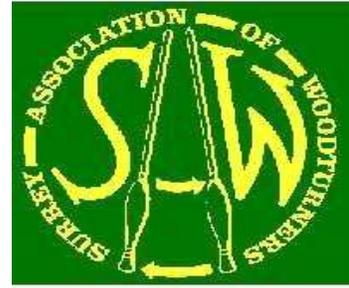


Surrey Association of Woodturners

Newsletter September 2007

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey



New Members

Dennis Finlay Mark Freeland
Richard Lucas

Paid up Membership 165

Items for the Diary

Sat/Sun 29th September Rural Life

Friday 12th October Guy Ravine

Sunday 28th October OPEN DAY

Friday 9th November Colin Simpson

Sunday 18th November Hands On Day

Friday 14th December XMAS Special

Friday 11th January 2008 A.G.M.

You will have heard of the sad death of Ray Taylor. We have also been advised of the death of Peter Moore

AUGUST MEETING

This was a practical evening with lots of different demonstrations, although there were not the usual number of members. As you came in the hall, first on your left was the raffle with some slightly different prizes manned by Harry and Ian.



In the corner Chris Wallace was using the Poolewood lathe. He was turning a piece of Burr Elm to make a bowl which he intended to decorate with carved oak leaves.



On the stage we had a new judge Paul examining the competition entries, which were overseen by Roy.



In front of the stage Mick Pither was using his Axminster lathe to make spiked balls similar to David Sprngett 's Seminar.



The duty Doctor. Bob French had a steady stream of patients with knotty problems requiring his advice.



John Sherwood was using his Axminster 330 and making night light holders from scraps of cherry, walnut etc.



I found Bernard Simpson's display the most interesting. These were wooden carvings of

pagan symbols or what I would describe as the faces on trees in a fairytale enchanted forest.



The timbers were Sweet Chestnut, Oak and Beech. He had a special wood carving chain saw, an angle grinder with an Arbortec disc and an Axminster power chisel. He also had hand carving tools and mallets. Some carvings had been painted with childproof acrylic paints

Phil was using his own lathe and in his own words turning " a bloody hard bit of Elm" to make a bowl.



The damage to his face and a pair of safety glasses was proof of the need to always wear eye protection of some sort.



He would have been in Hospital with serious facial injuries if he had not worn his glasses.

Geoff was running the shop selling sand paper and finishes

Brian Rogers was using his AXminster lathe to make pens. When I saw him he was polishing some Ebony.

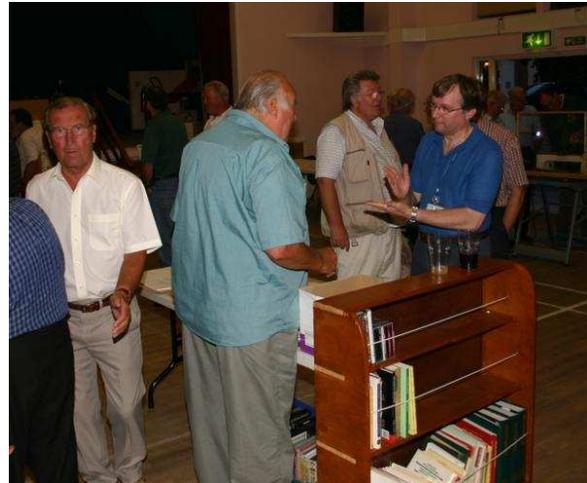


Next was Ben again on an Axminster but was having problems attempting to make bottle stoppers out of Yew. The rubber bungs were varying sizes .



In the corner was the most important lady of all. Sylvia with the teas and coffees.

In the centre of the hall was Neil's table being looked after this evening by Richard for hire of DVD's and attempting to get volunteers for Rural Life and Open Day



Thanks to Pete Evans for the Photos.

ELECTRONIC PROBLEMS?

Do you have a problem with the electrics on your lathe? Pete Evans did have a problem but no longer. He called on the services of Jon Ash, who came and spent two hour investigating and solving it for a very reasonable fee. Jon can be contacted on his mobile 07834424137.

SNUFF BOXES Wanted

Richard has received this enquiry.

