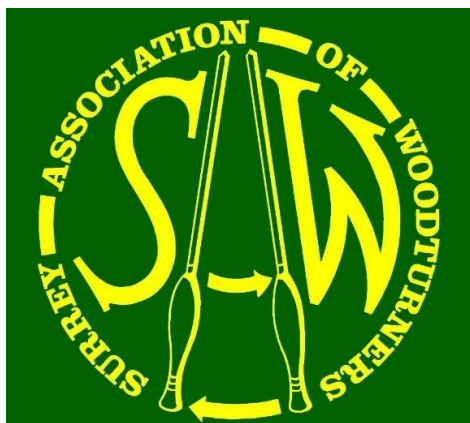




Surrey Association of Woodturners *Established since 1990*

Newsletter Oct 25- Nov 25

Edition 0006

PAID UP MEMBERSHIP – 118 (As of going to press)

Welcome to New Members:

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 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 2025/2026

23 rd November	Mytchett Small Hall: Workshop Day
12 th December	Mytchett/Zoom Practical & Club Competition And Christmas Social Evening
9 th January	Mytchett/Zoom Dan Smith Live Demo
16 th January	SAW AGM Zoom
13 th February	Mytchett/Zoom Nathanael Griffiths Live Demo

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

Mike's Meditations from the lathe Chapter 29

What a period we have had with the successful Open Day , Princess Mead, and one live and one IRD demo. Our last workshop day was great success with 3 new members wanting help as well as more experienced turners wanting to try new techniques. Our Membership continues to grow with several new members joining over the last 2 months. SAW has always had a reputation for welcoming new members and supporting their development.

By now, many of our members will have seen the benefits of the new back projector. Colin has managed to source a new bulb for the old projector which we keep as a back-up. Colin has also been active in our storage cupboards removing some stuff that has not seen the light of day for many years. We are mindful that we still have to address some of the remaining risk factors and that work is ongoing as time permits.

This year we started the early collection of turned items for a charity shop in August. I can report that we accumulated 3 Laithwaite's wine boxes of stuff and most of this has been delivered to the Shooting Stars shop in Guildford. The remainder will be delivered as they request it. This charity was supported by Richard Nolan for many years, and I am glad we

have been able to continue Richard's good work. A big thank you to those members who donated items (Christmas and other turnings).

Earlier this month I looked in my Christmas box and found it was nearly empty and so for the first 2 weeks in November I made time to turn a load of trees, bird boxes, penguins, Father Christmases and other ornaments. These raised some funds for some other charities and hey ho I have more to make.

Today I was driven inside by the cold to write my meditations and to think on the next year as I step down as Chairman (Again). The demographics of our club are changing, and we now have many more new members who are starting their journey as a woodturner. We have moved away from the 70/30 rule where 70% of the club is over 70 but, and this is a BIG but we also have fewer seasoned turners as they move away from the area or are unable to turn for health reason. This group has formed the base of our demonstration teams, mentors, contributors to the SAW table and general the club go to man. This means are in even more need of support from the Open and Intermediate turners to fill some of the gaps. We must look at ways to ensure the club can meet your expectations as well as those with many years supporting the club. More on this via the weekly notices.

Mike Spaven Chairperson

Brooklands Weybridge 30th-31st July 2025



The setting for the event on 30/31 July 2025 was the usual teaching room in the Barnes Wallace Stratosphere Chamber building, Building No 15, at Brooklands Museum. The museum houses a fascinating range of aeronautical and motoring displays, static as well as fully operational, including The London Bus Museum.

The weather was variable, glorious sunshine one minute and showers the next. The event was organised by Steve Elliott, supported by a team of willing demonstrators and stewards – 11 people in total, with 8 attending Day 1 and 10 on Day 2. The team assembled at 08.00 on Day 1 and started preparing the room and unloading all the kit. The sales tables and three lathes, along with external banners and signage, were all set up and ready for the 10.00 opening of the museum.



Over the two days the demonstrators were Anna-Marie, Mike and Max Bennett, Philip Hamilton, Roger Hardwick, Kim Holmes, Colin Rowe, Mike Spaven and David Stratton, with stewarding support from Keith Tarling and Steve Elliott. Keith also took the opportunity for some hands-on turning tuition under the watchful eye of Mike Spaven.

