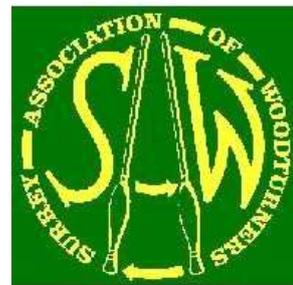


# Surrey Association of Woodturners



## Newsletter September 2013

Reports, News and Views from North West Surrey

### New Members

Welcome to Georgina Clarke - Member No. 685  
Mike Tozer Member No. 688  
Andy Whiteman Member No. 689  
Gary Hunt Member No. 690  
Denis O'Mahoney Member No. TBA

**PAID UP MEMBERSHIP      149**

### Items for the Diary

*11th October* Club Turner  
*12th October* Princes Mead Shopping Centre - Club Demonstration & sales  
*27th October* SAW Open Day at Mytchett  
*8th November* Colin Simpson

### Advertisement

## **S.A.W. Mentoring Scheme Wanted Mentors & Mentees**

See page 3 for details

### Committee changes

Please be aware, there are a couple of changes within the committee due to the sad loss of Peter.

- 1) David Stratton has agreed to caretake the Treasurers post until the AGM in January, any money issues should be directed to him.
- 2) I have taken on the editorship of the newsletter, therefore any issues pertaining to the newsletter should be directed at me. Articles etc.
- 3) Robert Grant is now writing up the club night demonstrations and also running the video system.

Our contact details are on the back of this newsletter.

## Peter Stent



As reported in the last newsletter Peter passed away on 22 July 2013 following a heart attack leaving his wife Mary, two sons Andrew, David, and daughter Susan.

Some of you may not realise what a great void he has left in the club. Peter did so much for us over the years. He joined the club in 1996 and was elected onto the committee in January 2002 and became Treasurer in January 2007.

### **Some of the things Peter did for our club:**

Treasurer – keeping accounts and getting them audited.

Monitoring the items for sale in the shop.

Editing, the Newsletter & Monitoring the items advertised by members for sale.

Writing up each demo for the newsletter, managing the distribution of the newsletter.

Honours Board upkeep. Equipment and where it is stored.

Receiving monies on club nights/ Open Day and other SAW events.

Cash / floats for Open Day.

Putting out the signs for Open day and selling tickets at the door.

### **Peter was also:**

Interested in local history and he was the treasurer of The Aldershot Historical and Archaeological Society (AHAS). Treasurer.

Treasurer for Friends of Aldershot Military Museum.

A past member of the 14<sup>th</sup> Aldershot scout group. Acting as Treasurer for both local and district scouts.

As an Ex Naval reserve man ranked Chief Petty Officer (CPO) he was interested in boats and had scratch built two remote control boats an aircraft carrier named HMS Invincible, and a minesweeper named HMS Humber the latter he had served on in his naval days, these are really good scale models. Peter and I had sailed our boats together at Black Park in Iver, also at the Guildford Model engineering Show in 2012, he was very knowledgeable about his boats.

He was quite a character. I remember him telling me about his workshop which at the time was up in the loft, his wife Mary was concerned about the amount of wood he was storing up there. Her concerns were proven to be right when Peter noticed the bedroom ceiling was sagging. He then built a shed in the garden.

Peter and I spent some good times at various craft fairs/ school fetes over the years, most times in the name of the club, other times off our own backs. We always had a good time talking and joking with each other and of course the customers, Peter was renowned for his animal back massagers and loved to demonstrate these and more often than not would sell them. Amongst other things he also turned small animals, mice etc the children loved these and the parents would get hassled to buy them. Quite often it would be Peter who sold first, and do well on the day, and was very good at promoting our club.

I feel privileged to have known Peter and to be able to have called him a friend, and I know I am not the only one.

Colin Spain

## **Re-launch of the Mentoring Scheme.**

Earlier this year I took over the responsibility for looking after the mentoring scheme. This is such a good resource for the club, but I feel that it is not being used to its full advantage. The scheme is voluntary and is there for all members both new and existing to use. It is cost free. I refer you to the **Club Handbook section 17** that lays out the basis of the Mentoring Scheme.

