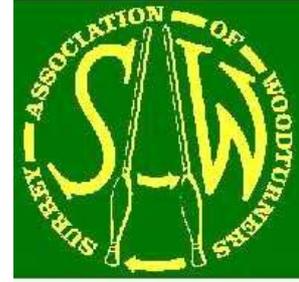


Surrey Association of
Woodturners



Newsletter November 2012

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

New Members

David Bright Bill Smith Dave Shrimpton John Gilliland Pete Slade

Paid up Membership 162

Items for the Diary

Friday 14th December Xmas Special Friday 11th January 2013 AGM

Friday 8th February Phil Jones Sunday 24th Seminar Mick Hanbury

Friday 8th March Practical Fri/Sat 8th 9th March Southern Show

Change of E mail. Please note that our chairman, David has changed his address to david@turning.me.uk

Paul's new Mobile Number. 447757365.

A date for your diary: This was sent to Richard from Kew Gardens.

Tuesday 22 January 2013 **From Timber to Treen** – Useful woods at Kew's Economic Botany Collection includes one of the world's largest collections of timbers and wooden objects. Its curator, Mark Nesbitt, will show you some of its amazing treasures, ranging from ancient Egyptian woodwork to Victorian furniture, including Kew's Holtzapffel collection.
7pm, admission £5.00.

For this lecture booking is essential – call 020 8332 5626 or email adulated@kew.org or go to <http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/whats-on/events-calendar/talks-courses/index.htm>.

OCTOBER

Our demonstrator was Alan Hazel, a member of the Register of professional Turners. His demonstration was to be in two parts, making a closed flower bowl and his research in to waterproofing the inside of vases and drinking vessels.

He started with a 9" sycamore blank mounted between centres and created a spigot to fit his chuck and shaped the underside of the bowl. The piece was reversed and fitted into the jaws. Alan then cut a 3" diameter hole in the face. He showed us various tools to hollow out the

piece, from a Kelton tool to a large cold chisel held with Mole grips. He has made his own tool for undercutting which because there are two shafts on the tool rest will not twist.



When starting to shape the top leave a lip for the cap and continue to finish the bowl shape. Sand to 320 or 400 grit. Remove the bowl from the lathe. Alan had glued two half inch thick pieces of Mahogany at 90° to each other. This block was held between the face of the chuck and a revolving Stebcentre. This was rounded and a spigot made to fit in the hole in the top of the bowl. He then cut out the centre to make a ring.



The next part is best completed on a pillar drill. Alan used a fine drill to make four holes opposite each other on four sides of the ring. A small groove had been cut to make it easy to locate the drill and also hide the fine wire which was fed through the holes to make a grid for the flowers to sit in.

After tea Alan talked about his experiments with various substances to try and keep water in a vessel without it seeping through or cracking. In this photo you can see the series of test vessels that he made. Sanding sealer, oil and cellulose does not work after one coat but may with more. Chestnut hard wax half worked. Fast glass resin works as does Boat Resin. If any members do their own experiments, please let me know the results or even better write a small article for the newsletter.

PRINCESMEAD Saturday 6th October

Because I had got back from holiday the night before I did not demonstrate or take my pieces to sell. However I called in during the afternoon. There were several lathes there but not all of them were in use when I was there. There was a lot of interest in the items for sale. I know Phil did well as did Rodney & Claire.



OPENDAY 28th October

The Committee were very worried, Axminster were not coming and in the last week we found out that Phil Irons was also not coming. We therefore felt we had to reduce the entrance fee to £3.00 and give raffle tickets to those who had paid in advance. We would have to accept that we would make a loss.



It was a fine day weather wise and we had a lot more visitors than last year. The raffle made £14.00 more than last year. Rather than be stuck outside in a tent, Phil was selling his timber up on the stage. Our judges/demonstrators had full audiences. People leaving said that they had enjoyed the day.