Numbers attending the museum appeared lower than previous years with only 140 visitors to the SAW stand being clocked over the two days (compared to 205 in 2024). Even the number of Brooklands volunteers seemed lower than on previous SAW visits, probably due to John

Creasey not being there to drum up support. The visitors showed interest in the demonstrations and were encouraged to handle the items for sale.



At 17.00 on Day 1 it was a case of a quick tidy-up, unplug everything, turn off the lights and close the doors. On Day 2 the team only needed to arrive by 09.45 to be ready at 10.00, but many chose to come earlier and have breakfast in the Café, the bacon butties proving very popular. Team Bennett arrived early to unload and set up their lathe.

The stewards and demonstrators continued engaging the visitors in conversation about the items on sale, the types of wood and generally promoting the craft and the Club. Several visitors showed interest in the Club activities, including the Open Day, and one or two expressed an interest in possibly joining.

Mike Spaven took on a commission for two children's rolling pins and got them to help him add their names using pyrography.

Over the two days, sales of £213 were achieved (against £337 in 2024), a percentage of which will be donated to the museum.

An enjoyable two days all round, if a little quiet!



Steve Elliott Reporter for SAWNL

Dapdune Wharf 27th September 2025



Once again, we were in the Barge Building. The weather was glorious, and the crowds flooded in – over 5,000 on the day, a record for Dapdune.

The SAW event was organised by Steve Elliott, supported by a team of willing demonstrators and stewards – 8 people in total. The team assembled at 09.00 and started unloading all the kit and preparing the area, which was shared with other activities. The sales tables and three lathes, along with external banners and signage, were all set up and ready for the 10.00 opening.

The SAW team comprised Colin Bradshaw, Philip Hamilton, Roger Hardwick, Jim Yates. Alisdhair Beckingham, Mike Spaven and Steve Elliott.

With restricted parking on site most of the team had to unload then park at Wickes, by prior arrangement, and walk 20mins to Dapdune.

We had plenty of people finding us and having a good look at the demonstrations and items for sale. Over the day, sales of £515 were achieved, a percentage of which will be donated to the NT.



At 17.00 we started packing up (as we had not opted to stay on until the illuminated boat pageant arrived as darkness fell) and were clear of the site around 18.00.



An enjoyable day all round!

Steve Elliott Reporter for SAWN

Princess Mead 18th October 2025

Ten of our members arrived bright and early at 8:15am to set up for another of our popular shopping centre events. With nine tables packed full of beautifully turned items and four lathes running throughout the day, our display looked superb — a real showcase of the talent within the club.



There was a huge variety of work on offer, and shoppers were clearly impressed. We recorded 42 individual sales totalling £647 — not our highest figure to date, but still a very solid result and a testament to the quality of the pieces on display.

The star of the show had to be Ursula and her tiny turned mice, which drew smiles (and plenty of sales!) throughout the day.



**** even your Editor in Chief got in the picture with Nancy while we supported the Team ****

From start to finish, there was a steady stream of visitors watching the demonstrations, chatting about the craft, and showing real interest in both woodturning and the club itself. It's always great to see how fascinated people are when they discover what can be created on a lathe — and several even asked about joining SAW, which is fantastic.



By around 4pm the footfall had started to ease, and we began packing away the lathes. As ever, there was still time for a bit of late drama — Mike Spaven, who'd had a rather quiet day up to that point, suddenly made £55 of sales in just two minutes!

All in all, it was a very enjoyable and successful day — a great mix of demonstrating, selling, chatting, and flying the flag for SAW. If you haven't yet taken part in one of these events, we'd really encourage you to get involved next time. They're fun, rewarding, and a brilliant way to share our craft with the public.

Graham Mansfield Reporter for SAWNL

SAW Open Day 26th October 2025

The Open day was a success thanks to the tireless efforts of the organising Committee and the many volunteers. Robert Grant led the committee with Duncan Clark (man in the hat) Steve Elliott, Colin Rowe, Colin Bradshaw and David Stratton.

We cannot run the Open day without a team of volunteers. They manned the door, ran the tea shop, supported Mark Beckett with a professional AV set up and operation, ran the raffle, carried vendor stuff in and out of the main hall, many other small tasks through the day and finally cleared up at the end of the day. A big thanks to all of you for your help.

Our two judges were Simon Hope and Martin Saban Smith. They had an interesting time judging the entries and many a positive comment was overheard by the competition room organisers. A big thanks to Graham Mansfield for his professional photographs.