The main difference will be that I am introducing 2 distinct levels, unlike as at present, new members would be contacted by me and asked if they wish to be included in the scheme, immediately or at some later date. If they accept they will be asked about their skills levels and perceived needs to enable a suitable mentor to be allocated. The mentor should ensure they feel welcome in the club, and monitor their progress, and advise when they are ready for the next level.

The new Level 2 will look to build on Level 1 as the individual's skills develop with more challenging projects.

A number of professional turners offer courses at different levels for wood turners and this scheme is not meant to take the place of one of these intensive experiences which can get you started really quickly. Most people find though that there is too much to take in all at once and working with a mentor can really help.

### **Mentors wanted**

I am looking for members who would like to help pass on their knowledge of woodturning to new members; this is not as daunting as it sounds.

#### **Mentors:-**

You will need to be actively turning and have a good understanding in Health and Safety, maintenance of tools i.e. sharpening\*, dust extraction/ protection, advanced knowledge of the five basic tools, faceplate and spindle, the mounting of work, and finishing.

If mentoring at Level 1 you would ensure your mentee can safely turn a basic bowl and some spindle work before moving them on to Level 2.

Mentoring should be at a pace and time mutually agreed with your Mentee ideally both in your workshop and theirs, normally 3 turning sessions per level/subject.

At Level 2 you, in conjunction with the Mentee, should be looking to develop the Mentee's scope and quality.

There are notes and diagrams available to help you with this.

### **Mentees Wanted**

**Stage 1 Mentoring** - It is our aim that all new members are allocated a mentor on joining if desired. Or, if you have already been with us a while and are in need of help, advice or both, then Stage 1 will also be open to you so get in touch.

The first level will initially ensure knowledge of basic health and safety, setup concerns, and the use and maintenance i.e. sharpening of the 5 basic tools\*, and to get you turning.

\*We can arrange a separate module for sharpening. Either with your mentor or someone who has a set up like your own. (Without sharpening knowledge how can you turn?)

On completion of level 1 onwards, mentees, providing they are actively turning will be invited/or can request to attend Hands on Days if they wish to further their turning skills.

**Stage 2 Mentoring** - If you have already undergone stage 1 or are at a level where you are actively turning and consider that you are able to fulfil to level 1 standard, but need help on improving your techniques, and the use of more specialised tools such as skew, hollowing tools etc, then this is for you.

In both instances we will try and find someone close to your home to mentor you.

There is an expectation that you will practice the skills that you cover with your mentor and complete exercises you have agreed together within a mutually set time scale to get the most from the experience.

If you are interested in any of the above then please get in touch with Colin Spain. (Details on back of newsletter) or come and see me or a committee member on club night.

## **Paul's Postings**

Hello to you all.

The last time I wrote we were about to do the Guildford Model Engineering Show. Well the weather was on our side we had a great two days at a fantastic show. We had three lathes working and a great display of items, we even sold some pieces. Setting up went well with help it makes light of it, the packing away went even easier with even more help. We all then stood and watched Chris pack all of Jennie's things into the car, well to say that it is an art would be an understatement. Everything has a place with clips and brackets to hold it all. I watched and still do not know how he did it. Thanks to all that made it such a great weekend. We then moved on to our August meeting, a practical night. The second round of the club competition with another good show of good quality work. There were six working lathes, Donald with his tricks and toys and Robert with tool sharpening. At the July meeting I set you all a task of making a pen, well what a great display; the winner was Barry Alder, well done and thank you all for taking part. Two of the six turners were turning apple lidded boxes, both different styles. So I chose this as the next task for the members. Thanks everyone for making it a great evening and well done to John for organizing it.

Moving onto September club night we had a new turner to the club, Frans Brown. What an enjoyable evening from a well prepared demonstrator. He had a beautiful display of his work. His massive four prong drive was impressive. I am not a lover of colouring wood but his techniques were quite different to what I have seen before. An interesting evening.

The next day was the start of the Rural Life weekend. I could not be there on the Saturday, but I was told it was a good day and lots of people came into the workshop to look at the items on display and talk to the turners. I was there on Sunday and I am pleased to say the day was as good as the day before. Thanks to everyone for being there. These sort of events we cannot do without you the members.

