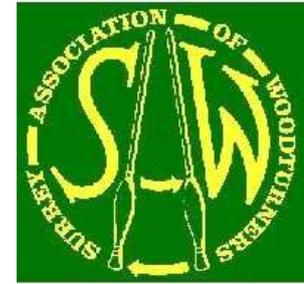


Surrey Association of Woodturners



Newsletter November 2013

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

Stop Press: *Our chosen Christmas Charity this year is to be the “British Heart Foundation”. So please remember to bring along pieces you have no further need for - or make a new piece to donate to the charity.*
Please come and offer your support at December club night.

New Members

Welcome to	Tony Burns	Member No. 692
	Roger Chivers	Member No. 693
	Dave Everitt	Member No. 694

PAID UP MEMBERSHIP 151

Items for the Diary

13th December Christmas Special
10th January 2014 AGM.

Jim Gaines October Club Night

New: Look out for TOP TIP's

There may be 1 or 2 in each news letter. There that's your first one.

In fact if you have a tip to share email it to me at colin.spain1@virginmedia.com

Keep it short, and if we are happy with it, I will include it in one of the newsletters.

This October's club night demonstrator was our very own Jim Gaines, he of the interesting and elaborate segmented work. He started turning after retiring from forty years in the building trade.

Jim joined SAW in 2008 and despite representing the club at various events through the years this was his first foray as sole demonstrator on a Club Night. One might expect, and excuse, first night nerves from any new presenter but Jim showed none of these and soon had the audience in fits of laughter with a string amusing stories. His only plea being what happens at Club Night stays at Club Night.



Jim explained that he is a self taught turner, and that his involvement with turning, and hence SAW, stems from his being a keen photographer with a strange affection for letter boxes. Wishing to produce a model of a post-box in Eton, Jim found a need to for 54 small balls. Not content with sourcing these from Hobbycraft (other retailers are available) he purchased a small lathe, a few basic tools and some timber and then, without any formal training on tool usage, set about manufacturing the balls himself. Some of us who claim a basic

understanding of woodturning might have questioned his tool of choice, a Spindle Roughing Gouge, but none can deny that the pictures of his end product circulated proved a great testament to the quality of his initial output. Jim did however admit that the final 54 were the best of the 70+ he produced. Proving once again that if at first you don't succeed try again.

Jim pointed out that in an ideal situation the working height of the centre of a lathe's drive should be roughly level with the user's elbow. In his own workshop this is accomplished by utilising a raised floor. No such facility was available at the centre and he challenged the committee to seek clarification of future turners needs.



The object of the evening's demonstration was to turn two vases from laminated blocks.

Piece one was a block circa 16 inches long and 4 inches square. This block was made up of two sections of Box Elder with a Utile/Elder/Utile insert circa 4 x 2 each which had a laminated insert set at 60 degrees through the middle. The effect on each half was one of two large light sections sandwiching a dark/light/dark laminate, each laminate section being circa 3/8th of an inch thick, passing diagonally through the centre. These two large elements were then bonded together with the laminated diagonals being opposed yet with tops and bottoms level.

Jim stated that when he started laminate work he had used standard PVA glue, although tonight's pieces had all be prepared using Titebond III.



The piece was turned between a Four Prong drive and a standard Live Centre. Under normal circumstances Jim recommended that Ring Centres be used as in extreme cases it is possible that the pressure from the point of a live centre might force the block to delaminate. Members sitting in the front rows were advised to remain attentive throughout the demonstration.

Starting with a Spindle Roughing Gouge Jim quickly turned the block to a smooth cylinder. This action identified the upper and lower location of the laminate extremities and guided the balance of the finished piece. The overall design of the vase was to be in a classical Grecian style incorporating

slender flared neck above a wide shoulder a smooth flowing body supported by beaded collar and wide base.

Throughout the presentation Jim took his own unique and pragmatic approach. His choice of tools was not always as one might have expected from other demonstrators but only proved that care and control are more important than using specialised chisels. This on occasion gave rise to a number of progressive design changes, highlighting the benefits of a flexible approach to the final product.

The piece, which would be finished at home, would eventually include a drilled opening in the top which would enable the vase to be used to display dried flowers.