NOVEMBER EVENING

Our demonstrator was Tony Walton from Essex. He intended to show us a thin walled pot. A wet Holly log was fitted between centres and reduced to a cylinder with a bowl gouge. One end was cleaned up and a spigot created to fit the chuck. He has a Stebcentre which fits into a small face plate that fits in his chuck. He also had a wooden cover that fits over the tail stock to stop punctured elbows.



Using a ¼" bowl gouge he hollowed out the wood using a lamp on the outside to indicate the wall thickness according to the colour of the light shining through. He hoped this would be about 1 to 1.5 mm. The base of the vessel needs to be slightly thicker for stability. The tool rest was lifted so a round nosed scraper could be used to finish the inside. Then the lamp was moved to the end and shone inside so that the outside of the base could be completed after reducing the speed. This was shaped to a point and parted off with a skew.

In order to decorate some butterflies designs had been copied on a laser photo copier. One was stuck to the vessel using masking tape so the ink image was next to the wood. Tony then used a P O Blender pen to rub over the image which softened the ink and transferred the image to the wood. An old credit card was then used to burnish over the paper and complete the transfer process and the paper removed.



A fine drill connected to a compressor was used to complete the decoration. You need to remember to leave some space between the holes or the design will fall out! A bristle brush was used to remove the tiny bits around the holes. Tony was selling these. You had an arbour and two different size bushes according to how many of the brushes you intended to use. The flat wheels were colour coded similar to different grits. I bought a kit with three red wheels (240grit) for £13 odd.

Tony then fitted a kiln dried piece of Maple in the chuck and proceeded to produce a truncated cone with walls about 4 mm thick. He cut pieces out so as to make a three legged stand for the decorated pot. Tony did not do any sanding but would usually sand

the outside 240 to 600 grit and the inside from 120 grit up. Depending on the amount of decoration these would sell for between £35.00 to £300.000.

After tea he showed us a bottle stopper in a piece of Sandalwood. He had made a wooden chuck to take the screw fitting from an Axminster chrome bottle stopper. As a finish Tony uses Rustins Plastic coating. Beware a little will go a long way. An extremely interesting evening. When Tony got home he measured the thickness of the vessel. It was 0.6mm! No wonder it flexed when you held it.

EDITORS NOTE. For a long time I have been asking members to produce an article for the Newsletter. Kyle has taken the plunge and put pen to paper as he does not have a computer. I have typed it up so any spelling mistakes are mine.

My First Commission by Kyle Scott

I started turning on my own lathe in 2006 after my daughters and wife gave me a lathe for my 65th birthday. I am self-taught using Phil Iron's two in one manual with some help from Don Robins, the guy from Coventry who I introduced to some of our members at our November meeting where he generated quite a lot of interest with his very varied items on our show table.

Over the next 18 months or so I made many pieces, mainly based on Phil Iron's manual. Most of these were snapped up by our many family members. I had by this time joined SAW. I must add that I have thoroughly enjoyed our monthly meeting, picking up lots of tips and ideas.

During the later part of 2008 we had a visit from my golf mad brother Michael and his wife Janet, both of whom showed lots of interest in my turnings.

Michael, a member of Congleton Golf Club for over 35 years, was past Captain (Millennium Year). He was to become President at the end of 2008.

Some time later he told me that traditionally the President supplied various trophies for club events during his Presidential year. He said these were the usual glass bowls and golf related items.

Michael then informed me that he had a brilliant idea. Over the past few years they had felled and lopped various trees on the golf course, and wouldn't it be a good idea if I could turn a couple of bowls using Congleton Golf Course wood. I reluctantly agreed, thinking I could manage 3 or 4 reasonable items.

On his next visit 'en route' to Southampton to pick up a three week cruise ship he arrived with a boot full of Congleton logs and to my horror a list of fourteen trophies.



During the next three weeks my lathe hardly ever cooled down and I managed the 14 items and a couple of spares for him to take back to Congleton when he returned from his cruise. As you can see from the photos they were various designs and made from Beech, Birch and Sycamore. The finish was sanding sealer, friction polish and Carnuba wax.

