of December and they will be considered before we make any financial outlay on your behalf. Feedback and further information will be forthcoming at a later date.



Paul's Last Paragraphs

October Club Night

This was our club turner evening and the demonstration was presented by Jennie Starbuck. This was a very informative evening, with a very well planned programme. Although I was busy with preparations for the Princes Mead Event I saw quite a bit of a very interesting evening. I also listened to members comments which were all good. Thank you Jennie.

Princes Mead

This proved to be another fun filled day with lots of members turning and demonstrating. We had a good display of work and the members sold a lot of their own work also. We were able to speak to a lot of people and thanks to our stewards pass on lots of leaflets for the open day. A good day was enjoyed by all. Thanks all for your efforts.

Open Day

I believe the day was another success. I do not have final figures at the time of producing these notes. The halls seemed to be busy all day long. Once again the stewards and helpers did a great job. The competition display was tremendous and of course we won the inter club competition. A few thanks need to go out here. The sub committee members for the organisation, all of the stewards and helpers, the club demonstrators. Well done to you all for a splendid day.

November Club Night

I am afraid the one demonstration that I wanted to see and I could not be there,

DAMN!!!! I have been told by many that they thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Hands on Day

This had to be cancelled at very short notice due to a personal loss to me. I am sorry for the inconvenience caused to all. Another date will be arranged to compensate.

December Club Night

This is our last practical night of the year and also the culmination of the club competition. So hopefully there will be lots of pieces on display. We will have another nominated charity for the evening and will be looking for donations of the money kind and also pieces that they can sell at shows etc.

THE AGM

In January we will hold the AGM so do not forget to get your nominations in on time for any one that has agreed to be a committee member with you. I am sure there are people in the club that could help to improve the club and being on the committee is the first step. This is my last time as the Chairman as my three year term finishes after the AGM.

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.

COMPETITION WINNERS	
Beginners Faceplate	
Name	Position
Adrian Cobb	1st
Adrian Cobb	2nd
Adrian Cobb	3rd
Paul Raubusch	H/C
Paul Raubusch	H/C
Novice Faceplate	
Name	Position
Douglas Boud	1st
Arthur Hughes	2nd
Jim Goodman	3rd
Geoff Goddard	H/C
John Creasey	H/C
Jim Goodman	H/C
Intermediate Faceplate	
Name	Position
Linda Jones	1st
Jim Gaines	2nd
Linda Jones	3rd
Donald Bell	H/C
	H/C
Open Faceplate	
Name	Position
Basil Gridley	1st
Bill Riley	2nd
Jennie Starbuck	3rd
Mike Morley	H/C
	H/C

Beginners Spindle	
Name	Position
Adrian Cobb	1st
Paul Raubusch	2nd
Paul Raubusch	3rd
	H/C
	H/C
Novice Spindle	
Name	Position
Geoff Goddard	1st
Jim Goodman	2nd
Geoff Goddard	3rd
	H/C
	H/C
Intermediate Spindle	
Name	Position
Brian Mitchell	1st
Jim Gaines	2nd
Denis Findlay	3rd
Jim Gaines	H/C
Denis Findlay	H/C
Open Spindle	
Name	Position
Rodney Goodship	1st
Paul Nesbitt	2nd
Rodney Goodship	3rd
Joy Bell	H/C
Colin Spain	H/C

Invitational Competition		
Howard Overton	1st	Orchard

Eric Voles	2nd	SAW
Frank Hayward	3rd	Orchard

Presidents Platter	Rodney Goodship	
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Vice Presidents Platter	Adrian Cobb	
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Table Top Competition		
Surrey Association of Woodturners		1st
Forest of Bere Woodturners		2nd
Orchard Woodturners		3rd

Richard gets lots of Emails from the public asking for members to undertake small commissions. Here is his idea of how to deal with the problem:

I'm producing a list of turners who are willing to take on commissions from people outside of the club. The list will contain the members name, contact phone number, email if applicable and home town so the customer has a geographical idea of location.

I can then forward this on as I get requests for commissions and it would be down to the customer to make contact with the chosen turner/s. The benefit is that the customer will get instant access rather than wait for a club announcement which could be almost a month away. Possibly some turners may make a few quid. If anyone is interested then please let me know and I will include your name. I intend to put the list in the Newsletter a couple of times a year for openness.

My thanks to Joy & Donald Bell for their article on the Axminster weekend "Strictly Wood Turning". This was accompanied by several pages of photographs which I hope to include in the next issue due at the end of January. This issue will have a report of the Christmas evening and the AGM.