Hi there,

I'm based in Redhill, Surrey. Hence my enquiry with yourself.

I'm enquiring regarding potential supply of snuff boxes for my website. I'm just setting up <http://www.snuffstore.co.uk> my snuff suppliers are sourced and products are starting to arrive - I'm now starting on the accessories!

I'd like to offer a selection of snuff boxes. The only real option for people at the moment is to buy a branded one, or get a old one off of ebay or similar.

I've seen a few for sale already, one being made in Germany on a bespoke basis, the other is supplied by one of my snuff suppliers.

<http://snuffhouse.org/discussion/137/1/snuffbox-review/> - German

<http://www.sharrowmills.com/boxes/boxes.htm> - Sharrow Mills Snuff

Main importance is that it needs to be small around 6cm x 4cm x 2cm.

It needs to be as air tight as possible - don't want spills in the trouser / coat pocket.

If hinged, the hinge needs to be on the outside as snuff has a tendency to clog the hinge.

Sliding lid is fine.

Novel individual design as per the German snuff box is also good.

If you've got any ideas, please contact me. Also ideas on price etc. Most wooden boxes go for around £15.00 max (Sharrows are priced for retail at £13.99). I'd need to be competitive whilst still making a profit. Of course, as a project it would need to be financially worthwhile for you too!

If it's not your line, then please feel free to pass on my enquiry to any of your trade colleagues who may be interested.

Kind Regards

Tim.

I think it is pretty self explanatory and members can contact Tim direct should they be interested. I have investigated it a little but I think it would be best if those interested did their own research. Personally I think it would take a lot of time for limited return if you are in full time employment

Regards Richard.

Richard took this picture near Whitby, I fancy the lessons in the Pub!



Turning in Brasil – a world apart By Thomaz

Brazil is a big country. It's the 5th in size, with 8,5 million square kilometres. That's more than 30 times bigger than the whole UK! It has almost 190 million inhabitants spread from the Amazon in the North to the big cities in the South-East and South. With little more than 500 years since its discovery and not even 200 years since its independence from Portugal, in 1822, Brazil is a young country.

About 40% of the country is covered by forests. The Amazon forest answers for almost all of this value, but there are other forests and woods following the coast line. And there is the region called Pantanal, a huge flooded basin in the central states. So, there are a lot of green areas and plenty of wood. Yet, there is no significant woodturning here.

Logical thinking would say that a country this big, with so many timbers, full of natural resources and prepared for the future with modern technologies and all the facilities anyone can find anywhere in the world, would have a stronger turning. This is not the case.

To leave England and find almost no woodturning in Brazil was hard. I've got the first signs of it still in the UK, after some searches on the Internet. Don't get me wrong, I've got lots of answers on the woodturning topic, but only 3 (yes, 3!) about decorative or art turning. Most of what I could find were table legs, staircase handles and stand-up clothes hangers.

One of the 3 good answers was a personal website from a man who is no longer turning. The second one was from an online forum on woodworking. The third from a well known Brazilian designer, Pedro Petry, the only professional turner who sells well around.

After an e-mail exchange, Petry told me to bring to Brazil everything I could manage,

from the lathe and tools to sandpaper! So I did it. I put my Record DML36SH lathe in a box together with my Nova chuck, my tools and everything else and shipped it to Brazil.

But things were not as bad as I thought they would be. There is turning in Brazil after all! If you go into a household items shop you will find turned objects, mostly salt and pepper mills or some industrialized Chinese vases and salad bowls. If you go into a good decor or design shop you will find Brazilian turned objects, most of them from Petry. So, there was space for me too!

The online forum put me in touch with other woodturners and we even started an association, the Brazilian Woodturners Association (ABTM in Portuguese), where we can talk about turning and get answers to our questions. We are planning an exhibition, meetings and demos and all that stuff. The main person in this Association is Beбето Rubertone, a turner and teacher who mobilizes everybody around. We are more than 50 now, from every corner in Brazil.