After tea Jim embarked on his second item. Again a vase in a classical shape. This piece was comprised of eight sections. The centre was constructed of four pieces each circa 1 inch square and 16 inches long, two dark wood (Utile), two light wood (Sycamore) these were glued together to form a larger square with the matched colours diagonally opposed to each other (just like the centre of a Battenberg cake). The central 10 inches of this block was encased by mid tone timber (oak) each section circa ½ inch thick, 2 ½ inches wide and 10 inches long. The overall effect was of a very large square Christmas cracker.

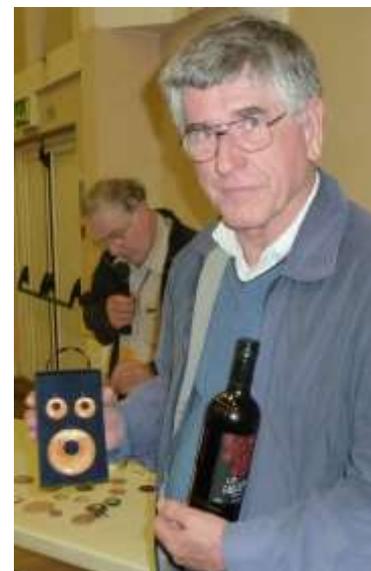


This vase was turned in the same fashion as Jim's first display. The final effect was to produce a vase with four ovoid cheeks with contrasting central core. The final finish being dependent upon the finished diameter of the vase.

Overall Jim provided an interesting, and often humorous, presentation removing much of the mystique surrounding laminated work and dispelling fears relating to the need for expensive specialised tools. His presentation was much appreciated by all attending.

October Club Night Table top competition

At the September club night Paul set a challenge for members to make a pendant similar to that made by Frans Brown. There was a very good turnout, all to a high standard, but the pendant and matching earrings made by Denis Findlay had a very deserving win, not only were the turned items stunning, but the presentation case made them stand out, so well done Denis.



Paul's Postings

Hello to you all.

How time flies, this is my final writing for this year, where has it all gone. As a club we seem to do more and more every year. I have not really had a lot of time in the workshop yet again. But in December I hope to be able to do some work for me.

Now let me start to recap. After the last newsletter was published we had our final visit to the Rural Life Centre for this year. I was unable to be there on the Saturday but did attend on the Sunday. From what I was told about Saturday and what I experienced on Sunday, everybody had a great time. On the Sunday we were visited by two people who were doing a video for a local classical singer. They had been filming a lot of different crafts and had chosen to film woodturning. Now I am not too technical about these things, but once they had filmed it and then played it back it was slowed down by 800 times. This was really interesting to see. I will not say too much more at this time except they have promised us a copy of the finished film and we can then either show it at the club or loan it out to you all. Watch this space. Thanks to those who attended.

Our next event was a club turner, Jim Gaines, and what a turn. This was Jim's first time at doing a woodturning demonstration. He talked about his methods of laminating and showed lots of different ways to make the patterns that he achieves. This was all mixed with his style of humour. A very interesting evening Jim, well done and many thanks.



The next day we were at the Princes Mead Shopping Centre. As always we were busy talking to people and selling our wares. This is a great venue for us as a club and is a good chance for members to sell their items. We had five lathes working throughout the day and a good amount of banter between ourselves. Thanks to everyone who was there. Then there came our big event. It all began at 8am (well the day did) and thankfully we all had an extra hour in bed thanks to the clocks changing. It all went like clockwork with a team of well organized helpers. Other clubs,

demonstrators and trades people arrived and set up quickly. This was done so well we were able to open the doors half an hour early. The day went well, we tried some different ideas and I think they worked well. So many people told me that this was the best show ever. This was the end of a year's planning by the committee members and we have already started to plan next years. Massive thanks go out every single person that helped on the day; this includes the wives, mums, friends and anyone else that I have not mentioned. Oh of course the committee members for all of their hard work throughout the year.

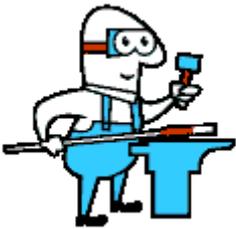
For our November club night we had Colin Simpson. His subject matter for the evening was involuted turning, or as the Americans call it, inside out turning. Colin went through all the stages and kept us well entertained for the whole evening. His style and ability to explain things in great detail continued throughout the evening. I think a good evening for all.

The club nights now have a little bit of fun where I choose a subject from the demonstration and then get you to bring them in and I choose the one I like the best with a bottle of wine for the winner. We have seen some nice pieces so far. Please keep up the good work and effort. Some of you will read this before our next club night, which is our last practical night of the year and the last chance for the club competition. We have a chosen charity The British Heart Foundation and we will be looking for donations with boxes around the hall. Tea/coffee as always is free with a mince pie also.

