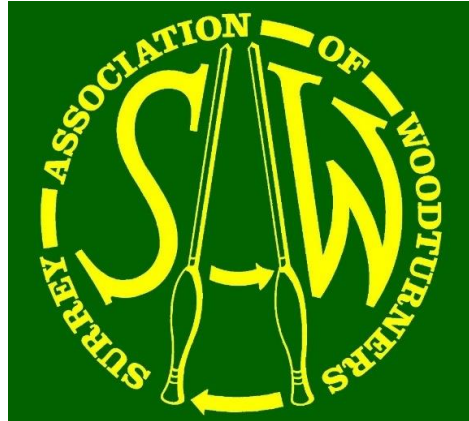




Surrey Association of Woodturners *Established since 1990*

Newsletter June 25- July 25

Edition 0004

PAID UP MEMBERSHIP – 115 (As of going to press)

Welcome to New Members:

John Andrews

SAW 100 Club 2025

New applications to join the SAW 100 Club are **CLOSED**

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.

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

David Stratton

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 general 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 2025

8 th August	Mytchett/Zoom Practical Evening/Club Competition
23 rd -24 th August	Egham Royal Show: Demo & sale of Work
12 th September	Mytchett/Zoom David Bracken IRD
27 th September	NT Dapdune Wharf: Demo & Sale of Work
10 th October	Mytchett/Zoom Richard Peers (AWGB SE Rep) Live
18 th October	Princes Mead Demo & Sale of Work
26 th October	Mytchett SAW Open Day featuring Mark Beckett
14 th November	Mytchett/Zoom TBA Live
23 rd November	Mytchett Small Hall: Workshop Day
12 th December	Mytchett/Zoom Practical & Club Competition And Christmas Social Evening

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

Mike's Meditations from the lathe Chapter 27

The last two months have been busy for SAW. We have demonstrated at Odiham, Frimley Green, Guildford Model Engineering Society and Brooklands. At GMES we were honoured to receive the Paul Barron Trophy for supporting their annual festival of things mechanical, electrical and railwayana.

David Stratton was well down the queue to buy his lunch when a call came over the Tannoy for a member of SAW to come up to receive a trophy from the mayor of Guildford. A big thanks to all the club members who have support the GMES events over the years. Next year we may be promoted to the main field.

The picture of David with the trophy is attached to the GMES article below.

Talking of volunteering, the two first aid volunteers did not turn up for the Frimley Green fete. Fortunately, Anna Marie is a trained first aider and provided back up in between turning. The

First Aid tent was set up alongside the SAW tented village. She had to deal mainly with wasp stings and one heat exhaustion problem. A big thanks to Anna Marie.

Dennis Findlay was kind enough to “volunteer” for the club turner slot in June, but this brings me to a question. As we look at the current make-up of the club, we now have a serious shortage of experienced turners as many have given up turning or have moved away from our heartland. Many of you are already good turners but may feel demonstrating is not for me (for many reasons). Our programme of club nights, and outside demonstrations is a great way of building confidence in performing in public. We all have experienced days when things do not go to plan but as Winston Churchill said “Keep B****ing on “We keep a list of volunteer turners on the admin table. Please talk to the committee about helping out. This will also be a chance for the club to see something different. You will never hear our experienced members say I wouldn’t do it that way.

Our Friday night Zoom sessions have shrunk considerably over this year. It is a great chance to meet club members in an informal setting and the sessions are always opened to “Does anyone have any questions or need help?” there will always be an answer or a direction to find and answer. So please give it a go sometime. It is not a clique for the few and all are welcome. Over the year one or two of the Zoomies we have found interesting videos to show. During the play back, we can ask questions or point out something that the video does not show or occasionally shows something that is unsafe. Our discussions during and post showing try to cover alternate ways of solving the problem or risk reduction methods. Enjoy the good weather and the summer and please get turning stuff for our charity Christmas box.

Mike Spaven Chairperson

Introducing the Demonstrator
Martin Saban-Smith 11th July 2025



Martin is a well-known turner to SAW and kindly stepped in when our previous booked demonstrator had undergone major surgery and needed to convalesce.

We are thrilled to announce that Martin Saban-Smith RPT, an internationally acclaimed woodturner and educator, will be delivering an engaging demonstration at our upcoming club meeting.