But don't think it's easy! Although I'm already selling my pieces in two shops and doing exhibitions, talking to fellow turners and even teaching woodturning, it's not easy. The main reason is that woodturning is not recognized in Brazil as it is in the rest of the world. Wood is so common that wooden objects have no "value", they are a thing from the past. Wooden objects are usually linked to cheap, mass-produced, low-quality things. People will find woodturned objects pretty but they won't pay the same price of a similar china bowl or vase! So, turned objects are found only in very expensive designer shops where only rich people, who have an open and "international" mind, may buy them. It's, really, a cultural thing and we are a world apart from the rest of the globe.

But that's not all. There are several lathe manufacturers in Brazil and a couple of imported Chinese ones, but only one lathe that can be used to decorative turning and it is the most expensive of them all, and it

doesn't get close to most of the mid-sized English ones. There are no accessories, no tool manufacturers, there are no implements and even to find a cloth-backed thin grain sandpaper is difficult.

Most of the turners I've met in Brazil have old or adapted lathes, using long forgotten parts of old machinery and timber! Chucks are old faceplates and gouges and chisels are made from bits of metal by a blacksmith friend. In the end, somehow they manage to turn beautiful pieces as good as any other around the world. And they are thirsty for knowledge and equipment. Whenever I show them my books and magazines (the ones I brought from England) or sites in the internet they get amazed by what can be achieved in woodturning. They will try and achieve even if there is no visible path to follow or way of doing it. Brazilians are very inventive and creative people.

There is still a lot to do in woodturning in Brazil, it's a new territory, not yet charted, with so many opportunities that one can choose to be a pioneer in such technique, the other to be a machinery importer and there would be place for many more.

Brazil is so big, with so many differences from one region to the other, with so many cultures and peoples, native and foreigners, that anything can find it's space. It will take some time to make woodturning popular here, to get it into people's heads and houses, but it will be worth it.

Links:

Thomaz Brasil:

<http://www.thomazbrasil.com.br>

Pedro Petry: <http://www.pedropetry.com.br>

Bebeto Rubertone:

<http://www.bebetorubertone.com.br>

ABTM:

<http://www.bebetorubertone.com.br/forum/index.php>

Axminster Tools at Open Day

Mark Vincent will be bringing the Axminster Tools chuck and accessory range to our Open Day Show on Sunday October 28th.

He is not able to bring the full range of items for sale in the Axminster catalogue, but will bring along anything that you specifically want to see, buy or have an interest in.

You can contact him direct by email at Mark.vincent@axminster.co.uk or you can telephone your order to me and I will pass it on.

Jennie Starbuck 01932 888144

Clearly you will save postage by getting things at our show, but there is also a 10% discount for ordering 10 or more of any stock item.

Please try to support the trade stands who make the effort to come to our show.

Invitational Competition at the SAW show

- October 28th

Get your entry forms to me by next club night to enter a piece in the Open Invitational competition to be held on Open Day.

Any club member can enter. There are 6 other clubs taking part this year. There is an entry fee of £1. You can only enter one item which can be faceplate or spindle work. Entry forms are on the website and were sent in the last newsletter mailing. I am prepared to take entries without the form as long as you let me have the information by 14th October - by email, telephone or letter!

The competition will be on the stage in the main hall and pieces should be with me by 9am. If you wish to hand in your piece at club night, please take it, with the entry form, to Neil at the club table. It **must** have **INVITATIONAL** clearly marked on the container so that it does not get mixed up with the main SAW competition. He will also take your £1 entry fee. I will not be at club night. Please do not try to hand your Invitational entry to Roy Edwards. He only wants entries for the main SAW competition.

Jennie Starbuck

Ray Taylor by Paul

Ray joined SAW in June 1997. He had already been turning for a year. We met each other at the Stanwell Moor Woodtutning Centre, when I did a demo there. The subject was multi-centred turning. He was really interested in it and asked lots of questions. I gave him my phone number and said any problems give me a call, he did and we arranged to meet at his home. I gave him some assistance with the multi-centred turning, and that is where our friendship started. In 2005 he got a second place in our Open Day competition for those multi-centred candlesticks. We began to do craft fairs together and sharing ideas. Often at these shows people would refer to Ray as my Dad or me as his Son, we always told people that we were just good mates.

