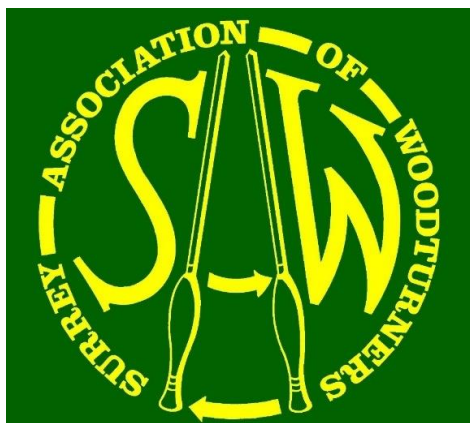




Surrey Association of Woodturners *Established since 1990*

Newsletter April 25- May 25

Edition 0003

PAID UP MEMBERSHIP – 114 (As of going to press)

Welcome to New Members:

Ken Austin

Simon Pearce

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

13 th June	Mytchett/Zoom Club Turner Live
22 nd June	Mytchett Small Hall: Workshop Day
11 th July	Mytchett/Zoom Ron Caddy Live
12 th July	Odiham Fete: Demo & Sale of Work
30 th -31 st July	Brooklands Museum: Demo & Sale of Work
8 th August	Mytchett/Zoom Practical Evening/Club Competition
12 th September	Mytchett/Zoom David Bracken IRD
27 th September	NT Dapdune Wharf: Demo & Sale of Work
10 th October	Mytchett/Zoom TBA
18 th October	Princes Mead Demo & Sale of Work
26 th October	Mytchett SAW Open Day
14 th November	Mytchett/Zoom Martin Saben Smith 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 26

We are nearly half way through our woodturning year and as I reflect on the past 5 months it seems that my term as chairman will soon come to an end. I have seen our committee dwindle and increase over my 2 three-year stints as chairman, but we have never had such a small committee as we now have. To

miss quote the Importance of Being Earnest "to lose 1 member is unfortunate to lose more than one may be deemed carelessness" Some have moved to pastures new, others having served many years on the committee, have recognised the impact of the passing years and have stood down. Alas only one new brave soul joined the committee this year.

Our Constitution states the chairman can be elected up to three times (covering 3 years maximum) and ***then must stand down***. Each of our committee members has taken on more and more duties to keep the club running and it has reached a point where I cannot ask more to be done by the committee. A quick chat has indicated no committee member currently wishes to take on the role of Chairman so I ask you as a member - please can you give some time and join the committee to reduce the load currently being carried by the chairman and other committee members. Hopefully this will encourage a candidate to come forward. You don't have to be a gnarly old turner who has reached the dizzy heights of the premier group to be a committee member or to be the Chairman.

Our professional/ club turners for the last 3 months have delighted us with a variety of turning projects. All have been suitable tasks for our members to try out on their own lathes. Our Chairmans Challenge is based on the demo, and we have seen some interesting interpretations. It is a pleasure to sit and consider each piece.

You may have noticed this Newsletter has an article on the Chairman's Challenge rather than the club competition. As I wrote the competition article, it seemed that my understanding of the steps following the club competition judging did not meet the self-editing test, so we have more work to do. Please watch out for the next issue.

We now have a regular team to both administer the raffle and to man the raffle table. We have bought in some blanks from a wood mill in Somerset and will look to add further prizes. If you have any suggestions, please talk to the raffle table team.

Last month I asked the Secretary to ask all the Intermediate, Open and Premier turners to develop ideas on what they could turn for the Club Table at the Open Day. Nearly all our members have admired the other club tables and little of what they have shown cannot be done by our turners so please come back to me soonest with your ideas.

Please enjoy the warmer weather, get in your shed and keep on turning.

Mike Spaven Chairperson

Introducing the Demonstrator

Denis Findlay 13th June 2025

I went to a technical school where woodwork and metal work were part of the curriculum. I must have been about 15 years old when I had my first experience of woodworking on a lathe.

