

Surrey Association of Woodturners

## Newsletter September 2006

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



### New Members

Paul Grant

### Membership – 173

### Items for the Diary

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24 Sept Rural Life centre

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct Alan Hazel

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct OPEN DAY

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. Henry Taylor Tools

### Items wanted

This is **your** newsletter. If you have an interesting story or top tip to tell please send it to the editor.

### August Practical Night

Is it really 5 months since the last Practical Night? I always get nervous prior to the event in case something goes wrong, or a demonstrator fails to turn up. We have a good crowd and no one has let me down yet.



There are always a lot of phone calls during the organising process. Bit like first night nerves but with no second night, until you start all over again in a few months.

My thanks go out to all those who made it a success.

Mike Pither was on the Poolewood, he was originally going to turn a bowl using a large piece of wet scarlet oak he had, but this proved too big for the lathe so he settled on a piece of sycamore about 12 inches across and demonstrated under cutting using various different bowl gouges. He thoroughly enjoyed the evening and was surprised at the amount of explaining about techniques he did in relation to the actual turning and how many new turners we have all eager to learn.



The Nesbitt's, here's dedication. They were on holiday caravanning the south & south east and planned their trips so that they were at the Canal Boat Centre Mytchett for the weekend, therefore close for the club night. Sylvia did the teas, Paul and Ben demonstrating, and Ross working on the computer building the new website. Paul had a very willing pupil in our youngest and newest member Chris Barton who is nine years old; Paul supervised Chris and let him have some hands on. He did extremely well and Paul said if there was one thing in his favour it was that he had the ability to listen to what he was being told, well done Chris. Ben Nesbitt had spent a few days with Stuart Mortimer prior to the practical night and brought a sycamore vase he had started with Stuart, and after a bit of trouble centering it on the lathe due to the movement of the wood managed to finish it. He then went on to make a bowl in oak.



John Sherwood, on his own lathe was turning earring stands. He turned the base and the top in the chuck, and the upright between centres. When it came to drilling the holes he used a very simple method, he has a card with concentric circles drawn on it, there are then 24 lines drawn equidistant from the centre out. He marks the earring top on the lathe with a pencil mark circle where the holes are to be, he then stands the top centred on the card using the concentric rings to position it, then marks the top on the circle where the 24 lines cross. He can then drill the holes for the earrings.



Bill Thackeray, gave an interesting demonstration of turning fruit followed by a small bowl. He managed two apples and a pear, and had to disappear to the car park to raid a hedge for the stalks. The bowl was in a piece of mystery wood, which after much debate was identified as Black Iroko given by Phil Jackson, it was finished with a Liberon stick applied via a buffing wheel to great effect.



Phil Wolsencroft, turning his ever popular burr bowls, always a crowd puller.

Brian Wooldridge was making bottle stoppers, this was done on a production line basis, and he managed about ten on the night which was part of a batch of fifty. The process involved rounding off a length of wood between centres to 1.5 inches diameter, then cutting into 2.5 inch lengths. Each length is then inserted into Axminster O'Donnell jaws and faced of sanded and sealed; a 13mm hole is then drilled to a depth of 16mm a length of 13mm dowel is then glued into the hole. The dowel is then gripped in a homemade bush which in turn is held in the O'Donnell jaws. The main body of the bottle stopper can now be turned to whatever shape you desire finished and sealed with lacquer. The bung is then placed on the dowel, finished.



Jennie supplied a competition to identify trees and shrubs you were given 12 pictures and 15 names both Latin and common 3 being red herrings there were 4 entries the winner to be announced at the September club night.

Ray Taylor again shared his expertise with a demonstration of sharpening using the Tormek grinder.

This month saw Mike Morley donning the doctor's hat for the first time and taking surgery, allowing members to have their pieces critiqued on a one to one basis without other members listening in. Eat your heart out NHS. This month there were eight "patients" for him to tend with questions ranging from a lathe problem, tool use, turning design, drying wet wood and reverse chucking.