He had done many varied things in his life. He was in the R.A.F., drove a breakdown truck, a commercial diver, a welder, and a qualified chainsaw operator, to name a few. He could always relate to a funny story to any of these. I had the pleasure of being his lineman on some of his diving jobs, he showed me how to weld, and he taught me to use the chainsaw correctly. He also taught my son Ross how to sub-aqua dive.

He was a narrow boater and kept their boat at the end of the garden on the River Bourne. He was a vintage bike owner and rider. There were so many sides to Ray's life.

Some of you will remember the Ray and Paul double act; I know that we had a good time doing that. I could always rely on Ray for help and likewise on me. Ray had this wonderful knack of always smiling no matter what. He had this silly little phrase, if you asked for something and he didn't have it, he would say "no, but I have a short piece of string and a piece of chalk with a hole in it". It always got a laugh.

He was always ready to help and offer advice to anyone on any subject. He was always a great tutor on the Hands on Days and Practical nights. I know that the club will miss him, I surely will.

Ray Taylor
1932 – 2007
R.I.P.

Obituary

It is with regret that I recently received a note announcing the death of Peter Moore from his widow Muriel. Peter died in April, Muriel says he so enjoyed his turning and attending our club meetings but then his health failed and he was no longer able to attend, in fact he last attended in January at the AGM. Peter was in fact one of our longest serving members with a membership number of 26 he joined in 1990 and attended many events over the years. He will be missed.

Colin's Columns

Well at least since the last newsletter I have been able to get out to the cabin and make some shavings and quite a lot of dust. Thank god for dust extractors

and facemasks, but even with those I seem to have got an annoying tickly cough that I can't shake off it's been 6 weeks now and she that must be obeyed is fed up with it and so am I. I am convinced this is nothing to do with turning as I started with it whilst away on a break, and several weeks after doing any turning. So it is even more important now I am turning to take precautions.

Vic Burge Memorial Trophy

I have recently been in touch with Vic's nephew Roger Burge, the family want to donate a trophy to the club in Vic's memory, I think this is a wonderful idea and the committee is in full agreement. Although the final details are still to be settled we feel that the most fitting trophy for Vic's memory would be one that could be awarded on an annual basis to the club member (committee members excluded) who most supports the club throughout the year, probably awarded during the AGM, once I know more I will let you know. There is also a memorial seat being placed by the family at the Rural Life Centre in Vic's memory.

Lottery Grant

The application still has not gone in but it is almost ready now, it was held up by the fact Touchvision the company we brought in to advise were unable to come up with anything within the price limitations of the £10,000 lottery grant ceiling and it took them six weeks to tell us that, (they will not be billing us for their time). They were helpful though in some aspects giving us advice on a few pointers that should help our set up. In fact they implied that what our own Chris Starbuck

had come up with was perfectly adequate for our needs. All I need now is for our sponsor to agree and sign our application and we are on our way.

Christmas Practical night

This year in light of the sad loss of our Ray Taylor to cancer I think it only fitting that what ever we do it will be for one of the cancer charities. I will let you know more details when we have discussed it at committee level.

29th/30th September - Rural

Life Centre

Once again put this date in your diaries so you do not forget, this is a really good weekend, don't forget if you wish to demonstrators and or volunteer to steward for this friendly weekend fill out a form or at least email Paul Nesbitt with your details, also items for the display area are required again let Paul know forms were available at club night.

Princes Mead Shopping Centre - 6th October

My thanks go to Roy Edwards; Roy has arranged this event with the organisers of Princes Mead Shopping Centre in Farnborough. This is something that is dear to my heart I had been thinking for some time that I would like to get a venue like this, what better place to advertise the club, local and coming just before open day all the better.

Turning is from 10:00am to 4:00pm

There is room for at least 4 lathes. Normally the club would have to pay but all advertising for the event is being

done by the Centre Management and they are also providing furnishings. The club is not being charged for this event as it is by special invite.

Come along and support us.

Open Day 2007 - October 28th

It's getting closer, and I can also report that Gary Rance and his son Luke are now attending, together with Les Thorne and Dave Reeks. Gary was due to be demonstrating/teaching on the Norwegian cruise when our show was on but he has managed to change his dates just so he can come to our show, now that is commitment and many thanks go to Gary.