We were to make a mahogany bowl, with the blank screwed to a faceplate to shape the outside and then pressed into the recess of a jam chuck to hollow and shape the inside profile. After a short demonstration by the Woodwork Master, we took it in turns to make our own bowl. When it came to my turn, I had shaped the outside and was in the process of making the jam chuck. (At this point the Master had left the workshop). The lathe was a two-speed machine, speeds were selected by a lever with a central "off" position. I must have gone from "fast" to "slow" without waiting in the "off" position for the faceplate/wooden jam chuck to slow down. The result of the deceleration/inertia caused the faceplate to unscrew from the headstock spindle thread and bounce around the workshop, cracking the jam chuck in half. I managed to put another soft wood blank on the faceplate; shape it ready for my bowl to be finished by the time the Master had returned to the workshop. Luckily no one mentioned what had happened and I finished my bowl in due course. I learnt quite a bit from that but I'm not sure if we knew what Health & Safety was in those days! Later, when my son was at school, he had to make a handle for a tool they were making in Craft and Technology, (I think it was a screwdriver). My son wanted me to help him make a proper looking handle, not something roughly carved. We rigged up a very basic lathe with a Black & Decker drill in a stand fastened to a plank of wood, it was what you might call a "Lash Up", but we did make a passable handle.

Talking about our efforts later to his school Master, I mentioned that I would like a proper lathe. He gave me the details of where all the old school machinery was being sold off by the County Council. They were selling off some fine old machinery, but it was all far too large and heavy for my needs, and I was limited by the size of the bench located in my garage, which also had to house my car. This was before "Woodturning" magazine existed although one of the woodworking magazines used to sometimes have articles about turning and also adverts for lathes. One such advert was for a "James Innes Sherwood" lathe, and it was a bit basic, but it was a lathe that would fit on my bench. The bed was a single bar along which the banjo and tailstock were clamped, moving the banjo and tailstock required the use of a spanner. All this for about £100.00 if you provided your own washing machine motor! There were other lathes but far more expensive, so as money was tight, I opted for the "Sherwood". Over several years of reading books on woodturning and watching demonstrations at woodworking and turning events, I gained experience and made good use of that lathe. In fact, I still have it although the headstock is now used as a slow speed grinder for tool sharpening.

In 1999 I purchased a Record CL2 lathe. After a while I upgraded it from a three speed to a five-speed machine and later to variable speed with the aid of "Speed Genie". I am still using this lathe and sometimes toy with the idea of changing to a more modern design, but then I ask myself if it would make me a better turner?

In 2007 I went to an event at West & Sons near Petworth, SAW had a stand there and one of the members suggested that I should come along to a club meeting and see if I liked it. Well, I must have done because I still enjoy the meetings and events. I have learnt a lot from other members and demonstrators over the years. I like to try out new ideas and like some variety in my turning, boredom would be turning a large batch of the same thing.

Over the last two years family commitments have prevented me from being as involved in club activities as I would have liked but I hope to now help out with a few more things.

Denis Findlay Reporter for SAWN

Saying goodbye to John Creasey 22nd May 2025

Those members that could make it, gathered to say a final farewell to our dear friend and long-term member of SAW, John Creasey on Tuesday 22nd May at Guildford Crematorium.

I think all those that were there heard some lovely stories about JC and just how accident prone, he was. All there shared some laughs and sadness to, but I am sure that John would be so grateful that his friends from SAW said a lovely goodbye to him.

Thank you to Robert and Claire Grant for getting us all together for the photograph.



John joined our club in 2006 and 4 years later joined the Committee. He was an active Committee member until he resigned in 2022. John, as Publicity Secretary, was always looking for ways to bolster the club's presence by seeking events for SAW to demonstrate woodturning. He made contact with many organisations leading to our presence at Dapdune Wharfe in Guildford,

Brooklands where he was already an active volunteer, Painshill Park, Axminster Store in Basingstoke, and the Egham Show. John was an active member of the teams at all these events. Although in later years, John stopped turning at these events, he was quite happy to steward and talk to visitors. John was always saying touch it, feel it- wood is very tactile. John was usually first in the queue for bacon rolls at GMES and other events. John regularly entered the Open Day and Club Competition. On one occasion, the topic was a mug tree - Johns piece was decorated with faces of the committee members.