I hope that I have not forgotten anything, so that's all for now.

Paul

Rural Life Centre Tilford, September 14th and 15th



If you haven't been to visit the Rural Life centre as a visitor, you really should! The centre is trying to keep alive memories of how things used to

be done and it is crammed full of interesting exhibits. Whenever possible they have volunteers actually doing the old skills like smithing and bodging but their static exhibits are really interesting to look at too. This year they have set up a fully furnished pre-fab and it is amazing to see things you used as a child in a museum! (That shows my age!!!)

SAW has been taking over the centre's workshop two weekends every year for so many years it is difficult to remember just how many – certainly more than 10! This time we were booked to coincide with the Classic Car event on Sunday 15th. This meant that the Saturday was quite



quiet – especially as the weather was cool and damp after some splendid weather over the summer. However, for the volunteers it gave us an opportunity to work together, share ideas and skills and talk to visitors in depth and in a very relaxed way. John Creasey, who is always looking for ways to advertise the club, had arranged for a photographer to come so a report could go into the local paper to advertise Open Day and club membership at the same time. The photo that was published of Rodney Goodship, concentrating fiercely with a pencil in his mouth was quite eye-catching.

Sunday was a much busier day! With about 400 classic cars, their drivers and passengers plus the enthusiasts who came to look enviously at cars they wish they owned, we had crowds of visitors all day.



Rodney had a selection of his turned wooden puzzles out and stewards encouraged visitors to try their skills at balancing a dozen nails on the end of a single nail, making a small propeller turn to the left or right by just asking it nicely or launching a small wooden rocket without touching it!

Over the weekend, more than a dozen SAW members were present, turning and answering questions about SAW and about woodturning. Our youngest member Alfie was turning small bowls, with occasional advice from his Granddad. Having 2 lady members, Jennie and Dorothy

demonstrating took some visitors by surprise too. Turning is not just for retired gentlemen! Members can display and sell work and although it is not primarily the reason to be there, on busy days, work does get sold!

Luckily the threatened deluge held off and the reasonable, if chilly weather made it a very successful weekend. We make the effort to support the centre twice a year as we know it helps them increase the numbers of visitors they get through the gates – but it also helps the club gain new members – brings wood turning to the public, one of our aims, and it provides a safe venue for less experienced members who want to start demonstrating to ‘have a go’ in a friendly supportive atmosphere.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members who gave up their time to support the club by turning or stewarding over the weekend. Our next booking at the Rural Life Centre will be the weekend of Saturday April 26th and Sunday 27th (a week after Easter) Lists for volunteers will go out in the New Year. Please think about coming along for a day – you will really enjoy the experience!

Jennie Starbuck



Caught relaxing at Rural Life Centre, Dorothy's version of the Red Shoe Diaries. Sorry Dorothy - could not resist it. CS

Top Tip's

When using a water based finish, this can raise the grain which can spoil the finished item. So before applying the finish and you have sanded down to 400 or 600 grit, then dampen the surface with water via either a mister or a paper towel this then raises the grain, re-sand once dry. This should eliminate it happening when the finish applied.

Surrey Association of Woodturners Annual Open Day and Show

Despite extreme weather warnings for later in the day, everyone we expected arrived at the Mytchett Centre on Sunday 27th October - a big improvement on last year when, at the last minute, three traders dropped out.

Traders braved the elements to bring a wide range of timber blanks, planks and tools to the show and there were plenty of turners for members and visitors to watch, pieces of turning to look at, things to do and people to chat to.



Stuart King entertained visitors with his humorous slant on the history of woodturning and anecdotes about his work with Time Team whilst demonstrating his effortless turning skills. The other professional turner ‘wowing’ the crowds was Andy Coates, currently the Chairman of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain. He produced some really excellent pieces whilst explaining to the crowds watching him, all the technical details of how to achieve the same results.



Stuart King and some of his signature hazel flowers, and Andy with a delicate, thin-rimmed bowl.

Also taking part were members of four other woodturning clubs - Cheam Association of Woodturners, East Surrey Woodturners, Forest of Bere Woodturners from Havant and Orchard Woodturners from Kent. They joined in competitions and set up some club stands including demonstrations of turning. This year's winners of 'the President's Gavel' trophy were Forest of Bere Woodturners with a magnificent and varied display of work, themed on Halloween. We all have a lot to do by next year to compete with that! Howard Overton from Orchard Woodturners won the Open Individual competition again this year with a very technical and absolutely beautiful vase.