I have also been in touch with Meridian TV's Local to you program and I am hoping the club will get a mention on the Friday night slot of things to do over that weekend, fingers crossed.

I know I have said it before but the club needs your support and by you giving your time on the day as volunteers to help set up, put away, and to steward will make it run smoothly. So please give your support, forms are on Neil's table, and do not forget helpers/stewards get free entry.

November Hands on Day 18th November

This is a very cheap and enjoyable way to learn new skills or indeed brush up and improve your knowledge. I urge all of you who are fairly new to turning, to give this a go. Ask anyone who has been and I am sure you will not get a negative answer. It is well worth the money, so put this

day in your calendar if you have not already done so, spaces will be limited and on a first come first served basis, so listen out for details,. You will not be disappointed.

Finally

During practical nights I am now insisting that all demonstrators wear safety glasses or face masks, and that footwear must be appropriate i.e. no flip flops or sandals, also that a safety screen be used whilst turning. These are sensible safeguards, I know that in my time at least there have been no accidents at the club but Phil Wolsoncroft showed us a pair of safety glasses he had been wearing at home in his workshop that had been hit by a piece flying off the lathe, if he had not been wearing them it could have been much worse. Also if there was an accident relating to any of the above not being used I wonder how the insurance would view the claim. In this day and age of get out policies we need to demonstrate we are doing all we can.

Colin your Chairman

September Meeting

Colin started the meeting with a minutes silence in memory of Ray Taylor and Peter Moore.

Our demonstrator was our old friend Dave Reeks, who pointed out that as a pensioner he was slowing down a bit and his production rate was no longer 1500 items per year. He announced that he was now in his "Art Deco Period". This evening he intended to start from basics and showed us how he had cut up a log of Spalted Maple to give two 12" bowl blanks. Three vertical cuts had been made with a chain saw on this log.



He has a selection of circular discs to draw round to give the shapes to cut on the band saw. The centre of one of the blanks was marked and this was mounted between the tail stock and the front of the chuck. He then cut a 3 3/4" spigot with a finger nail profiled gouge. The blank was mounted in the chuck jaws and the side trued up and the bottom shaped.

He showed us a tool rest with holes for steel pins in the top to make it easier for disabled turners.

The tail centre was removed and he started to shape the inside. To prevent the gouge skidding across the surface, have the face of the gouge vertical and then twist it until the bevel is rubbing. Or cut a series of rings with a parting tool. The cuts were made deeper. The rule of thumb for wet timber is to leave one inch wall thickness for every foot diameter of the bowl. He no longer waxes the end grain and leaves it to dry. He has a 50 gallon oil drum with emersion heater fitted in which he boils about 10 to 15 blanks at a time for 2 to 3 hours. This drives the sap out. These are then wrapped in paper for about 6 weeks, weighing periodically to monitor the water loss.

When dry mount between the chuck and the tail stock and true up the spigot. As the timber is now dry it needs treating with respect when skimming the surface with a 3/8th spindle gouge to remove the discolouration.

Always buy gouges with long handles as they are easier to control.

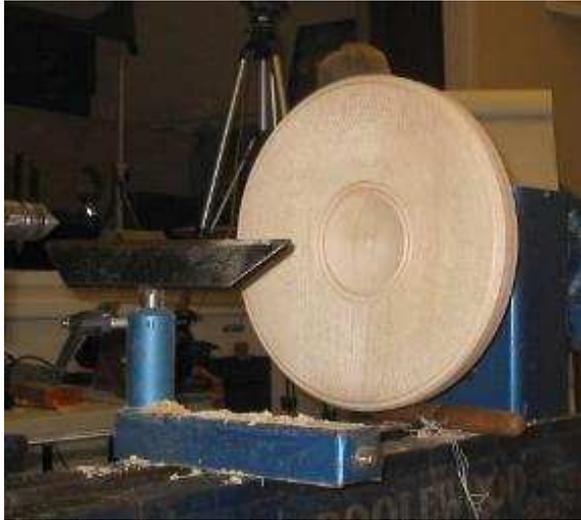
Any cracks are widened and filled with a contrasting sawdust and superglue. Spaulting can be enhanced with a pigment ink pen. A gouge with a flatter profile is used to clean the inside of the bowl. To make the wall of the bowl look thicker slope the rim inwards. The bowls are then sanded through the grits to 1200 grit by Dave's wife! 4 or 5 coats of Danish oil are applied but sometimes if in a hurry he will use a cellulose spray as a finish.



