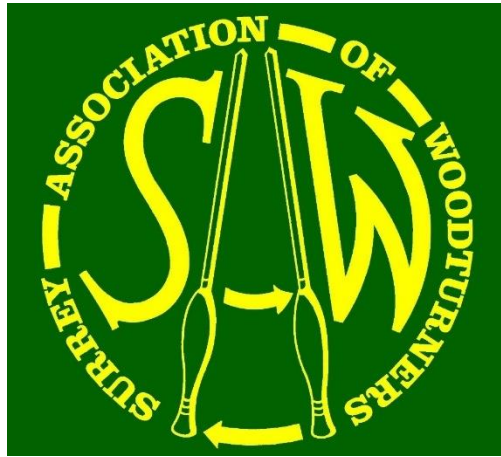




Surrey Association of Woodturners

Established since 1990

Newsletter Dec 25- Jan 26

Edition 007

PAID UP MEMBERSHIP – 68 (As of going to press)

Welcome to New Members:

SAW 100 Club 2026

New applications to join the SAW 100 Club are **NOW OPEN!!!!!!!!!!**

There are monthly CASH prizes and the large Christmas cash draw.

Membership is £12 per number.

You can join via **Member Mojo** if you have access.

Your membership of the SAW 100 Club supports the Club and is drawn every Club Night, usually during the break.

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

David Stratton

ZOOM SESSIONS

The SAW Virtual Coffee Shop (Members only) These are still carrying on until further notice.

Opening times: Sunday at **3:00pm**, Tuesday at **10:30am** and Friday at **7:30pm**, for about an hour each time. *Repeated at these times every week.*

To all new Members that want to get to learn more about SAW, discuss anything wood related, get to know us all and ask any questions then please try and join us on Zoom. This is the perfect environment to become more acquainted with what is available and there is a huge amount of knowledge and experience for you to enjoy.

The Surrey Association of Woodturners objectives are:

To foster a greater awareness of the woodturners craft.
To promote woodturning amongst woodturners and the public.
To provide a forum for communication, exchange of views and information relevant to woodturning.
To provide a members' Newsletter at regular intervals.
To encourage improvement in quality of members work through competitions, critiques, commentaries and learning opportunities.
To encourage members to use wood from sustainable sources.
To encourage young people to take up woodturning.

SAW Diary Events 2026

Please ensure you put these Club dates in your diary early on to support your Club

13 th February	Mytchett/Zoom Nathanael Griffiths Live Demo
7 th March	Princes Mead Demo & Sale of Work
13 th March	Mytchett/Zoom TBA
22 nd March	SAW Workshop Day/ PAT Testing
10 th April	Mytchett/Zoom Practical Evening & Club Competition
26 th April	All Day Seminar
8 th May	Mytchett/Zoom Stuart Furini Live Demo
12 th June	Mytchett/Zoom Club Turner
28 th June	SAW Workshop Day
4 th -5 th July	GMES Demo & Sale of Work
10 th July	Mytchett/Zoom Paul Hannaby Live Demo
11 th July	Odiham Fete Demo & Sale of Work
12 th July	Frimley Green Carnival Demo & Sale of Work
29 th -30 th July	Brooklands demo & Sale of Work
14 th August	Mytchett/Zoom Practical Evening & Club Competition
29 th -30 th August	Egham Show Demo & Sale of Work
11 th September	Mytchett/Zoom Bryan Milham Live Demo
26 th September	Dapdune Wharf Demo & Sale of Work
9 th October	Mytchett/Zoom TBA
17 th October	Princes Mead Demo & Sale of Work
25 th October	Open Day TBA
13 th November	Mytchett/Zoom TBA
22 nd November	SAW Workshop Day
11 th December	Mytchett/Zoom Practical & Christmas Social Night

Please refer to the SAW website Programme of Events for the latest updates.

Mike's Final Meditations from the lathe Chapter 29

My journey as Chair of SAW has now come to an end and I can now look forward to joining in some of the Chairmans Challenge activities. We have been on a journey taking the club from the covid times to a club with many new members who are both new to the club as well as woodturning. The 2025 AGM gave me a chance to reflect on how our club membership has changed. I have been truly fortunate to have had the help of our club members and the SAW Committee to run the club. A big thank you to all who have helped me through the past 3 years. I will continue to support our new Chair, the club and Committee in the future as we chart our way forward.

Our first professional demonstrator (Dan Smith) for 2026 made the arduous journey through lousy weather conditions from Yorkshire. He gave a new demonstration on making a bird feeder. There were many tips with a focus on thinking about safely holding wood from design thoughts through to the finished item.