About Martin Saban-Smith RPT:

Martin is a passionate woodturner whose artistry has earned him international acclaim and a devoted following on social media. With a remarkable catalogue of nearly 300 turning and business-focused videos on YouTube, he inspires and educates thousands of viewers with his craft.

Since 2015, Martin has captivated audiences across the UK and internationally with his dynamic and informative demonstrations. His easy-going charm, sharp wit, and engaging delivery make each session both educational and entertaining. Whether he's creating functional pieces, artistic wall hangings, or stunning sculptural works, Martin's presentations ignite a spark in fellow turners to elevate their own craft

For more information about Martin Saban-Smith and his work, visit his website:
www.msabansmith.com.

During the demonstration, Martin will showcase a new project, sharing insights into his techniques and finishing processes. You will gain valuable knowledge, whether you're a seasoned turner or just starting your journey in woodturning.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from one of the leading figures in the woodturning community. We look forward to seeing you there!

Social Media Post Idea



Exciting News for Woodturning Fans! □

We're thrilled to welcome Martin Saban-Smith RPT– for a live demonstration at [Club Name]!



Martin is known internationally for his inspiring turning, his finishes, and his popular YouTube and social media channels. With nearly 300 videos and years of experience, he brings skill, insight, and a great sense of humour to every demo.

Whether you're just starting, or a seasoned turner, this is a demo you won't want to miss!



Learn more about Martin: www.msabansmith.com

#Woodturning #MSabanSmithWoodturning #WoodturnersOfInstagram #WoodturningDemo
#TurningClub #HampshireSheen #WoodArt #Craftsmanship

Pat Carswell Reporter for SAWNL

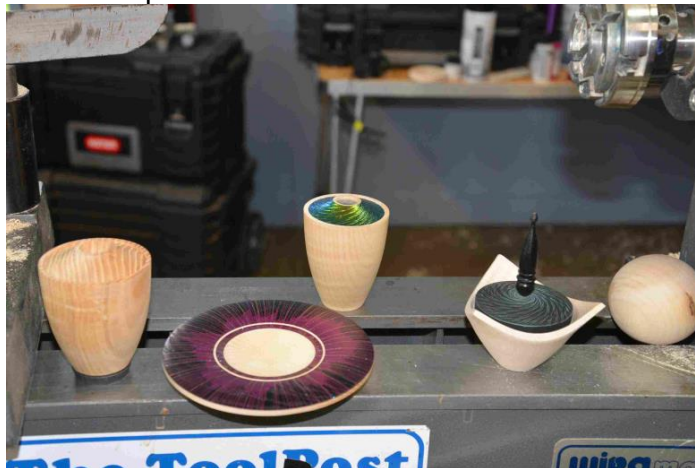
Emma Cook - The Tiny Turner 27th April 2025

Following on from the successful seminar in 2024 (the first since before Covid) we booked Emma Cook for this year's Seminar. Twenty-nine members applied for places and paid up-front, a new system introduced this year to ensure we had sufficient funds to finance the event (with minimum SAW subsidy) and reduce the impact of 'no-shows' on the day. Two of the members took the option to watch it via Zoom from home. All paid a nominal £20.00 each and received almost six hours of high-quality tuition.

The set-up team arrived at 09.00 to set up the Club lathe, lighting, cameras, AV equipment and the refreshments table (where attendees could help themselves to tea or coffee and biscuits during the event). Emma arrived shortly after and started setting up her tools and display table, including Jo Sonja paints which she has recently taken onboard.

Emma engaged with the audience from the outset and had a good, enthusiastic demonstrating style, appealing to all levels of turner. She went over the basic techniques and emphasised safe practices throughout. She encouraged questions and was happy to break off from the demonstration to answer these.

The projects demonstrated included a sphere, a three-cornered box with lid, a box with decorated lid and a decorated platter.