Part of the Forest of Bere table with the trophy and Howard Overton's vase.

As well as a Table – top competition between the 5 clubs and an Individual Open Competition, Saw held its own annual competition which celebrated the work of its members over the past year. Stuart King and Andy Coates judged the competitions and certificates were handed out

at the end of the day. The club will be celebrating all of the successes in a trophy presentation at its club night on December 13th.



The winning pieces in the SAW Open spindle and faceplate competitions. Robert Grant's ball on a stand and Rodney Goodship's segmented vase with a lid.



Crafters enjoying decoupage!



Part of the GMES display.



A new and very popular addition to the event was a practical crafting table run by Flutterby Crafts. It was busy all day with groups of visitors trying out decoupage while other visitors looked on.

Two other clubs took part. The Southern Fellowship of Woodworkers had a display including old hand tools and superb joinery - and for the first time, the Guildford Model Engineering Society set up a stand including part-built and finished model trains. They have invited SAW to their summer show for the past 2 years and it was excellent to have them join us. Their amazing display provoked a lot of interest. The halls were packed and there was a great deal for visitors to see, do and find out about.

Three SAW club members, including our youngest member, Alfie Bradley Nesbitt, also turned during the day on a club lathe to entertain the visitors. Alfie aged 10, who has been turning on his own and demonstrating for nearly 2 years walked away from the competition with a huge sheaf of certificates and rosettes celebrating his competition successes.

Club members provided tea, coffee and cake to visitors from the kitchen in the centre and excellent hot food was supplied outside by Dave from 'Simply Fresh'. The addition of an outside mobile caterer meant that we could all indulge in our passion for bacon butties without filling the centre with black smoke, setting off the fire alarms and getting a visit from the fire brigade (as happened last year!)



Rodney Goodship making shavings for SAW



A rare picture – Chris Starbuck actually doing some turning rather than being Jennie's 'gopher'! (You know – he goes for this and then he goes for that!)

From the main hall, it was easy to forget about the blustery weather. The sun was shining and it was delightfully warm for the time of year. However when clearing up started and the hall doors were opened, a chaotic whirlwind of wood shavings from the floor around Andy Coates' lathe made us all aware of how lucky we had been with the weather and gave the people clearing up a challenging job of sweeping it all up – they had to catch it first!!!

The treasurer and committee were delighted that

visitor numbers were up on previous years despite the weather warnings and that everyone was so complimentary about the event. The 2014 event is already booked for Sunday October 26th! I would be very grateful if visitors and members – especially new members for whom this was their first Open Day – would take the time to email me with any constructive criticisms and suggestions. We want the event to help members and visitors as much as possible – so we need to know what you liked and where you think we could improve the event. (js@starbuck.me.uk)

I really enjoyed talking to visitors about decorative techniques in between turning during the day. I now have some illustrated notes about the techniques I use and if you want them, just email me and I will send them to you.

Finally I want to say a huge **thank you** to everyone who volunteered their time to make the event what it was – from the small sub-committee who organised everything beforehand to every member who helped on the day.



Jennie Starbuck

A day with Jimmy Clewes



I sent out an invitation from Cheam Association of Woodturners for members to join them on Sunday 10th November for a day seminar with the legendary Jimmy Clewes. Surprisingly only 3 members took up the offer. Chris and I are members of Cheam anyway and had booked our tickets a year ago when the date was confirmed. So, just 5 of us experienced what, to my mind was, the best seminar I have ever been to in my woodturning career!

For those of you who don't know his story, Jimmy started turning professionally over 25 years ago and was a regular demonstrator for SAW. As his fame grew, he was drawn more and more into working in the USA until, finally he moved permanently to Los Angeles. Jimmy has a

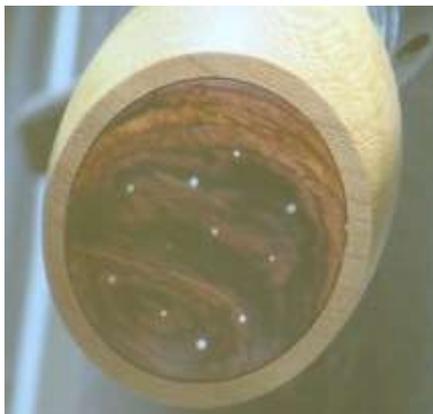
background in design and magical skills with turning tools. He is the kind of turner who looks at a piece of wood – sees the shape in his mind – makes a couple of efficient passes with the tool – and there it is! Not only that, but he is a brilliant teacher and entertaining speaker. Time seems to speed up when you are watching him demonstrate – and he seems to be talking directly to you in his soft Geordie accent.