I used the last 2 months to shift a lot of miscellaneous pieces of wood lurking around my garage/workshop and turn a large number of Christmas ornaments. These have all gone and I will have to refill my Xmas ornaments box again. Now I can get round the front of the car when it is in need of a charge. I also made some bowls from laminated work tops. One of these required a rethink on the shape and the potential to join the Funnel Club. Happens to the best of us.

Keep turning safely, do some competition pieces and make a new year's resolution to help the club.

I now pass over the baton to Pat Carswell, and I wish him all the luck going forward, and I will be on hand to support him as a Committee member.

Mike Spaven Chairman

Between Centres No.1

First of all, thank you to everyone who has put their trust in me. SAW has a fantastic reputation for skill, friendship, and the occasional flying wood shavings, and I am genuinely proud to be the figurehead of this club and helping to steer into the future.

I want to be clear from the start: it isn't about changing everything for the sake of it. SAW works because of the people in it, the knowledge shared and the welcoming atmosphere that makes newcomers feel at home and old hands feel valued. My aim is simple – to build on what we already do well, while gently nudging the club forward where it makes sense to do so.

I'd love to see more members getting involved, whether that's showing a technique, suggesting demonstrators, helping on club nights, or just having a go at something new (even if doesn't quite go to plan-we've all been there)

Most importantly, I want SAW to continue being a place where we all learn, laugh, and leave with more enthusiasm than when we arrived-and possibly with a small amount of sawdust in places it definitely shouldn't be.....

So, thank you for your support, your patience, and your sense of humour. I'm looking forward to working with you all, to bring about changes and to the next exciting chapter for SAW. This may mean us looking at technology and how best we can utilise it to make things easier for the membership.

Practical Night 12th December 2025

After the success of the August collaborative turning trial, we set a challenge to two teams to turn a lidded bowl. Each team would have two lathes and a suitable blank for a bowl and lid. Team 1 was led by Robert Grant and ably supported by Tony Wellbelove. Team 2 was led by Keith Mosely and supported by Stephen Evans. Looking at the photos, everybody was having a good time and were drawn into the spirit of the evening. Lots of banter and friendly advice was given from the watching audience. Colin Rowe with Paul Bolton were able to provide AV coverage of all four lathes.



Bob French and Arthur Martin were selling off some of their stuff as they are downsizing their workshops.

Mike, Max and Anne Marie Bennett ran the raffles and Ursula after standing guard at the door set out the food for the evening. Colin Bradshaw ran the competition room and TOTY table. David was able to provide last minute sales of consumables before the Christmas shut down. Nigel Eastment had organised the tea and coffee team.

Our final act after the raffle, 100 club and name badge was to award the various Open Day trophies. As usual David Stratton had organised the prizes and engraving.

Major Awards 2025
Turner of the Year Colin Bradshaw
Geoff Quinell Trophy Duncan Clark
Presidents' trophy Kim Holmes
Pic Toty GQ and Pres trophy



Mike Spaven Reporter for SAWNL

TOTY Water Droplet Effect Bowl

Colin Bradshaw was awarded Turner of The Year at the 12th of December Club night after he created a wonderful Water Drop Effect bowl. He has kindly put together an article outlining how he made the bowl so that other members can try it for themselves.

- Select the wood/blank of your choice. I used a piece of Sycamore (9"x2") for this.



- Use your preferred method for mounting the blank on your chuck. I used a worm screw.
- Create a chucking point (mortice or tenon) and start to shape the outside of your bowl. I created a tenon with an ogee shape.
- Sand and finish the back of the bowl adding any texturing or other embellishments at this stage.
- Reverse the blank in your chuck and then create a flat face. It could be completely flat, or you could incorporate a slight inward angle.

- Sand the face to your desired grit. I sanded to 600.
- Remove the chuck from the lathe with your piece still attached and place on a flat surface. If using the bed ways, make sure they are adequately covered to protect from any overspray.
- Choose your desired colours of spray paint. You will need three to create this effect. Medium shade for the base coat, a light colour, and a darker colour. I used orange for the base coat then yellow and red. I obtained mine from Hobbycraft but I'm sure any brand will be fine. I haven't tried it yet, but airbrushing should also work.



- Use adequate breathing protection and then apply the base coat. Allow to dry.



- Once your base coat is dry, take a water bottle with a fine mist spray and spray over the painted surface. Various sizes of water droplets will start to form, and you just keep applying the mist spray until your desired pattern is achieved.