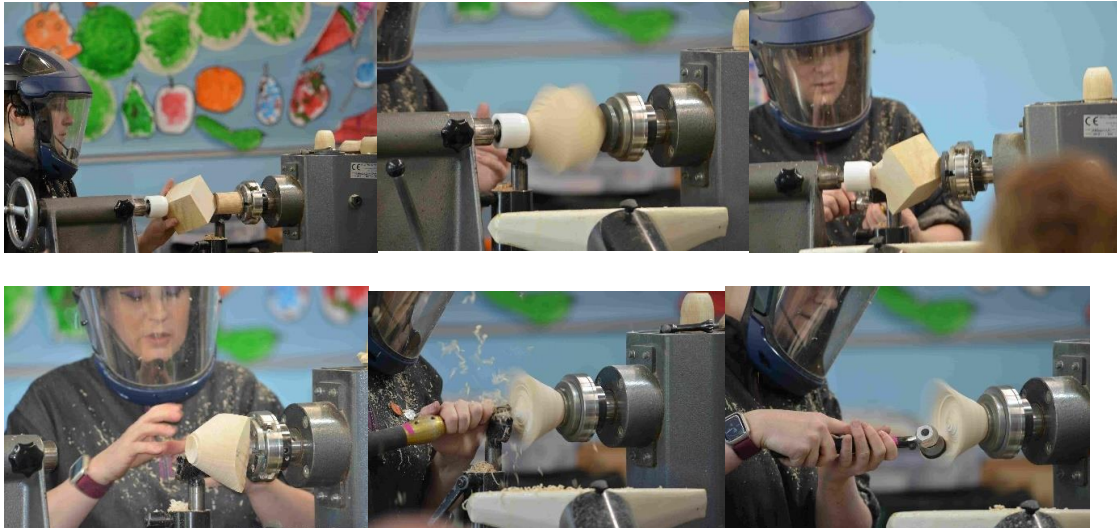


Sphere: Emma started with a cube and turned it between centres, continuing the shape as close to the centres as practical. She then held it between homemade wooden cup chucks and turned away the previous holding points and finished the sphere, using the 'ghosting' for guidance.



Three Cornered Box: Emma started with an accurately cut cube and mounted it between opposite corners using special centres, although demonstrated how a simple wooden holding

piece could be made. She then turned away the area near the tailstock and created a spigot, then mounted the piece by the spigot. The outside shape was created, removing the three corners nearest the tailstock and creating a foot/spigot in the process. With the outside finished, the piece could be reversed in the chuck and the inside hollowed out, leaving a ledge to locate the lid. There was a lot of discussion on lid design, looking at various options for fit, how it relates to the box, whether a finial is added etc.



There was a short lunch break (attendees brought their own lunch), during which Emma was engaging in conversation with various members and sold a few of her specialist items, paints etc.

Box with Lid:

Emma started with a square section blank, turned it to round between centres, created a spigot at each end, placed it in the chuck and parted off a piece for the lid. The outside was then shaped, following which the inside was hollowed out. The lid piece was then held in the chuck and shaped to form a jam chuck for the base, so that the chucking point could be turned away and the underside of the base finished. Final shaping of the lid could then be done, the decoration applied, and the lid parted off.





Decorated Platter: Emma took a circular blank and turned it between centres to create a spigot on one side. Mounting it by the spigot she shaped the underside, including a spigot / foot. She then mounted it by this spigot and shaped the upper side of the platter, leaving bulk in the centre to reduce flexing. The rim area was then finish sanded and decorated, turning the lathe on to distribute the paint (with suitable protection for the lathe). When the paint had dried, the centre was hollowed out and finished.





Time flew by and the Seminar finished around 16.00, with several attendees staying on to help clear away the SAW equipment and tidy the room. A good time was had by all – look out for the next SAW Seminar – 26th April 2026!

Steve Elliott Reporter for SAWNL

Apologies from the Editor as this item was not included in the last Newsletter.

The Birth of SAW 35 years ago !!!!!!!

I took the liberty of interviewing our esteemed Life President, Bob French at his house recently to get the details of how our wonderful club, Surrey Association of Woodturners actually came about.

So here is the story, as told by Bob and Margaret to myself and Nancy over tea, coffee and cakes.

Bob had a grounding in wood from the fact that his father, grandfather and uncle all worked within the boatbuilding industry. Woodworking skills got passed down through the generations, so wood and associated skills seemed to be in Bobs genes...word is that he has sawdust in his blood.

Bobs first real encounter with a proper workshop was in his grandfathers' garden where a lathe was set up. Unfortunately, his grandparents were killed in the 1940s Blitz, so equipment and tools were scattered far and wide. Luckily some tools were recovered and shared between Bob and his brother. Bob still has some of his grandfather's tools in his workshop today.

In spite of his woodturning heritage Bob was not advised to take up turning to make money so he turned to engineering until around 1980. After being made redundant and then surviving a very serious car accident, a decision to invest some redundancy and compensation money into buying a Coronet Major Lathe was made.