John was also in contact with several other organisations to promote our events often getting free publicity

John was one of the group of SAW members who spent many Wednesdays at Paul Nesbitt's Tuesday club. I am sure it was for the cakes!



John, from his childhood days in Portsmouth, was a long-time supporter of Pompey Football club. He was interested in local history. John's working career was spent in association with the shipping business and having lived overseas finally pitched up in Woking. After John stopped turning, he joined the Men's Shed in West Byfleet and very quickly became an active member participating in much lighthearted banter. John's lathe and many tools were donated to the Men's Shed

Pat Carswell & Mike Spaven sad Reporters for SAWNL

SAW Competitions Part 2

Part 2 Chairman's Challenge

The Chairmans Challenge was set up to provide the SAW members with an opportunity to try turning an item after seeing the professional /club turners demonstration. The Chairmans challenge was previously held on the club night a month after the demo, but it was clear that there was little time to discuss the items. Since we started the zoom challenge we have incentivised the tuners to put up pieces for judging and discussion (wine or chocolate)

There will normally be 2 groups Beginners, Novices and the Others. The Chairman judges the items from photographs or from the turner presenting the items to the Zoom Audience. This takes place on a Friday approximately 5 weeks after the demo. The Chairman will give a commentary and say why he has chosen a piece "to take home"

If a turner cannot make this Zoom meeting, then either photos (top view, side view and bottom view with notes on size, finish and any problems) or the turned piece can be passed on to the Secretary who will present these to the Zoom meeting.

A turner in the Novice /Beginners group can enter a piece meeting the requirements of the Upper group and the piece will be judged along with Upper group pieces.

Mike Spaven Reporter for SAWNL

Paul Nesbitt 9th May 2025

Paul introduced himself and noted that he had been asked to include two things: Firstly, he should turn in one of his smocks - which he promptly put on - and secondly, he should demonstrate hollowing with a spindle gouge which he would do at the end of his demonstrations. Paul intended to demonstrate two pieces: an eight-sided bowl and a 3-sided platter.

Eight-sided Bowl

Paul first showed how to mark out the 8-sided bowl – following a set of instructions he had written which Steve Elliott would circulate to club members. This description follows the key steps Paul took to make the 8-sided bowl.



Paul in his smock of many colours marking out the eight-sided bowl. (3452)

The starting point is a perfectly square piece of wood flat on both sides. Mark the center and scribe a circle that is just inside each side of the square. Scribe another circle exactly the same size as the jaws you are using. The optimum size is when the jaws are exactly circular. Using a 45 degree set square, draw lines that just touch the outer circle effectively cutting off the corner. These are then band sawn off to create eight equal length sides. Finally, Paul scribed another circle about 1 inch inside the outer circle. This is based on a 2-inch thickness blank and denotes the face edge of the outside cove. The radius of this circle should be remembered so it can be transferred to the other side of the blank. At this point Paul switched to a piece of American walnut that had already been marked out and the corners cut off. Paul sent a message after the demo explaining that he usually finished the flat part of the bowl on his finisher first, so you do not roll over the edges after turning. Paul then explained that to cut the spigot, he used a ring drive (or step center) in the tailstock and inserted this into the center of the marked-out face, using his O'Donnell jaws as a friction drive on the other face.



Cutting the spigot on the marked out face (top of the bowl) (3454)

Paul then took the bowl off the chuck and then scribed another circle on the other side of the blank to indicate the start of the outside cove to the base of the bowl. The bowl spigot was then inserted into the chuck using a thumb, applying pressure in the center to ensure the spigot seated correctly. Lines were then drawn 1/4inch off the centerline of the bowl blank edges. These represented a target for the outer edge of the outside cove.