- Take the lighter colour and spray in short bursts from a shallow angle. This will coat one side of the water droplets. Continue until you have decent coverage over all the droplets, but you don't want to obliterate the base coat.



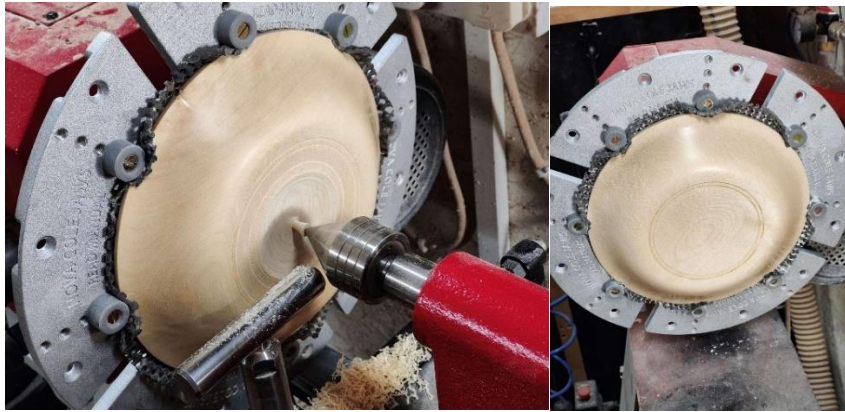
- Carefully turn your piece 180° and then perform the same action using the darker colour. I also placed strips of cardboard around the base of the bowl to protect the underside and my chuck from overspray. It doesn't matter if the rim of the bowl is covered as you can sand that off later.



- You have now gone as far as you can at this stage so pack up your workshop for the day/night, head indoors and enjoy the tippie of your choice.
- When you return the next day, the water should have evaporated, and you will be left with the 3D water droplet effect. I then coated the face with a spray sanding sealer to provide a measure of protection while the project was completed.
- Remount the piece on your lathe and then turn out the 'bowl' portion in the centre. Sand and seal. I also cleaned up the rim and the base at this stage. I then applied three coats of gloss lacquer to the face. Denib between coats if necessary.



- Fortunately, I have a set of Cole Jaws, so I reversed the piece, remounted in the Cole Jaws, and removed the original tenon chucking point. I used tailstock support in the initial removal stage.



- I also gave the base a bit of a buffing to restore the wax shine. I did not buff the face.
- Have a play and enjoy.

Colin Bradshaw Reporter for SAWNL

What goes on at a Zoom Meeting?

AI can now help us in a lot of ways. A new feature of Zoom is that, with AI switched on, a record of the meeting can be made. With permission of attendees it can be shared if needed. The following is a record of a Tuesday meeting from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

During this SAW Woodturners meeting on January 20, 2026, the following topics were discussed:

Club Matters:

The recent AGM (Annual General Meeting) - attendance issues, timing problems, and discussion format

Club membership statistics (120 members, typically only one-third actively participate)

Volunteering and committee structure concerns

Competition categories and member skill classification challenges

Communication & Technology:

Zoom meetings benefits and their value for member engagement

AI transcription for meeting minutes

Newsletter readability and accessibility issues

Reading age considerations for club communications

Woodturning Topics:

Cleaning chucks - maintenance discussion

Richard Finley's bowl turning video tutorial (Part 1) covering:

Timber selection and grain orientation ("happy" vs "sad" bowls)

Initial mounting methods (faceplate, faceplate ring, screw chuck)

Truing up blanks and cutting chucking tenons

Proper tool technique and body positioning

General Discussion:

Cost of travel and attending events (particularly London trips)

Personal anecdotes about attending exhibitions and meetings
Musical instruments as a tangent topic
Underground artwork in London
The meeting successfully combined administrative club business with practical woodturning education through the video demonstration.

As you can see, we discussed things from the AGM, I was asked to put something together for the newsletter to inform our newer members of why Zoom was set up. Should any member be worried about getting started on Zoom, Chris will help. Also, if you have done it before but have forgotten how to Zoom, please get in touch. Email Chris at webmaster@sawoodturners.org

Jennie Starbuck Reporter for SAWNL

Zoomies, A History

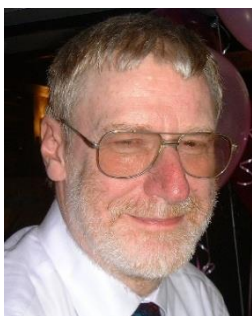


Hi there fellow SAW members,

At the AGM, we talked about our **SAW Zoom meetings**, and we thought that many members who joined after Covid may not really know what the meetings are for. So, the following will tell you more about

‘The Zoomies’ (as Mike Spavin calls us!)