October is a busy month for the club with the club night and the next day Princes Mead shopping centre. After that we have our Open Day which is the highlight of our year. This is a great time to bring your friends along to show what we all get up to in our workshops. We need our members to support their club at this event.

I cannot think of anything else at this point. So keep those shavings flying over your shoulders.

Paul

## **Jimmy Clewes coming to Cheam**

Dear Member,

SAW have received the following invitation from Cheam woodturners.

The ticket number is limited, so if you want to attend, I advise you to make contact soon.

Jimmy Clewes is an excellent presenter and he no longer spends much time in England - so there will not be many opportunities to see him - it is very unlikely I will ever be able to book him again for SAW.

Jennie

Message from Cheam Woodturners Association

We are pleased to announce that we have Jimmy Clewes coming to Cheam on Sunday 10th November for an all-day Masterclass. This is a rare opportunity to see Mr Clewes in the UK and we are pleased to be hosting this event.

The event is ticket only, with tickets priced at £15 to include buffet lunch and light refreshments and we are pleased to inform you that we have a very limited number of tickets available which we are offering to other clubs.

The day will commence at around 10.30am and finish at 4.30pm with Jimmy demonstrating 2 or 3 projects in that time. The venue is our normal meeting place, The Elmcroft Centre at North Cheam where we have ample car parking.

We should like to invite members of Surrey Association of Woodturners to the Masterclass and if your members require tickets, please contact our Treasurer, Mr John Fenn as soon as possible. John's contact details are:

Mr. John Fenn,  
Hon Treasurer,  
Cheam Woodturners Association,  
15 Paddocks Way  
Ashtead,  
Surrey  
KT21 2QZ

email: [johnfenn197@btinternet.com](mailto:johnfenn197@btinternet.com)

**Do also please include a daytime contact telephone number and an email address.**

## September Evening – Frans Brown



### **Frans the Man**

Frans Brown by his own admission has a strange name. It is the combination of a Belgium mother and a British father. Frans is primarily a self taught turner whilst adding to his knowledge by watching other turners at shows and via DVDs. Frans is a part-time professional, dividing his time between turning and running a vehicle repair garage. Frans loves woodturning, he professed to even dream about it, and he demonstrates across the country and writes for the British Woodworking Magazine.

Frans has a website the address is <http://www.fransbrown.co.uk>

Frans has a relaxed demonstration style which is easy to follow and entertaining whilst enabling him to cover a lot of subjects and techniques in one evening. Frans had a good display of his work on show.

### **X Drive**

Frans does a lot of natural edge work which has led him to develop a unique driving device, the “X” drive, which overcomes many of the problems encountered with Spur drives when trying to mount this type of work. It enables flexibility, good drive and adjustment of the piece to level up the wings. Frans makes two sizes of these drives, the larger selling for £39.99 but he is happy for people to copy the concept and make their own.



### **Natural Edge Bowl**

Frans started with a 9” elongated Yew log, wet and still in the round, he used the X drive to mount it and shaped the outside of the bowl using a pull cut, explaining that the pull cut gave him more control when there was a lot of fresh air. Sensibly he wore a face mask due to the risk of flying bark.



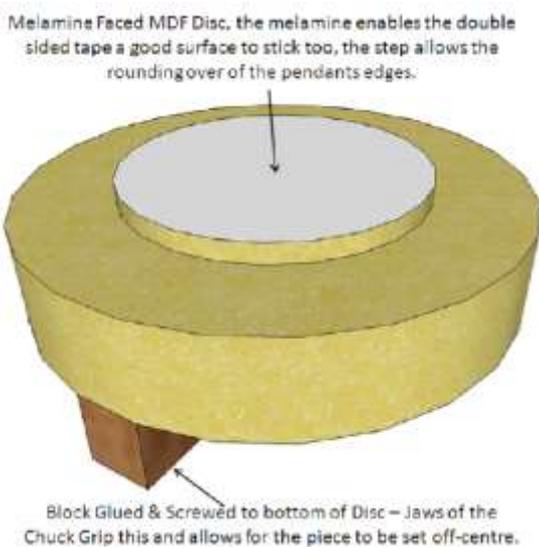
Frans used his moisture meter to check the wood, mentioning that he himself was typically 34% as a baseline to test the device and the wood was 27% which was still pretty wet. Frans reminded us to watch the shadow not the piece when turning

elongated work, with regular movements of the tool-rest and to speed the lathe up as wood comes off and the piece is better balanced.

