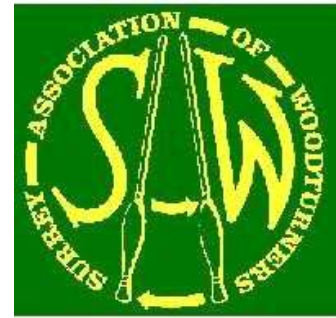


# Surrey Association of Woodturners



## Newsletter November 2016

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

### **New Members**

Welcome back Mr. Brian Wooldridge Member No. 138  
Welcome back Mr. Dave Horner Member No. 82  
Welcome to Mr. Keith Mosley Member No. 740  
Welcome to Mr. Stephen Lock Member No. 741  
Welcome to Mr. Daniel Doyle Member No. 742  
Welcome to Mr. Nigel Scott Member No. 743  
Welcome to Mr. Albert Collister Member No. 744

### **TOP TIP's and articles**

If you have a tip or article to share please email it to Colin Spain at the address shown in contacts at back of this newsletter.

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

**PAID UP MEMBERSHIPS for 2016 are 156** (As of going to press)

### **Items for the Diary**

4 <sup>th</sup> December	Axminster Basingstoke Store	Club Demonstrators
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Special	Practical Night
13 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Club Night	Annual General Meeting

### **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 at the address shown in contacts at back of this newsletter. (Sorry, in .jpg file format only)

### **IT'S A WIN, WIN OPPORTUNITY.**

#### **SAW 100 Club 2017**

Since its establishment in 2014 the SAW 100 Club has paid out nearly £900 in prize money and raised a similar amount to help the Club's funds, becoming both a rewarding and beneficial way of supporting the clubs activities.

The Xmas Draw will see three prizes of totalling £135.55 with first out of the hat getting a cheque for £81.30. A very nice early Xmas present.

The final draw will be made at the AGM in January, when enrolment into the 2017 100 Club will commence.

Now, however, is the time to start getting ready for 2017 and application forms and Rules will be available at both the December and AGM Meetings, as well as from the SAW website. (<http://www.sawoodturners.org/handbook/100%20Club%20Rules%20V1.pdf>).

I look forward to welcoming existing and new supporters to the SAW 100 Club.

Best wishes to all for a Happy Xmas and Prosperous New Year

## John's Jottings - November 2016

At last, our intrepid band of turners who represent the club at outside events have been able to have a bit of a break as most events have stopped for the year. When they start up again, please do consider joining us at one of these events to turn in public. You don't need to be a Nick Agar or Mark Baker, if you make shavings the public will be in awe of you and it's very enjoyable to see their interest and answer their questions.

If anyone full of new ideas for the club feels they must join the committee, we will greet you with open arms. The committee make great efforts on your behalf. I am going to single out one person in particular. He's at Mytchett at about 6 O'clock on club nights getting the electrics sorted and that is Colin Rowe. He is a tower of strength to the club. If you can stay for five minutes after the meeting, we can always do with some extra help clearing away - many hands make light work.

I hope many of you made it to Wizardry in Wood this year. One expects the professional displays to be superb and they were. I thought the competition pieces were quite stunning. There were lots of names there that were new to me. The most common comment that I heard was 'How do they do that?' I just wish I could have even thought of doing *that* in the first place. Having been inspired, you probably have four years to think about your next entry!

It is now the evening after Open Day. I wish to thank the Open Day Committee for a terrific job. I didn't hear a grumble all day; to the contrary everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Jennie's email reminder about the Club Competition certainly turned out a lot of entries on the day. I thought the quality of entries in general and in the beginner and novice classes in particular, very exciting. Thank you Sylvia, Joy and Claire for managing the competition room so efficiently.

Mark Baker's final comment – 'Best Open Day yet!'

### **Workshop Day Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

The next workshop day will be on Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup>.

If you want to book a place, please sign up on the list on the Club Office Table or contact Colin Spain (details at the end of the newsletter). Cost £10 and bring your own tools, wood and packed lunch. Please do not bring any timber that makes toxic dust. It is difficult to keep dust levels down in the small hall, even with no sanding. Please look up toxicity on a web site like this to check how unsafe the timber you want to turn is and what allergic reactions it can cause.

<http://www.wood-database.com/wood-articles/wood-allergies-and-toxicity>

*Jennie Starbuck*

## Jennies Feedback on Open Day

I was strategically placed for people to drop by and chat as they moved from hall to hall. The overwhelming feedback was "how good they thought the show was this year". Visitors seemed very engaged with all of the demonstrations and exhibitions and there was a definite 'buzz' to the day.