A bit of history



Back in the grim days of the first lock down, Chris (my other half) was worried that clubs like SAW might close if we couldn't meet up and do stuff together. Now, Chris is 'into' computers and knew about this program called ZOOM. He reckoned that, if we made the effort, we could persuade the majority of club members to try it out. Then we could meet up without breaking the Covid rules.

I (Jennie) was the secretary, so I was used to contacting members by email. And so the plan was made, invitations to join other club members on Zoom were sent, and promises were made to help anyone who did not use a computer much to get started.



What did we do at the club night meetings on Zoom?

At the time, we had a club library of videos, including videos of professional turners who were kind enough to let us use their older demonstrations to show again. In some cases, they even agreed to join us and answer questions for members.



Using that format, we managed to put on Second Friday club nights on Zoom for the rest of the year. We had a similar number of members as today and over half of us attended these meetings. Gradually we got back to normal **and found we had not lost any more members than was usual.** **The club had survived!**

This wasn't the only use for Zoom in those dark days though
.....

Zoom Coffee Meetings

We (Chris and I) decided that meeting once a month on Zoom wasn't really enough for members who were anxious about joining the large meetings on second Fridays. Also, we thought that most members, who were stuck at home, often not seeing other people for days at a time, might like some Zoom company. Thus, the 'Coffee meeting' was born. The three sessions at different times were set up from the start and planned to allow members who still worked antisocial hours to be able to meet up if they wanted to, at least once a week. **Hence Tuesday at 10.30 am, Friday at 7.30 and Sunday at 3pm.**



We didn't expect these sessions to be very busy, but a lot of members attended to show off pieces that they had turned. We were always very pleased to see them and to be able to ask any questions we wanted. We also focused on particular skills. Some members even volunteered to show us around their workshops.



That was great! Fridays were always the best attended meetings.



We were all very pleased to get back to normal in January 2021 – even better when the treasurer said we could have **another professional turner** in January if we then had our AGM on Zoom the following week. An added bonus was, that we found members were prepared to actually speak at the AGM if it was on Zoom!

That was a big step forward!

So, at the recent AGM, the point was raised that, as only about 10% of our members took part in our usual Zoom meetings, should they continue?

The treasurer made the case for keeping them.....

1. They cost the club nothing (Zoom fees are necessary to save money on running the six or so Committee meetings every year). Hiring a space at Mytchett costs a lot more!
2. They allow members who have moved too far away to get to club meetings to attend Mytchett via Zoom and keep their membership.
3. They can provide help to new members.
4. They can allow members to take part in the Chairman's Challenge, getting useful critiques and praise for their work.
5. More members take an active part in the AGM on Zoom.

So, Chris and I will continue running Zoom meetings, while we can, as long as members want them to.

Please think about joining us.

Just open Zoom on your computer and click on JOIN

Type the following number into the top box: #####

Fill in your name in the other box and click 'Join'

Enter ##### for the passcode, and click 'Join meeting'.

It's as simple as that!

Best wishes

Jennie

Jennie Starbuck Reporter for SAWNL

Practical Night Competition Judging

During the AGM and on several subsequent Zoom Meetings, questions were raised about judging, scoring and the competition subject ie what is the definition of spindle and face plate. I hope this can be answered through a series of articles in the newsletters which will be spread over the year. The future notices will also include dates of forthcoming

competitions, definitions etc. Each practical night (April, August, and December) will include the judged and scored club competition.

Short articles on our three types of competition were included in the 2025 Newsletters so if you have a concern, please check these then if you still have a problem, please email the committee or speak to a committee member at the next club night.

Definition Mainly Faceplate. When you buy or use a bowl blank, the **grain runs across the blank** hence “cross grain.” Typically, a “face plate” was used to secure the blank to the lathe before turning. Other methods to secure the blank such as a screw chuck or trapping the blank between a friction plate e.g. chuck or a large Steb centre, and a live centre are also used.

Items turned may be bowls, platters, cross grain boxes, and lidded bowls with a small end grain finial hence the category Faceplate.

Definition Mainly Spindle. When you buy a square blank say 3 inch by 3 inch and 12 inches long it is called a spindle blank. Any items turned from such a blank where **the grain runs parallel to the lathe bed** and the blank is initially trapped between the headstock and tail stock are **mainly Spindle**. A box may have a cross-grain inlay hence the category **mainly spindle**.