When he had finished the pull cut he transferred to a push cut when he was close to the top outside edge. Once he completed the outside and the lathe was stopped he used a Stanley knife to cut off the excess fibres.

### Pendant

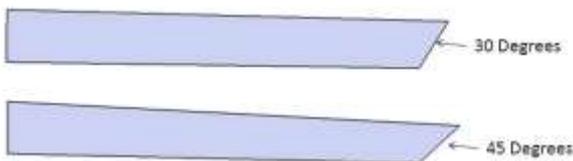
Like most professional turners Frans hates to waste wood, so he uses the off-cuts to make items such as off-set centred pendants. He has developed a simple and quick method of mounting and holding the wood for this, a melamine faced MDF disc attached to a block of wood that can be clamped into a chuck. The indents in the wooden block made by clamping in the chuck act as a centring guide for repeat usage of the mount.



Frans explained that he pre-prepares the discs to approximately 12mm, he then hand sands, and sanding seals the face that will be stuck to the mount, and has a centring point marked on the other face.

Using double sided sticky tape (he recommends Mammoth tape sourced from regular DIY shops) he uses a point in the live centre lined up with the centring point he made on the outside face to mount the pendant blank to the mount.

He then proceeded to explain that he uses two different types of angle on his spindle gouges. A 45 degree (he called a normal gouge) and 30 degree (detail gouge) explaining that 30 degrees is actually a steeper angle as it is measured from the bottom of the flute not the top.



He made the pendant blank concentric then shaped the external face using the normal gouge, getting down to around 8mm thickness.

By sliding the wooden block of the mount in the jaws of the chuck, he then off-set the pendant, aiming to have the outside edge of the internal hole approximately 11mm from the outside of the pendant. He used an arbour to drill the off-set hole and cleaned the edges up using the detail gouge.



Frans does not reverse his pendants, arguing that they are strung so they have a front and back face so it is not necessary.

The lathe was slowed down to start sanding, going through the grits, 180-240-320-400, at this point he passed out a sample of extremely course sand paper and asked the audience to guess the grit (it was 12 grit.)

Once sanded, he explained that he finishes with diluted sanding sealer and then uses a buffing system to produce a high gloss finish.

He completes his pendants by stringing them, using two reef knots (he called them granny knots) so the position of the pendant can be altered to suit different positions.

### **Beware of Super Glue**

The pendant was made from Spalted Beech, Frans explained that he spalts his own timber,



and recalled a tale where the spalting had gone too far so he used super glue to support the fibres before turning. However, he didn't leave enough time for the glue to set so when he started turning the glue flew off in micro-droplets and stuck his lips together. He went on to tell the story of how he stuck all the fingers on both hands to a bowl just moments before his wife was expecting guests at a dinner party. The moral of this story is always keep de-bonder close at hand.

### **Faux Natural Edge Bowl with Decoration**

Frans finished the evening by turning a faux natural edge bowl with the intention of showing some of the external finishing techniques he uses to embellish his work.

Frans used a screw chuck to mount the bowl blank and proceeded to use a pull cut to shape the outside. He commented that he does not make his blank concentric first arguing that it is not necessary and it avoids the challenge of having to deal with a slow turning lathe (because the piece is out of balance) and the see-saw action this creates when tooling face on.

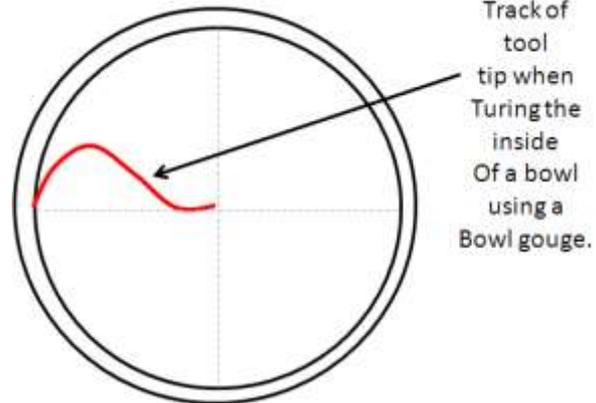
He likes to set his dovetail spigot early in the process of shaping the outside of a bowl and demonstrated his magnetic dovetail template, which is both the correct width for his jaws and the correct thickness of material for the depth of his jaws so he gets a really good hold on the piece when it is reversed.