Mark Baker told me that after he finished judging, he had no idea what the time was until 3.15!!! Possibly one of the longest continuous demonstrations on record. Many visitors said how much they enjoyed and were amazed at the huge range of work on display. Mark also felt that the work on show was inspirational for every turner who attended.

It was good that, eventually, SAW put together an excellent display of work in the club competition and our table top was an improvement on last year's entry. Thanks go to the

members who made work for the table top (which they could not enter into the club competition).

The AWGB stand looked extremely professional and Colin Smith, our regional representative and the AWGB member supporting him spoke to lots of visitors.

Colin, was very impressed by the show - and by our club - as quite a few members took the time to ask him about the Kent scouts jamboree I mentioned in a recent email and expressed their willingness to help. He will send me more details as soon as he has them and I will pass them on to members. This is a very worth-while venture which carries on for 5 days in the school summer holidays. Even if members could volunteer for one or two days it would be a great help.

From my vantage point I could also see how busy the organising team of committee members were all day and how much effort they put in to make the event the success it was. To them and to all the stewards and helpers I offer my grateful thanks on behalf of the club and the visitors.

## **Peter Montcrieff-Jury Demonstration**



I think that most peoples' first impression of our October turner was one of envy. The last time many of us had a head of hair like that was 50 year ago or more!

Pete's theme for the evening was 'using alternative material'. In this case pewter, specifically using a decorative ring on a goblet stem. Pete had several ingots of pewter, which he had prepared by melting down old pewter mugs. Pewter made after the 1900's in Britain and America is lead free. Older than that they ought to be worth more as antiques than turning into blanks!

The first ingot Pete tried to turn was set into a wooden former, which was to be held in the chuck jaws. The ingot promptly fell out so we had to resort to using a screw chuck. The ingot was drilled from the flat side and mounted the same way. To turn the pewter Pete selected a spindle gouge - it looked like a 3/8 from where I was - and this was used in a sheer scrapping mode. A couple of passes got rid of the muck and we were left with a bright shiny piece of metal. The shape was then refined to suit the overall design of the goblet. Once that was achieved he added some decoration by way of a Henry Taylor "decorating elf" with extra definition from the edge of a chisel.

The ingot is then turned round on the screw chuck. The next job is to flatten the edge to see if the thickness will be even. The adjustment to the running of the piece is very high tech – give it a belt with a tool handle! The inside is now turned away carefully so as not to touch the screw chuck. As with many hard woods a scraper will produce a very good finish on the pewter. The final little piece left by the chuck is taken out with a skew chisel, using the pointed end.

The bowl for the goblet was made from a pear blank, which he turned down using a skew chisel. Once this was firmly held in the chuck he set the depth of his hollowing by driving a

spindle gouge straight in to the depth required. He then took out the bulk of the waste with a ring tool, which may have been an unusual choice for new turners. The pip in the bottom came off with a scraper.

Pete then turned the outside with a taper to the base, the thin end becoming the rim so that it was comfortable to drink from. It was finished by sheer scraping to form a spigot on the bottom of the goblet to fit through the pewter disc. The pedestal-handle-stem, whichever terminology you prefer, was then turned quite conventionally with a hole in the top for the goblet spigot to seat into.

Pete's final comment was that turners seem to be quite set in their ways and we should experiment more.

## Open Day Completion Results and Photographs



### Open, Interclub, Judges choice, Presidents & Vice Presidents Platter

Award	1st. Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> . Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Highly commended
Presidents Gavel Interclub competition	Forest of Bere	Orchard Woodturners	Surrey Association of Woodturners	East Surrey Woodturners
Judge's Choice Platter		Jennie Starbuck		
Presidents' Platter		Mike Spaven		
Vice Presidents' Platter		Sid Dodds		
Open Invitation	Howard Overton, Orchard turners	Mike Haselden, Forest of Bere	Neil Innes, East Surrey	David Moore F.O.B.  Frank Hayward, Orchard  Chris Simmons, East Surrey



A total of 76 pieces were submitted for the Interclub Open Invitation and Open Invitation  
Howard Overton, Orchard turners