Dave had wanted to show us off centre coloured platters but time was running out, so he showed us the main principles. A blank of kiln dried Sycamore was mounted in the chuck after cutting the spigot as before. The edge was trimmed and the back shaped. The front was also trimmed, if you are going to texture you must start with a good surface. With the lathe running at slow speed a mini Arbortec was used to give the desired effect. Any hairs must be removed with coarse sand paper.

The off centre is achieved by using two large face plates bolted together in groves

so that one can be slid sideways. One face plate fits the lathe and the other the chuck. Masking fluid is used to define the painted areas. However the edges must be cut



The textured face.

when dry to stop pulling the paint away. When making a bead around an off set feature the face plate has to be adjusted with washers to ensure that the face of the feature is at right angles to the lathe axis. If not you will make thick and thin beads.

A very informative and entertaining evening.

How I got involved in Woodturning. Richard Davies secretary@ SaW

Sometime ago Peter Stent asked all of the committee to write an article each about how we got involved in woodturning. This has been promised for almost 3 years now, so here goes.

I first discovered woodturning at the age of eleven when I visited my prospective senior school prior to starting. At the time we were being shown round the workshops where, over in a corner I spotted an old grey black lathe. I fancy it was converted from overhead belts to electric. I seem to remember the flat belt pulleys without a cover still on the headstock!

Mounted on the spindle was what I now know to be a blank made from segments, a composite of dark and light squares set out in a brick pattern. PVA glue was stuck all over it looking for all the world like candle fat on a half used candle.

That was it for about four weeks. The next time I saw the lathe was when I started school and we were being shown around again. Now the blank had changed into a vertical sided bowl with a radius corner to the base and the beginnings of a hollow appearing inside. I must have been hooked from then on as I asked about using the lathe and it was admitted to me that no lessons took place and the work was that of a teacher trying to teach himself woodturning.

Now cut to the present day or rather about 7 years ago. One engineering background, a marriage, house and all the etceteras that go with life and a number of redundancies later. I am gainfully employed as an engineering sales executive for James Walker & Co. An engineering company making seals and gaskets for the defence and oil industries.

What was missing was something to do with the small amount of spare time that had that I could do as a hobby; it had to be of a practical nature. Having gone from model aeroplanes to marquetry and on to model railways, I also dabble in photography. One day I remembered that woodturning lathe back at school. Here was something I could have ago at with little learning (so I thought) and the blanks really did grow on trees.

To my mind this seemed ideal, it would be quick so would suit my limited amount of time. Easy, just sharpen up a few old chisels and get a lathe powered by an electric drill. And did I say the blanks grow on trees? Oh the innocence of ignorance.

The reality is that I went to the library and got hold of a couple of books and frightened myself with the amount of complication involved. I then attended a

SaW Open Day. On the strength of that I tried to join a few weeks later only to find on the Internet that the club was full. That it was how it was left for a few years due to family commitments and other problems.

About 5 years ago I rekindled my interest in woodturning and made some progress. I met Reg Slack about three times at different woodturning exhibitions and his common sense was like a breath of fresh air. This man had a simple lathe and no airs or graces and no special tools. He spoke plain English and at the time I think worked for Record, an English engineering tool company who I knew well, with a reputation for quality hand and bench tools. Reg could also turn and teach. Oh boy could he turn. I also discovered Richard Raffan's books and Keith Rolly's foundation course, an excellent book and video. These three put me on the right road and within the next year I had laid foundations and built a shed, laid in electricity and installed my Record CL3 and B & Q bench grinder. I was set or so I thought. There then followed some weeks in the wilderness turning out test pieces and making a lot of firewood, by the way blanks do grow on trees as I found out getting drenched by turning wood straight off the tree. I managed to produce some passable pieces of spindle work and two bowls that at least looked similar to those in Keith Rollie's Foundation Course.