With this new machine there opened up opportunities to produce saleable items via local craft fairs. So, after failing to secure a new job Margaret and Bob took the decision for Bob to become a professional turner. Working in a local garden centre allowed the chance to open a workshop and sell to the public which proved to be a great decision for them both.

It was in 1987 that Bob attended an International Woodturning seminar at Loughborough University and this was where the AWGB was born. It was at this seminar in 1987 that the idea for local clubs came about, so in January 1990 SAW was formed with local interested turners invited to join.

Meetings were held in Bob and Margaret's home on a monthly basis with refreshments provided by Bob's lovely wife. With a handful of original members, the numbers soon grew and the decision to use The Mytchett Centre small hall for meetings was agreed.

As the Club increased in size to almost 200 members at one point, Bob passed control of the Club to the Committee members for the day-to-day running of things.

So today SAW has 115 members, and Bob sits proudly as our Lifetime President, and we are all so grateful that Bob and the original 10 created our wonderful club.

If you get the chance then maybe say hello to Bob and shake his hand, because SAW would not be here without him, and he definitely has a huge wealth of knowledge and experience.

The first members of SAW :

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bob French | 2. Bob Godbehere | 3. Bob Weir | 4. Mike Weir |
| 5. John Garner | 6. David Reeks | 7. Jack Wilson | 8. Dennis Randall |
| 9. Ivan Smith | 10. Denis Page | | |

I think I can say from us all THANKS BOB....

Pat Carswell Reporter for SAWNL

Club Night 13th June 2025 - Denis Findlay turning

Dennis very kindly agreed to be our Club Turner for the June meeting. Those of us who know Dennis's work know that it is always well finished and often has a little bit extra in the design element.

This demonstration was to be just what we therefore expected.

The subject of his demonstration was to be a three-point bowl. Yes, we have seen a number of these from recent demonstrators but, as mentioned before, Dennis tends to add that little bit extra. The extra element this time was that the cube, from which the bowl was to be made, was laminated.

The cube measured 125mm on all sides and was made up of 5 segments each 125mm x 125mm square and 25mm thick. Three segments were made from dark wood with two contrasting segments of pale wood sandwiched between.

As there are currently no specific drives for this type of turning Dennis had to create his own. This consisted of a domed shaped chuck made from soft wood. The crown of the dome had been slightly hollowed, and three grooves cut into the side of the hollow and 120 degrees. The tail stock support was achieved by trimming the corner to create a small triangular flat with a small bradawl mark in the centre. This provides the contact point for a ring centre.



With one corner in the drive end and one in the tail stock end this left six corners unattached. Once the lathe was started these created two sets of ghost shadows.



Gently, gently was clearly the order of the day, with very close attention paid to the locating of the tool rest to avoid the tool rest accidentally contacting with any of the revolving corners, at the same time as managing the cap between work and work and tool rest. The first task was to reduce the tailstock end shadow to a smooth surface, this would be the outside of the bowl, and to create a chucking point for stage two.



As you will see the Chucking point here is fairly substantial as it will ultimately serve to create the foot of the bowl.



The workpiece rotated and mounted in the chuck the process of hollowing commences. At this stage you would consider the desired thickness of the final product.



As all of the wood above the points is to be removed, the initial activity is waste removal. Until you achieve a flat surface between the points.

Excavating the bowl is approached with care as you have three points to be aware of. This also means that as you progress to the desired wall thickness more and more of the cuts will be going into open air. A steady hand, sharp tools and a light touch is clearly the order of the day.

The bowl complete and finished to desired level, the last task is to tidy up the base. To do this Dennis reused the domed drive covered with a piece of non-slip fabric.



The remnants of the chucking point can be removed and the foot cleaned up and finished... The final outcome is both pleasing and challenging.

David Stratton Reporter for SAWNL

GMES 5th - 6th July 2025

Typical Summer days greeted members of the Surrey Association of Woodturners (SAW) Demonstration Team when they again supported the Guildford Model Engineering Society's (GMES) Gala Weekend on 5th and 6th July.

Set-up on Friday went well but even then, the prospect of unadulterated sunshine was a faint hope.



Unlike recent weeks where we sweltered in uninterrupted sunshine, the weekend proved to be more of the typical English summer mix of sunshine and showers.