Finishing the marking out of the base recess chucking point (3457)

With all the marking complete Paul turned the lathe on and marked out and cut a recess chucking point for the bottom of the bowl. He normally leaves chucking points in place (except for competition pieces) but by making the chucking point diameter exactly match the chuck size, the spigot or recess can be made very small (typically 3mm) and still hold the piece securely. Paul also usually decorates the bottom of a recess or spigot using a spindle gouge.

Paul then started scooping out the corner of the base between the two lines making concave cuts and cutting from the face to the edge to cut down hill. The cove should be cut to produce a smooth curve and just touch the two lines. Once this is completed the base can be sanded and sealed (unless it needed reworking as was the case with this demo due to a slight catch on the edge).



Bowl complete base ready for sanding and sealing (3460)

The bowl was then reversed onto the recess (using a thumb to ensure it seated well) and the cove on top of the bowl turned. Paul used a bowl gouge and cut from the face to the edge to get the best finish. The turning continued until the cove met the lines and the corners were equal thickness. Any eccentricity in the marking or non-flat faces / non square blank could result in unequal thickness in the bowl side wings.



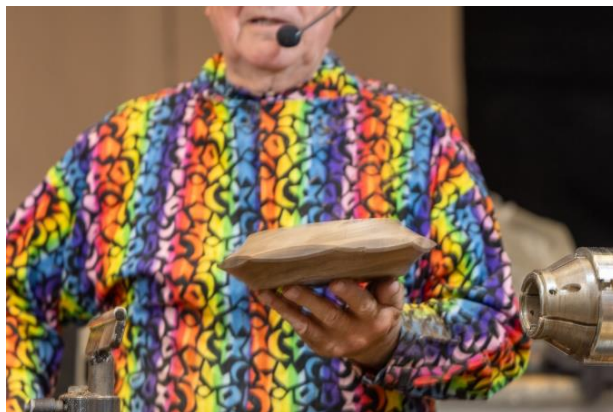
Outside of the bowl complete (3464)

With the outside of the bowl complete, Paul started hollowing the inside. Paul usually had his tool rest about $\frac{1}{2}$ " below center and often used hollow cylinders around the post to set the minimum height of the tool rest so he could quickly reposition it. When hollowing, Paul advocated cutting in from the outside edge, raising the cutting tip as he moved in and then lowering it towards the center.



Paul hollowing the inside of the bowl (3467)

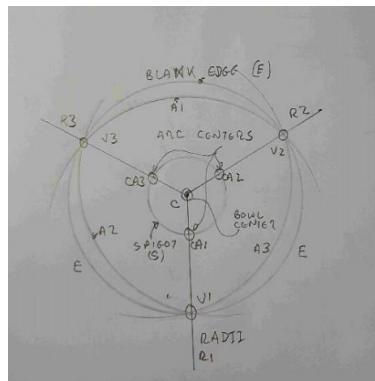
Having finished the inside Paul would normally sand and seal the complete bowl before finishing with wax. In this case the bowl would require a bit of repair using superglue and brown dust before final finishing. To finish the flat parts of the bowl Paul explained that he either used a linisher before turning (preferred method as explained earlier) or use a sanding disk on the lathe or a detail sander.



The finished 8 sided bowl (3469)

Three-sided Platter

Paul then started marking out a round blank (E) with parallel faces for his 3-sided platter. I have sketched the markings out in a diagram below. (There may be a video made available that shows this marking out in more detail). He first marked the center (C) and scribed a circle for a spigot (S). He then marked a straight-line radius (R1) which marked the center point of rotation (CA1) for a side where it crossed the spigot mark. Using a protractor, he measured angles for two other radii (R2,R3) at 120 degrees from his existing line marking out the other two centers (CR2,CR3). Using compasses, he then drew three equal radii arcs (A1,A2,A3) centered on each of the offset centers CA1,CA2,CA3). The arcs should just touch the edge of the blank where the opposite radii intersect (V1,V2,V3) and these will be the corners of the platter.