Once reversed, Frans proceeded to hollow out the bowl. He talked us through the correct techniques





for this process and used illustrations on a notebook. This technique makes it easier to make the entering cut so you don't skip the tool across the face and allows an easier transition from cutting the side of the bowl to the bottom of the bowl.



Frans got the rim of the bowl to the finished wall thickness, checking the thickness using his home made callipers, noting that they are easy to make and much cheaper than buying them, all you need to do is ensure that the distance from the centre point to each of the pairs of tips is identical. As this was a demonstration Frans did not finish the inside of the bowl but moved on to showing how he sands the bowl using small hand held air driven orbital sanders.



Frans then moved on to decorating the outside of the bowl. Firstly he created the faux natural edge using a mini Arbourtech cutter in a Proxon grinding tool. Then he created a false void on the piece using a battery powered Dremmel type tool.

Once the external edge detail was complete Frans moved on to colouring the outside of the bowl. First a faux burr effect was created by dabbing on the wood with bits of leather from an old belt glued to a block. Dipped in red spirit stain thinned down using premium grade automotive thinners this created the base layer of the effect. He then used a piece of foam in a wiping action to apply an alternative blue stain. Any excess stain was decanted back into the bottle. He then applied an orange stain using a flicking motion with a paint brush and finally a yellow stain brushing from the centre to the rim.



Once sanded and finished the effect was quite striking and added interest to what could have been a bland piece of wood.

Once sanded and finished the effect was quite striking and added interest to what could have been a bland piece of wood.

Frans gave a thorough and very enjoyable presentation. The tips on the callipers and always handy reminder about de-bonding fluid were an added bonus. Thank you Frans for an excellent presentation

## August 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 Practical Night



*The whole gang – our demonstrators for the evening*



For our August practical night we had 5 turners. Phil Wolsoncroft was turning a deep hollow vase from very dry Horse Chestnut and also a large Pot-Pourri-type bowl with a small hole. Denis Findlay was turning apple shaped boxes from Cherry wood. Bob French our President was also turning them in Laburnum but they were an entirely different concept from those turned by Denis so, much for members to learn!

John Sherwood was making Goblets with captive rings from Yew. Bill Riley had us captivated by the way he made Whistles, and he also showed us a Jumping Pill he had made earlier (you can see this on following U-tube link - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWzza0-yUWk> . Donald & Joy Bell had us all intrigued by Donald's puzzles.





Jim Gaines demonstrated the art of inlaying with all the intricate calculations and cutting of small pieces of wood involved. Robert Grant, although having had an argument with his band saw a few days previously, still managed to give the crowd round him very good and constructive demonstrations on the sharpening of woodturning tools, with some members bringing their own tools and getting the answers to their problems on sharpening resolved.

Once again we were very lucky to have Jennie Starbuck and Richard Davies judging Club Members competition pieces, ably assisted by Bernie Walker doing the necessary paper work. Paul Nesbitt was, as usual, overseeing everything.

We need more Club Members putting in competition pieces in December and don't forget Open Day when 3 pieces of Spindle and 3 pieces of Faceplate turning can be entered in the competition.

At break time, a one minute silence was observed as a tribute to Peter Stent who died recently and will be greatly missed as a friend and a long standing committee member and treasurer.



We had a Show Table and the main theme was Pens as a follow up to our last club night with Derek Blake (The Pompey Pen Maker) and we had nearly 30 Pens displayed on the table together with a Lamp plus a Bowl. The winner of the Show table was Barry Alder who received a bottle of wine as his prize. Next month's Show and Tell table topic is Apple Boxes so let's have your ideas shown on our table and you could win a prize.

Thank you to all the people who took part in making this a great evening.