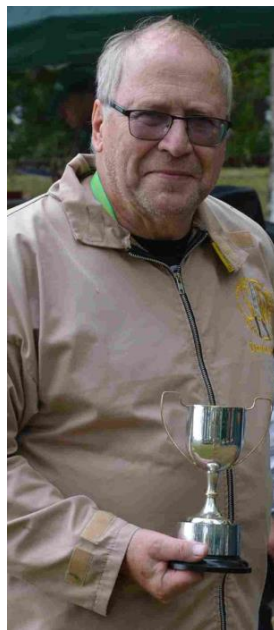
That said it was, by all measures, a successful event with plenty of opportunities to interact with the visiting public and display not only our members' turning skills but also our output. A number of the visitors expressed an interest in taking up Woodturning as a hobby and it is hoped that, once they take up our invite to attend some of our regular monthly meetings, this interest may be turned into membership.

During the sunny periods we greeted a steady flow of visitors and when the rains came, we were able to offer, the more hardly, temporary shelter in our large display gazebo. A captive audience for our willing and able stewards.

This event has been a long-standing arrangement between SAW and GMES and is seen as the kickstart of SAW's outside demonstration program, which this year will see them demonstrating in support of the Odiham Village Fayre, Frimley Green Carnival, Brookland Museum, the Egham Royal Show and the National Trust at Dapdune Wharf.

Given the unpredictable weather, sale over the weekend were very reasonable and 10% of all takings will be used as part of SAW's annual Charitable donations.

A very pleasant surprise came towards the end of the Sunday events when the Club was awarded the Brian Barrow Trophy, in recognition of our valued support for the event over the years.



As the SAW Team organiser, I would express my thanks to all members who helped out, both during the event days as well as popping along to help with set-up and breakdown of the Club's stand.

A particular thanks go to Tony Wellbeloved who, despite not attending the event, very kindly arranged to deliver and collect the gazeboes.

GMES remains a great venue for anyone to cut their teeth in participating in one of the Clubs external events. If you have not yet joined in, then please do so soon.

David Stratton 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.

NB. Due to holiday commitments the shop will not be at the August meeting. Please make sure you get your summer needs in good time, either in June or July.

David Stratton Treasurer and Shop Keeper

Editors Bites

Fellow SAWrites it's been so very very hot recently that I am sure many of you, like myself have kept out of the workshop. I recently rechristened my own area into a Studio (thanks to Barry Alder), which means I can hopefully charge an extra 20% and get to wear more flamboyant clothing.

I have finally got myself motivated and have been working on the Colwin Way basket weave vase. After attempting to follow his video instructions it was not as easy as I thought in my tiny mind. I have managed to create "something" but much more importantly I have learned new skills and have a much better idea of how to approach the next creation, with some changes that will work better for me.

Those of you that know me will know that ever since I joined SAW many years ago, I have always said that one of our greatest assets is that members are there to help, support, offer to share and have a laugh. We are a very welcoming Club with a massive wealth of knowledge and experience. As new members, please know that no question is a silly one, ask if you can borrow tools before you buy, and also ask if others might have that piece of wood you are looking for.

Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter

Closing dates for Newsletter 2025

28th September 30th November

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

SAW Merchandise

So, well SAWrites I am looking into interest in SAW merchandise, namely T shirts, Polo shirts and baseball caps.

At this moment I have no idea of potential costs but what I need to do is find out your interest. So, if you might be initially interested could you please email me at editor@sawoodturners.org

I just need to know if you might want to buy some, if you want t shirt/polo/cap or a mix of them and your size and your name please.

If we have enough interest, then I will proceed and look at suppliers and potential cost.

Pat Carswell Reporter for SAWNL

Items For Sale

The Rules: Adverts will be carried over two issues of the newsletter and will then be removed unless advertisers let the editor know they wish to keep it running and let the editor know what has been sold so their advert can be updated.

As of January 2015, member's adverts will be published at a donation of 10% (to help with printing costs). The committee rely on the member selling to be honest about that which has sold. Donations by cash or cheque made payable to **Surrey Association of Woodturners** and either sent or given to the editor or the treasurer. We can now offer bank transfer payment by arrangement with Treasurer.

Widows of late members selling tools no donation required.

All others, including ex-members and non-members as usual a donation of 20% of what is sold, but this would be at the committee's discretion.

Only adverts giving full contact details will be considered if ex-members or non-members; a name and phone number is not good enough.

The sale must always be the responsibility of the member selling any item and therefore buyers are reminded that they buy at their own risk. The club accepts no responsibility for faulty items whether they be electrical or not.