As usual those favourites the Raffle run by Phil and Margaret, and Richards's table did brisk business during the evening, and I am pleased to say that the Yandles trip will go ahead now we have the numbers for the coach.

The competition this month was judged by Bob French there was a really good selection of turnings brought in. Standards remain high. This was confirmed by the number of scores of 9.5 or 10 in both levels of competition.

In the standard competition, George Walton's elegant lidded bowl in sycamore with an ebony finial scooped the 10 while, close on his heels with 9.5s were bowls by Brain Harradine and Thomas Brazil and a very unusual piece from Chris Clark of a pot bellied stove, complete with a frying pan full of goodies. Another memorable piece that caught the eye was a clock mounted in Beech and Ash with 3 finials by George Bendis, one of our more recent members.

The Open competition is judged on the same criteria, but you need to get more points to score 9.5.

The overall winner was Mike Morley with an immaculately turned and beautifully proportioned bud vase with veneer inlays. 9.5s were scored by Phil Jackson for a classically shaped laburnum pitcher with a fluted column for the neck and a very intricately shaped handle, a stunning platter in ripple sycamore by Ian Williams and a thin and delicate pierced platter with

butterflies and dragonflies by Jennie Starbuck.

Prior to the Practical night I had a call from John Sherwood, he had recently had a problem with some spalted beech. It was proving difficult to get a good finish as the wood was turning punky, but not to be outdone he had heard of a way of hardening the wood using washing up liquid. We decided it would be good to show the club what can be achieved, so he brought some samples of the wood along in its various stages.

For those who missed it.....

John had a piece of spalted beech which was turning punky and would not produce a good finish. What should he do?

He had heard of a method using washing up liquid. So.....

### **What is spalting?**

- Spalting is a by-product of the rotting process that is carried out by a vast array of stain, mold and decay fungi, that are found naturally on the forest floor.
- It can be very easy to very difficult to work with, depending on whether you "caught" the wood before it became too punky. Some severely spalted wood can tend to crumble.

### **Facts**

- Much longer & the wood could have been too rotten to work with.
- This process hardens the wood enough to turn to a good finish.
- This process can be tried on other woods with similar problems.

### **Process**

- Once rough turned the piece was immersed in a solution of 50% washing up liquid and 50% water for 3 weeks.
- It was then left to air dry for another 3 weeks & then finished off in a kiln, or microwave would do, longer if you just leave to dry naturally.
- It was then finish turned and polished.

### **The result**

- It had taken some time but it was worth the wait.
- There are other methods, like liquid hardeners or sanding sealer but these can be costly.
- What we don't know is what effect on the finish or indeed the wood the washing up liquid will have long term, this is trial and error. If producing for sale you don't want after sales problems and unhappy customers.
- **Let us know of your experiences on the above or indeed anything you have tried to resolve a problem. Post it in the news letter contact Peter Stent address at end of newsletter.**

Colin Spain Club Secretary

### **NEW REPORTERS**

For different reasons I was absent from both the August Practical evening and the September evening. I am therefore greatly indebted to Colin for this report and also to Basil for the attached report. With such detailed articles I could soon be out of a job. – Peter

### **The Cheese Board**

By June Hardy

Oh how long have I to wait for my Cheese Board, which I won at the Club night's raffle. I've even forgot what the tile looks like. I've waited weeks, months, years Ha Ha.

But wait I think something is about to happen, we are going to Yandles.

Well we bought the dome for it so things are moving, but don't get to excited, wood and dome are safe in the garage so just few more weeks, months etc etc.

Rural Life is coming up, then open day, what next?

You will never guess, while getting ready for Rural Life, a crash came from the garage, in he came broken tile and all. So

I'm back to wondering when will I get MY CHEESE BOARD ???

Bless Him

## RURAL LIFE WEEKEND

We were very lucky with nice sunny weather for the Saturday and Sunday, unlike the Friday when an army of volunteers had got very wet putting the exhibition marquee up in torrential rain.

Another plus was being the first people to use the new Churt building intended for the resident wood turner and a shepherding display. The lighting was not finished but it was palatial to what we have used in the past.