The next step came when I discovered a turner giving lessons from his garage in Haslemere. If you're a member I'm very sorry I can't remember your name. A weekend turning confirmed I knew roughly what I was doing. Then at the Sandown exhibition I visited the SaW stand and signed up as quickly as I could courtesy of Paul Nesbitt on the paperwork and some very useful "Reg Slack" type common sense from Ray Taylor.

My first meeting was a demonstration by Chestnut on polishes etc and I remember being looked after that day by Jim Thomas who made the first potentially difficult meeting a pleasure. I felt very welcome.

Since then I've spent time as a member, tending to help out at the end of the meetings and so got co-opted on to the committee after about 2 years. That's when most of you got to know me when I amalgamated both the admin and library tables into one table. After almost three years of that I got pushed in to the secretary's job and have been doing this for less than a year.

So what about the bit we're all interested in, the workshop? Every man should have his shed and this is mine. My workshop (trusty garden shed) is a crowded 8' x 12' with old kitchen units down one length and the lathe opposite underneath the windows.

Power and a couple of strip lights were later added on a proper ring main. I've also added a dust filter system that seems effective but very noisy. Along with a powered dust mask that I try to use as much as possible, I should be OK for a few years if I can find a source of further rechargeable battery packs.

I still have my Record lathe now upgraded to CL4 and hope to add a Cam Cock Banjo to the newly acquired Cam Lock Tail Stock. Thanks Colin. I still believe that it's about the most lathe you can get in terms of quality and features for the money, although I am jealous of better lathes at perhaps twice the price.

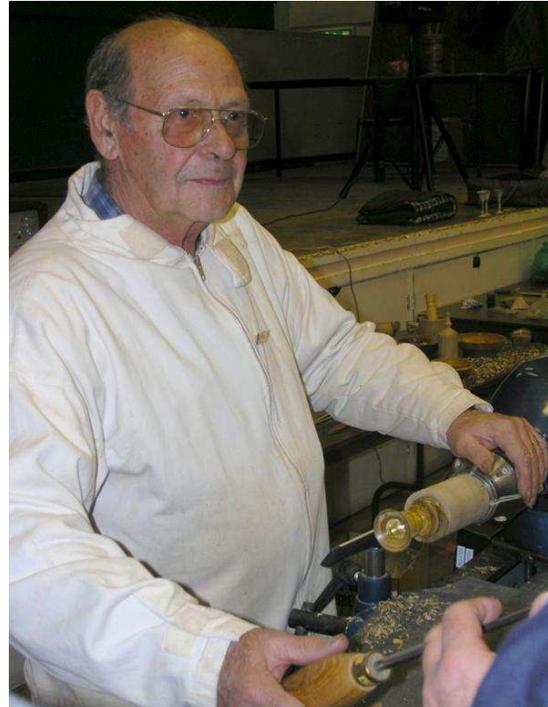
My chuck is Axminster along with a belt sander and a Perform band saw. I've just treated myself to a wet grinding system consisting of Tormek fittings and Scheppack wet stone. Doing it this way will save about £100.00 on the total cost, and yes it is worth it although it's a little slow.

Most of my hand tools are now Hamlet with a smattering of Henry Taylor. I used to be happy with Record hand tools but I think their quality is now inconsistent. My stock of homemade tools is slowly growing. These are mostly Ashley Illes tool steel and homemade handles on the style of a bloated Sorby handle. I like'm that way.

I have recently started demonstrating and have got hold of a nice second hand Carba Tec for the purpose. I chose this as there are several within the club and they seem reliable and lightweight. They also use the number one morse taper and the same thread as the Record. Therefore all of the accessories are interchangeable.

Finally I try and attend all of the "Hands On" days, It's as much fun as you can get for a fiver with your clothes on. I also hope to become a regular at WL West's and the Rural Life Centre. It really is a good idea to get involved with at least a couple of the club activities as it makes membership much more valuable than just the Friday evenings.

A selection of Photos of Ray at work.



As well as the friends and family, there were a lot of SAW members at Ray's funeral as well as several divers that he used to work with.



These are some of the flowers.