During a competition, the judges look at a piece and award possible bonus points or deduct penalty points. These will be discussed in detail over the next series of Newsletters. The first discussion now follows.

Bonus points Degree of Difficulty

Bonus points are awarded for using advanced turning skills e.g. Multi centre turning, thread chasing etc. It also incorporates the use of demonstrated technical challenges. For example, a simple well-turned utility bowl would attract zero bonus points for degree of difficulty whereas a thin-walled bowl would (under 150 mm diameter and 3 mm or less) would be given a bonus point. A bowl with texturing colouring, perforated would also accumulate additional bonus points. Crisp cuts on spindle work, tight joints on segmented work, small aperture for hollow forms and chucking points that are disguised or removed are also used in the process to award bonus points. The Maximum bonus points for degree of difficulty is five points

Penalty Points Execution

Penalty points are deducted for torn grain. The maximum is 4 penalty points. For example, a piece with lots of torn grain, would attract four penalty points and no penalty points for a piece with no torn grain.

Penalty points are also deducted for tool marks. The maximum is 4 penalty points. For example, a piece with lots of, tool marks etc would attract 4 penalty points and no penalty points for a piece with no tool marks.

Mike Spavan Reporter for SAWNL

Sharp Shavings

I want to introduce Sharp Shavings, as a new area where Members can share information, knowledge, good experiences, bad experiences, ideas, thoughts, and anything wood turning related.

Have you bought a new tool, a piece of equipment, found a supplier, noticed things at Club night, or just want to speak with your fellow Members.

I am hoping that this might be the arena that you will want to use and open SAW to your fresh experiences, and a place you can talk to others....

So, it's over to you my fellow members.
Please email me at my usual contact below. I look forward to hearing from you, and I might even offer a small prize for the best submission.

SAW Shop

All who attend Club Nights will be well aware of the Club Shop. The prime aim of the Club is to provide woodturning consumables at a price below that generally available to individual members either from shops or online.

The way that this is achieved is by securing discounts for bulk purchases from suppliers and thereby reducing the individual sale price. A quick look at the shop table will show that the majority of products are sourced from Chestnut Products. Their range meets most of a turner's needs and their discount is better than offered by other suppliers.

As a Club Member you already benefit from a discount at Axminster store High Wycombe, and they offer no greater discount for the Club Shop so little benefit in stocking their products.

From time to time, we have been able to bulk purchase other items, notably sandpaper.

These require a significant initial outlay and stock holding but make the product available at a reasonable discount.

From time to time, I am asked if we could or would stock a certain product and I am always willing to consider the viability and availability of new lines. Recent additions include: -

- Lemon Oil
- Woodwax 22 Golden Brown
- Fine Glue Nozzles

In addition to the normal consumables, we also get the occasional donation of turning accessories and wood, so it is always worth taking a few minutes at any club night to see what is available.

It is also possible to take one off orders from the Chestnut catalogue. These may take a bit of time to obtain as they need to be added to general restock but keep this option in mind.

The success of the shop relies upon you making it your first stop for consumable replenishment.

David Stratton Treasurer and Shop Keeper

Editors Bites

Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter

So, as I write to you here the Membership has elected me as your next Chairperson to guide SAW forward and to function as the "figurehead." I hope that you all read and enjoyed my very first Between Centres article.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and some of you got woodturning gifts from Santa, if you had been good in the year....

I myself was a good boy and got a set of jaws for my Axminster SK100 chuck, but as yet I have not been able to get them put together and turn something.

I have lots of ideas and plans in my little head and have found my artistic side with several drawings in a little black book I have beside the bed. I have also been doing a Painting By Numbers kit that I got at Christmas 2024.....Santa kindly asked Nancy to buy it for me after I saw it at a well-known high-street craft shop. So, I know how Van Gogh feels now, but I am unsure about cutting my ear off. Having already had one part of me cut off I don't think I can afford anymore....

So, get back to the lathes my fellow SAWrites, and I hope to be viewing your pieces soon and we can make sure we have lots of turned items to put into the Open Day in October.

Stay safe, stay well, and stay dry everyone.

Closing dates for Newsletter 2026

March 29th, May 24th, July 26th, September 27th, November 29th

Please send any articles to the email address below using MS Font Arial size 12 and send any pictures as separate files in the email and not Zip Files please

Pat Carswell

Editor in Chief

editor@sawoodturners.org