Mike Haselden, Forest of Bere



Neil Innes, East Surrey



Chris Simmons, East Surrey



# Surrey Association of Woodturners Club Competition

Number of pieces submitted by club members for judging/ display are as follows:  
 Beginner 25, Novice 16, Intermediate 21, Open 16, Premier 29 open the results of the judges pick are shown in the following table:

Premier Face Plate	Jennie Starbuck	Colin Spain	Rodney Goodship	
Premier Spindle	Rodney Goodship	Rodney Goodship	Jim Gaines	
Open Face Plate	Claire Goodship	Mike Spaven	Robert Grant	
Open Spindle	Mike Spaven	Mike Spaven	Geoff Goddard	
Intermediate Faceplate	Colin Rowe	Colin Rowe	Colin Rowe	
Intermediate Spindle	Colin Rowe	Colin Rowe	Colin Rowe	
Novice Faceplate	Sid Dodd	Sid Dodd	Duncan Clark	
Novice Spindle	Sid Dodd	Sid Dodd	Sid Dodd	
Beginners Faceplate	Julia Hammond	Julia Hammond	Mary McCabe	Damian McCabe
Beginners spindle	Julia Hammond	Mary McCabe.	Melissa Tague	



Premier Face Plate

Premier Spindle





Open Face Plate



Open Spindle

Intermediate Faceplate



Intermediate Spindle

Novice faceplate



Novice Spindle

Beginner faceplate







Beginner Spindle



Mark Baker



Simon Hope



View of Main Hall

**The Surrey Association of Woodturners thanks the following traders for their support of the Open Day.**

Axminster Power Tools Basingstoke  
John Davies Woodturning  
Simon Hope Tools  
Paul Howard Tools  
Proops  
Phil Wolsoncroft Timbers  
Jo Sonja UK Paints  
Artycrafty Woodturning  
Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (AWGB)

The success of our open day is linked to the Participating Clubs who demonstrated and showed their members turnings:

Berkshire Woodturning Association  
East Surrey Woodturners  
Forest of Bere Woodturners Association  
Orchard Woodturners  
Middlesex Woodturners Association  
Surrey Association of Woodturners



**The S.A.W. Offering**



**Top Tip**

Each cut can be a practice cut for the next cut and finally to the end cut. If you take time to stop the lathe and examine the work surface you have a chance to spot early problems while you still have wood left. Make any corrections you feel may work (Change the tool approach, angle, bevel rubbing, sharpness, actual gouge suitability, use of sanding sealer to stick fibres together etc) then re-examine the work surface after each practice cut. Wood is a valuable resource and most of it ends up on the floor – if, in making the shavings you have practiced and improved your technique, then that is a real gain!



## Stuart King Demonstration



Stuart King is a very old friend of the club. He is one of the few professional turners 'out there' to have taken an interest in the way woodturning has developed over the years and has a deep understanding of the life of an old bodger in the woods. He has travelled around the world seeking out craftsmen in various countries who still use primitive turning equipment like bow lathes. He has talked with them and filmed them. His interest in archaeology (he was often called upon in the 'Time Team' series) is still a very important part of his life.

When I booked him I had to avoid the summer months as he is involved in a woodland dig which has unearthed some turning related artifacts – specifically turned ear decorations. With a bow lathe and very simple tool he has managed to re-create these earrings with a simple home-made bow lathe. He has even managed to do it with a flint tool! Please look at Stuart's website to find out more. [www.stuartking.co.uk](http://www.stuartking.co.uk)

On Friday when he came to us, he had spent the morning at the dig – even though there had been a heavy frost – that is dedication!

Stuart planned the evening around simple pieces that even very inexperienced turners could try. He was not intending 'teaching skills' but in showing ideas. He used a number of very simple tools (often tools that started out as something quite different). He was **not** saying that we should reshape kitchen knives or trawl through car boot sales for old tools – but that he followed the example of his father and did such things. *(However, as an aside, if you don't know the origin of the tool you are using or have experience working with metal, it is probably best to buy tools from reputable manufacturers in the first instance – as, used correctly, you shouldn't have any major catastrophes with them).* Stuart also used some very good-natured timber to work with – holly, which he had seasoned himself from wood he had cleared from the woodland dig. Holly turns very sweetly. It is white and has little visible grain pattern which allows you to make lids of boxes without having to worry about matching grain – or even using the same direction.

He warned us though, that seasoning holly can be unpredictable. He has found pieces that have turned green as they have dried *(I find they most regularly turn black and crack!)*. It is possible to get a very good finish on holly without sanding.