The outside had many examples of different brickwork, while inside there was so much space that we could set up 9 lathes. With a rota of demonstrators, this meant that there was plenty for the visitors to see and talk about.



Outside there was a wide variety of things going on. Two of the many steam engines were driving saws cutting timber. This allowed a couple of members to take a fresh log and show how it was used on a lathe.

Several visitors showed a keen interest in the hobby and were invited to visit the club. We shall have to wait and see if they do come along.

## JENNIES PAGES



Dear Club Members,

**Open day** is nearly upon us! I am eagerly awaiting all of your entry forms for the competitions. (See the Competition page for final details). We still need stewards and I can also fit in some more demonstrators. Please fill out a form on Richard's desk or phone me on 01932 888144.



As well as the advertised trade stands, (Alternative Ivory, Axminster Tools, Hegner, Meantime and Wood Sales), Roger Phebey should be demonstrating the 'Revo-Max' woodmill and router lathe, which should be interesting.

Dave Reeks will be our professional turner and we will try to arrange some seating to make it easier to watch for longer.

We try to make Open Day a focal point for the year and need you all to take advantage of the goods and services on offer.

We need at least 400 visitors to make the day really successful. I have done my bit by contacting and inviting every club within a 60 mile radius of Mytchett. You can do your part by helping on the day or attending on the day and by encouraging at least 2 friends, neighbours or family to come along.

Let's make this a good day for everybody - traders, demonstrators, organisers and visitors.

### **Hands-on-Day**

**Sunday November 19th**

Please sign up for the hands-on-day at Richard's table or telephone Paul Nesbitt on 020 8848 7137

The cost of the day is £5 (free for junior members - but you must book in advance).

Experienced club members give up their time on the day to help anyone with any kind of turning problem. Paul arranges groups with similar needs - usually 2 or 3 members to a lathe.



You need to bring £5, a packed lunch, your tools, some wood and your problems and we will try to help you find solutions! We provide lathes, experienced turners and tea and coffee.

This is not a woodturning course, we do not pay the members who give up their

time. The £5 goes **towards** the cost of the hall rental.

Clearly there isn't a lot of space in the small hall, so numbers are limited - so it is a first come, first served system. If you want to be sure of a place, phone Paul or book at the October club night.

### **Christmas Charity**



This year, one of our members suggested that we support The Beacon Centre at Guildford hospital and the committee agreed. The Community Macmillan Nurse specialist team is based at the centre.

The centre provides help and support for cancer patients and patients coming to grips with long term illnesses. It is staffed by professionals from the hospital who give their time freely but the centre itself costs £250,000 a year to run from voluntary contributions.

They are able to sell things from their foyer and we have already donated a number of items that were turned by members demonstrating at the Rural Life Centre in September.



We will have a table set aside at the Christmas club night for your turned donations. This is an opportunity to find good homes for some of the pieces you have made in the past (thus making space

to display new ones!) Of course, you may wish to make new ones as well. They will be taken to be sold the day after club night, so there will be time for the charity to sell them before Christmas - so candle holders with candles could be a good seller - or wooden tree decorations. Tea, coffee and mince pies will, as usual, be free on the December practical night - so there will be a collecting tin for the charity available for financial donations on the tea table. For further information see the leaflet on Richard's table or visit their website on: [www.thebeaconservice.org.uk/centre](http://www.thebeaconservice.org.uk/centre)



### **Club Competition**

The last round of the club competition will be held on the December practical evening. Anyone with a piece scoring 9.5 or 10 in one of the 4 rounds will be able to display their piece for the Turner of the Year competition, judged by the members in the second half of the evening.

### **Christmas Raffle**

Anyone with items to add to the Christmas Raffle should bring them to Margaret or Phil as soon as possible. We now have volunteers to continue the raffle so we should not have to increase

the membership subscription dramatically (if at all) at the AGM.

### **AGM**

Paperwork for the AGM will be included in the next newsletter.

*Best wishes and happy turning!*  
*Jennie*