Michael was delighted with the results, as were the club members who all appreciated something really different at Presidents Prize Day 2009.

I have since turned a few items as retirement gifts for Club staff and committee members.

The latest item was the plinth for a Crystal Glass Memorial Trophy.



WIZARDRY IN WOOD

Wizardry in Wood is an exhibition and competition organised every four years by the Worshipful Company of Turners. This was held over four days in the magnificent Carpenters' Hall. I visited on the Thursday. There was lots to see. Behind the administration desk was a room displaying all the many competition entries.



Who made the drum?



Stuart King, besides his own display of items for sale was demonstrating his renovated copy of Leonardo da Vinci's treadle lathe. With the large wooden fly wheel it kept rotating in the right direction.



I was able to talk with Les Thorne, Mark Hancock, who now calls his twisted goblets “Kinky Goblets” Nick Agar had a very interesting piece which looked a little like a conch shell made of Hackberry wood, which he has seen growing in France. He had planned to take it and sell it in the USA for a vast sum, However he has sold it here for the sterling equivalent but is upset that he does not have the time to make another.

There was an interesting display of turned items from the Mary Rose. One was a Parrel (part of the rigging) which went into space on the last flight of Endeavour. Also shown was the Royal chairs used on the Spirit of Chartwell. The finials were turned in English Oak by Stuart Mortimer.



Hands on Day Sunday 25th November



There were five lathes with tutors and Robert giving instruction in sharpening. Working on the Warco lathe I had David and John. After lunch when Richard's Lathe gave up the ghost Paul joined us. In the morning we made a finial in Oak and a lidded box in the afternoon. I understand everyone enjoyed themselves. A day's tuition for £10.00 cannot be bad.





Wood Dust and Words – The Ramblings of a Chairman

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. 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. The nomination forms are attached to the newsletter. This is my last rambling as the Chairman as we are planning to move to the West Coast of Scotland sometime during 2013 I want to thank Peter for his work on this newsletter and all of the members of the committee for their support and hard work. I will continue to be an active member of the club until we move, so you haven't quite got rid of me yet.

The AWGB is one of the sponsors for an award for groups and clubs who can demonstrate 'Epic' voluntary arts activity in 2011/12. SAW has submitted an application for this award and the shortlist will be announced on 14th December.

Putting together the information for this award made us realize how much promotion work we do as a club and for the art and craft of woodturning. It includes trade shows, promotion in public places like Princes Mead Shopping Centre and the Rural Life Centre, and of course our Open Day. All these are embedded within our programme promote our craft and the club.

The programme for 2013 is being finalised and will be available at the AGM. After a year's break we will be running the all day seminar again. The date for you diary will be Sunday 24th February and the professional turner will be [Mick Hanbury](#), get this in your diary now as it looks to be a great day.

The December meeting is our Christmas special, this year's charity is [Surrey Association for Visual Impairment](#). (SAVI) There will be a table for us all to donate any pieces that SAVI can use for fundraising over the next year. There will also be a table of tools for sale, guess the weight competition and the quarterly club competition. We also have the turner of the year competition which we will all be able to vote on. Do not forget, if you have had a piece in the club competition that has scored 9.5 or 10 during the last 12 months, bring it along to enter the competition.

I would like to thank all the organisers and helpers for the October Open Day, setting up was hectic however there were a 100 more people than last year through the door. At last year's AGM the Committee was asked to look at the running of the Open Day and decide if it needed any changes. So to help us evaluate this I am looking for feedback from you on how you thought the Open Day worked.

The club facebook page has been active again and there have been a number of us sharing information. Richard explained that parts for the Car-b-Tec lathe are now becoming harder to find, Paul posted a photo of his display at a recent craft fair as well as posting a photo of the new Excalibur chuck he just acquired. There have also been copies of the local newspaper articles of the last practical night and the Open Day.