His first project was a small, simple ring box. He prefers (he assures us) loose fitting lids. However the piece he made had a nice tight fitting lid – 'a pure accident'. He then showed us two ways of decorating the lid with inserts.





He had a small off-cut of ebony (which he would not usually use but it had been very cheap) and added some decoration using the Elf tool. (*We have one of these tools in the tool loan kit – so anyone can borrow it to try it out without having to buy it. That way you will know whether it is worth the money and whether you will use it. We will have it out at the Friday Practical evening and you can try it then if you wish.*) Using gold paste, he highlighted the design, by just rubbing it in and then buffing it off. He then made a new end which he textured with the elf and his home-made chatter tool. He then used some iridescent paint and when it was dry, sanded the top lightly so the high points showed black. He then parted it off making a button which he inset into the top of the box with superglue. The only tricky bit of the process was making sure there was enough depth in the lid.



In the break, he drilled a small hole in the centre of the disk and after the break he made a 'Bill Jones' alternate ivory flower. In doing this he reminded us of the skills of the late Bill Jones. Bill had been a '4<sup>th</sup> generation' ivory turner.

*Having once watched Bill make one of his signature boxes from start to finish – everything had a screw thread to hold it together – I have always been in awe of the skills Bill had, and it was a great privilege to see him work.*

The simple flower shape was turned into the end of an alternate ivory rod; the petal area was decorated with the elf tool and parted off leaving a short stem. Stuart then used another home-made tool spinning on the lathe to cut the petals. BEWARE – don't try this at home unless you really understand the principle



A small, round saw blade is used (see the picture) but when it spins the teeth are **dragging** – not cutting. If you don't do this, you are likely to cut your fingers down to the bone ... **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED**

You then push the edge of the flower onto the revolving blade to cut down the side of a petal. Stuart did no measuring – just cutting by eye until the petal was shaped. He suggested the flower should be polished with Brasso or T-cut.

The flower was then glued into the hole in the centre of the box top.

Stuart's next project was a miniature Wassail bowl and John has set one of these (any size) as his chairman's challenge for Christmas.



Wassail bowls were passed around. Typically, they held about a gallon but bigger ones (up to 2 gallons) have been made. Stuart's was more manageable – being egg-cup sized for a quail's egg!  
A Wassail bowl is a complex beast. It is, traditionally, a lidded drinking vessel with a finial on the lid that itself is a lidded bowl – designed to hold spice

With the size of the lower bowl, the upper bowl was tiny and the lid minuscule – it is impossible to describe the method. It was made out of holly so the grain direction did not matter. Stuart first made the lid of the 'large' bowl, which he parted off. He apologized for not having time to hollow the underside of the lid. (*So – please note – if you make one for December, you should!!*) He then hollowed the cup, checking the lid fit from time to time. At this stage, Stuart introduced us to the concept of a French lid – or 'Toulouse lid'!

He reminded us to undercut the foot of the cup so that it would stand properly when parting off.

Finally he used an off-cut of holly to make the 1/8" diameter spice cup lid – which he kept offering up and finally made into a small finial before parting it off.

With most turners that would have been the end of the evening – but not Stuart...



Finally, with just an old, home-made skew chisel and a piece of 'skip wood' (probably pine) he turned a chess piece complete with coves (yes with a skew!) and a captive ring! This was one of the items he saw turned by a Marrakesh turner who used a bow lathe and a skew. The man sat on the ground – one hand doing the bowing and the other holding the skew – with his foot supporting the tool!!!! Footage of this is on Stuarts DVD and on his website – well worth viewing if you can.

I hope all of you who came enjoyed the evening. It was full of gentle humour and wonderful skill. Let's see how many Wassail bowls John has to judge in December!!!



### Top Tip

The key things to remember in cutting a spigot are:

**1 Use the right diameter for your chuck, ideally the “near” perfect circle for dry wood but allow 10% extra for wet wood (re-turning and shrinkage).**

**2 Use as long a spigot as possible , especially with a long overhang (a 12 mm long spigot has 4 times more leverage restraint than a 3 mm long spigot but leave a small space between the spigot and the inside surface of the chuck\*\***

**3 Ensure the spigot to work surface is square before forming a dovetail. Use a shoulder on a bowl if possible to help with alignment and re-chucking.**

**4 Ensure the chuck jaws are tight on the spigot (don’t use a death grip to tighten up) and check tightness periodically especially if wood is not fully dry**