So, you all missed a fantastic experience!!!!

Cheam had organised the event very well. Their new camera on a long boom did a good job of capturing the detail of Jimmy's tooling techniques on a big screen. Tea and coffee appeared magically when it was required and the simple catering (a huge table full of trays of fresh, tasty sandwiches and wraps from the Sainsbury's superstore next door) was perfect and very filling.



There was a simple raffle at £5 a go to win the first piece Jimmy made (and since the going rate for one of his pieces is about \$2000 it was quite a prize). Jimmy first made an elegant winged box from a square of timber and a separate smaller square for the lid. His second piece was a box with a darker wood inlay on the lid with real silver dots set into the dark wood and finally he made a thin vase from a piece of wettish ash. We had to pull the curtains as the bright sunshine dulled the screen – so many of us did not even know how nice the day was outside and I'm fairly sure we all wished the day could have been even longer.



AV System Report - A picture is worth a thousand words...

But only if it is the right one! Those of you who were watching Colin Simpson's demonstration on the big screen may have noticed that there were more *Oops I didn't mean to switch to that camera then* moments than normal. The reason, apart from incompetence, was that I was using a new control unit for the cameras.

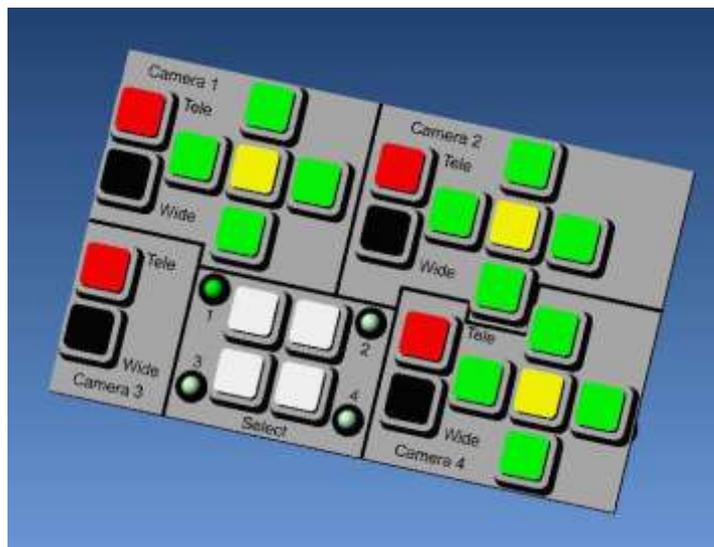


The old unit is shown here. The switches were the cheapest available, as I wasn't sure at the time how much use the unit would get when I made it. Whilst they have lasted 5 years, they have always been uncomfortable to use, as they have small tops and need a lot of push! And now they are starting to come apart, so it seems to be a good time for a change.

When I designed the unit we only had one remotely controlled pan and tilt unit (on camera 1, the one that looks over the turner's right shoulder)

although the zoom could be controlled on all four cameras. Since then we have added a remotely controlled pan and tilt unit on camera 4 (the one straight in front of the turner that you all fall over when walking up the central aisle :-)) and are now buying a unit for camera 2. Camera 2 looks over the turner's left shoulder, and is not usually used as much as the other cameras, except when the turner is doing spindle turning, as in the last two demonstrations! The camera is mounted on the 'goalpost' rig, and has to be aimed by hand at the moment. This is only possible when the rig is in position, and then the camera is too high to reach, so it involves climbing on something to do it. There is also the problem of where to aim it. I had it nicely aimed for the first part of Jim's demonstration, but then at half time he put the chuck on, and I didn't notice until suddenly the piece of wood was 3 inches away from where it had been, and the camera was aimed wrong!

So I have made a new control unit, shown here. It has four (white) buttons to select any of the four cameras, two zoom buttons (red for Tele and black for Wide) for each of the cameras, and five aiming buttons (four green for Pan and Tilt, and a yellow one for Faster movement) for three of the cameras. The fourth camera (actually camera 3) is the one on the tripod that I move by hand, so doesn't need a remote pan and tilt.