A big thank you is also due to Paul Sternberg, Colin Crowe, Tom Purcell and all others who helped clear up at the end of the evening.

*Photos and text by John Creasey – who also deserves a big vote of thanks for arranging such a successful evening for the second time! As you may remember, we had to change the date of the evening to help out the*

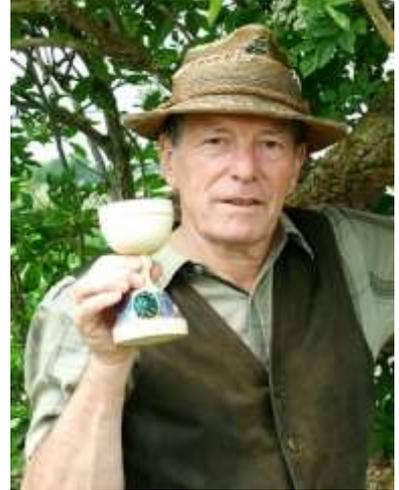
*Centre as they had inadvertently double booked the hall. Having organised everyone for the week before, John then had to do it again at a time when many members were on holiday and not available – so, well done John. (JS)*

## Open Day 27<sup>th</sup> October 2013

We hope that everyone will attend Open Day on October 27<sup>th</sup> and will take the opportunity to bring friends and relatives to see what we all get up to in the shed! Tickets are available for members **before the day** for £3 instead of £4. The volunteer sheet is on the club office table at the back of the hall on club nights. We need a lot of stewards on the day, so please sign up for a slot if you can.



Paul Nesbitt, our Chairman, will be inviting a few members to do some turning on the day to represent the club and he will also be asking 10 members to loan a piece each to the club to put onto the SAW entry to the inter-club table-top competition. This year we have modified the rules for this competition so that members will not be asked for a new piece, just one that has never been entered for a competition **outside** the club before.



We should have at least 5 clubs in the competition this year – and we want to win! Members can also enter individual pieces into the Open Individual Competition along with members of visiting clubs. The cost to enter is £1 unless you have a piece on the club table, in which case it is free. Only one piece can be entered per person in this competition.



Our two professional turners, Stuart King and Andy Coates will be our judges for the day. They will judge the table-tops and each of the levels of the club competition. We would like everyone to enter something on Open Day. There are no constraints – anything that has been turned using an ordinary lathe can be entered. You can enter up to 3 pieces of faceplate work and 3 pieces of spindle (between centres) work. If a piece has both – enter the piece into the class it has most of! Entry forms are on the back table in the hall at club nights or you can print one off from the Open Day page of the website. Please get your forms to

Paul Nesbitt as soon as possible.

Please remember that members in the Open class who have not come first second or third in the past 3 years can choose to go back to the intermediate group. Just contact Jennie Starbuck, who will organise the change for you.



We are very happy to receive items to add to the raffle – so if you have any unwanted gifts, now is the time to pass them on to the raffle team – but not food or drink items that are past their sell-by date please!

## Tea Break time

O	C	Y	P	R	E	S	S	H	P	W	M
S	L	R	D	A	S	H	C	O	O	A	M
E	A	O	O	S	V	R	P	L	H	A	Y
R	R	K	O	A	I	L	L	O	E	R	N
P	C	C	W	B	A	I	G	B	S	O	O
Y	H	I	L	R	W	A	N	H	Y	S	B
C	T	H	A	T	N	R	A	K	C	E	E
L	E	U	D	Y	O	Z	S	S	A	W	Z
E	H	D	N	H	E	L	P	A	M	O	U
Y	L	B	A	L	S	A	I	O	O	O	R
E	E	M	S	R	A	P	N	V	R	D	P
E	C	U	R	P	S	W	E	Y	E	G	S

Wood yew believe it! It's a puzzle all about wood.

ASH	MAPLE
BALSA	OAK
BIRCH	OLIVE
CEDAR	PINE
CYPRESS	POPLAR
EBONY	ROSEWOOD
ELM	SANDALWOOD
HAZEL	SPRUCE
HICKORY	SYCAMORE
HORNBEAM	WALNUT
LARCH	WILLOW
MAHOGANY	YEW

**You may even be able to find your favourite club in there also.**