Sketch of 3-sided platter marking out (5532small)

With the platter marked out, Paul put a steb center in the tailstock (after blowing the quill out to make sure that it centered properly) and positioned it on one of the arc centers (CA1-3). The blank was held between the steb center and the O'Donnell jaws creating a friction drive. Paul then started taking light cuts along the edge of the bowl until the line was nearly erased. He then moved onto the next arc centers and repeated the turning until all the lines were equally erased. Care needs to be taken to ensure that the marking was accurate and cuts are to the same depth. The lathe should be stopped and the depth of cut checked regularly otherwise the resulting vertices (corners) V1-V3 will not align with the radii R1-R3 and the sides will be different lengths.



Turning the platter edges (3475) Note the change of smock !

Paul then moved the steb center to the blank center (C) and cut a tenon. The blank could now be reversed and inserted into the jaws ready to turn the bottom of the platter. Paul then showed how to get an accurate marking for the foot which would also act as a spigot for turning the top surface. By putting a number of concentric pencil lines on the base and having dividers set to the width of the chuck, the dividers can be centralized with the lefthand point on the tool rest and just touching the wood and the right hand point just off the workpiece until the correct position is found. After turning the foot Paul turned the bottom of the platter to a smooth curve, leaving space for the corners to be finished on the top surface.



Turning the foot and the outside (3477)

As with his previous demonstration Paul pointed out that the wood has to be square or the corners will end up different widths. Once the curve was complete Paul sanded, sealed and waxed the bottom of the platter so it was now ready for the top surface to be turned.



The finished bottom of the platter (3478)

The platter could now be reversed in the chuck and the top surface turned. The idea this time was to replicate the bottom shape on the top surface. This time the turning will need to be undertaken from the outside in, keeping the weight and strength in the middle of the platter to stop chatter. The edge should be thinned from the points inward leaving steps to pick up again. Once the platter has been thinned into the chuck space you can take the center out and finish using thinner cuts. The top of the platter is then sanded, sealed, and finished with woodwax.



The finished three-sided platter (3483)

Spindle Gouge Hollowing

Paul finished his demonstration with a bit of spindle gouge hollowing noting that the spindle gouge was the first ever manufactured hollowing tool. Paul demonstrated three techniques.

Drilling – The point of the gouge (and the cutting edge) should be exactly at center height and the flute straight up. The gouge is pushed dead straight into the wood.

Hollowing through – This is used to hollow a vessel through a small hole. The flute points out - away from the turner. The tool is rolled up inside the piece and the flute rolled down keeping the bevel on the inside of the wood, so the cutting edge is to the right and above the center.

Hollowing – to remove large amounts of material the gouge is pulled out towards the turner with the flute pointing upwards. Paul noted that this could be used for hollowing boxes but was not good for producing the square sides. These are better produced by a ¼" bar ground on each side to clean up the edges.

Paul concluded by recommending that people try different ways of doing things and try to experiment as this will produce individual styles and come up with new ideas.

Duncan Clark 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 turners 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

So, my fellow SAWrites (a new nickname for us all) I have been busy with an assortment of things just recently, but the most exciting was driving up too Bishop Auckland near Durham to stay with Nancys family.

I was pretty concerned as this was going to be the longest journey we had taken in my EV so would be a virgin at charging outside of home. Although in truth it was somewhat of a nightmare to begin with but once we were connected to the

Rapid Chargers, we were fine. Seeing family is always special and we managed to get 8 of us for Sunday lunch. After being driven to Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, along the coast Roker and Seaburn and the most special trip to the majestic Durham Cathedral, all parts of Nancys life story.

So now we are home I am more determined to make the basket weave vase, and to make it even better Nancy has just bought me a set of Glen Teagle carbide tools, which actually arrived while I am writing this newsletter. What a lucky boy I am and if he was still with John Creasey would have a comment that Nancy was treating me yet again....you are still in my thoughts JC.

Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter

Closing dates for Newsletter 2025

27th July 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