And while the unit is similar to the original, obviously there were times at Colin's demonstration when I hit a camera select button when I meant to press a zoom button, and suddenly the wrong picture was on the big screen!

So there are the thousand words (well 476 according the word count) explaining why the pictures were wrong. And now for the adverts...

When Don, Robert and I are all at the club meeting, we can manage to get the equipment set up OK, but if any of us are away, it becomes rather more of a struggle to get it all done in time.

It would obviously be better if more people know how to do it, so we are always looking for volunteers. If you want to learn about setting up the system, then come and see one of us, but preferably on a night when all three of us are there, as trying to set the system up on your own, whilst people are asking questions, can be a bit fraught!

Putting away is also speeded up with more hands, so alternatively come and volunteer then.

Finally, if you fancy having a go as cameraman, director, and producer, then we would be glad to share the benefits (?) of our experience with you. Why not come and sit beside us in a demonstration, see what we do, and if you want, have a go! (And of course if you are an expert, you can tell us what we are doing wrong!)

Chris Starbuck

Workshop Update – A Report on progress David Bracken

Last time I wrote an article for the newsletter we had completed the roof but were unable to get the floor laid as the scaffolding for the main house was in the way. Since then we have re-floored the loft, rebuilt the building at the side of the workshop, put a front on the open part of the workshop and knocked through the dividing workshop wall. This now gives me 32 sq meter of workshop space, 12 sq meters of tool store, 48 sq meter loft store, and 14 sq m of store for garden equipment etc. The loft store will be used for wood storage and drying and the garden store moves the mower, strimmer etc from the shop.

I have realised that the workshop setup I need for the next 18 months is different for what I will need when I am concentrating on lathe work, for this reason I am not rushing to set-up the shop, but using the time to experiment on what works. I have failed to find second hand kitchen cupboards to use as storage for tools etc, well I did think I had one but the kitchen fitters didn't use the required finesse and it all ended up in landfill instead of being up-cycled.



Outside from the South West



Inside from the south



Inside from tool store door

I have placed the vicmarc lathe on two strips of lead to stop any damp and to make sure that it has settled well into any undulations in the concrete floor. I have saved all of the old gutter downpipe and will be utilising this to store my collection of turning tools, however I have not sorted out the detail of this yet.

Dust extraction is always a good starting point, in my last workshop I had the extractor unit outside which worked well in keeping the dust and noise of the extractor down, so I am thinking of doing this again with one modification. This would get rid of the collection bag and to blow the dust straight onto the compost heap. I have a 22 inch thick wall to knock through and only want to do this once so I am hanging on until I know the compost heap is in its permanent place. In the meantime the ceiling placed dust filter is in place, just to keep general dust down. The first time I setup one of these I made the mistake of thinking I would use it to clear dust from around the lathe as well, however I soon realise that sucking dust from the working area on a lathe to the ceiling, going past your mouth and nose is not a clever idea! I have a habit of forgetting to switch off the air compressor which then normally fires up and 5.00 AM waking all but me. To solve this I have an electronic touch switch that can take a load of 20 amps and keeps the compressor on for 2 hour periods. I need to wire in extra sockets and have been searching eBay for a load of second hand ones. I did think I had cracked this when I found an auction for 10 double sockets, all pink in colour, however I was severely



out-bid, I think I may give up the second hand search as the price difference and postage does not warrant the effort . The other issue on wiring is getting new circuits tested; luckily there is a man in the village who can do this for me. I am thinking about a small finishing area that will be totally dust free for air brushing and drying of items. At present this is just a thought.

David Bracken

Top Tip's

Keep your lathe bed free of finishing materials like sanding sealer, melamine, paint, etc, a build up will cause your tailstock to be hard to move. Use a silicone based wax to help it slide.

Regularly check your tool rests for indents as these will stop your tools sliding freely and any indents can magically transfer marks to your work. So use a file to keep the surface even.

CLUB SHOP

Have you examined what bargains are on offer? They include:

Our own mix of sanding sealer and cellulose thinners
 Three types of super glue, plus Kicker .
 Steel bar to make your own tools
 There are also plenty of sand paper, and polishes
 3 grades of Webrax
 Ebonising spray etc.

We buy in bulk and pass on the discount to members.

Any (small) profits go to the Club.