Each year we review how well the Open Day ran and plan tweaks for the following year. We also listen to feedback from our members. This year we were able to open early, start the demonstration programme and judging early and run the raffle between demo 2 and 3.

Forest of Bere and Berkshire Woodturning Associations had a great display and wood turning demos. The Southern Fellowship of Woodworkers had a wide selection of native timber for sale. Tucked in the corner were GMES with a display of wonderful engineering models. The AWGB and travelling display were represented by their SE representative Richard Peers.

Finally, our Vendors, Simon Hope had a full display of tools, accessories and all the consumables needed to make and finish our wood turning items, WL West joined us for the

first time with a large supply of timber and other stuff. Martin Saban Smith was promoting his new book on design. We are very grateful for their donations to the raffle table especially as these led to higher ticket sales. Dalman Timbers also donated some fine exotic timber for the raffle. Our trusty burger man provided us with tasty bacon role first thing and other food for lunch.

And FINALLY, please plan ahead for 2026 and add the last Sunday in October to your diary.

Mike Spaven Reporter for SAWNL

SAW Open Day Results 26th October 2025

SAW individual Competition

	Beginners Spindle		Beginners Face Plate	
1	Colin Bradshaw	Box	Colin Bradshaw	Natural Edge Bowl
2	Colin Bradshaw	Mortar and Pestle	Neil Atkinson	Bowl
3	Colin Bradshaw	Coloured Vase	Colin Bradshaw	Coloured Bowl
HC			Colin Bradshaw	Decorated Bowl
	Novice Spindle		Novice Faceplate	
1	Simon Pearson	Rattle	Simon Pearson	Bowl
2	Simon Pearson	Box	Dave Smith	Bowl w Coloured Rim
3	Rodger Hardwick	Offset box	Simon Pearson	Natural edge Bowl
	Open Spindle		Open Faceplate	
1	Kim Holmes	Segmented Balloon	Paul Bolton	3 corner Bowl
2	Steve Elliot	Box with finial	Paul Bolton	Marquetry Bowl
2	Paul Bolton	Bos with Finial		
3	Paul Bolton	Coloured Vase		
	Premier Spindle		Premier Faceplate	
1	Duncan Clark	Chinese Ball in Ball	Mike Spaven	Bowl with ebonised insert
2	Denis Findlay	Offset Box	Denis Findlay	Bowl
3	Mike Spaven	Ball and ring puzzle	Duncan Clark	London Plane Platter
HC	Rodney Goodship	Reflection Box	Duncan Clark	Burr bowl
HC	Stephen Evans	Jewellery Box	Stephen Evans	Bowl with Decorated rim

Presidents Gavel

1st Surrey Association of Woodturners

2nd Forest of Bere

3rd Berkshire Association of Woodturners

Geoff Quinell Trophy Duncan Clark

Presidents Platter Kim Holmes

Vice Presidents Platter

Open Competition

1st Duncan Clarke

2nd Peter Leach

3rd Harvey Grimwood

Photos of individual pieces

Beginners Spindle



Beginners Face Plate



Novice Spindle



Novice Face Plate



Open Spindle



Open Face Plate



Premier Spindle



Premier Face Plate



Highly Commended



Open Day Competition Room 26th October 2025

The Open day competition was ably administered by Steve Elliot and as a result of his pre-open day work, the competition activities ran very smoothly. The early set up of the tables allowed the seamless receiving of competition pieces, placing in the correct places and ensuring the judges were faced with blind judging. All the paper work and marking sheets had been prepared by Steve. Our Judges for the day were Martin Saban Smith and Simon Hope. Steve was assisted by Lauren Stratton and Claire Goodship (and daughter). A Second team under Mike Spaven supervised the Inter Club Competition and again ensured the judges were facing an anonymised set up.

Later Graham Mansfield took the photographs of the judged pieces. Graham had the help of a photographer's assistant (Claire's Granddaughter) It was great to listen to Graham and team working together but I am not so sure that the expected request for a good camera was altogether welcomed!

Each year after the Open Day, we look to see what worked well and what we need to look at for the next year. The first change was ensuring the main professional demonstrator could focus on the early start of the demo and the judging team could make an early start on judging.

The five clubs who submitted 10 pieces for each table were Forest of Bere, Berkshire Association of Woodturners, Middlesex, East Surrey and our good selves.

A big thanks to all the people who helped with the competition and to our turners who produced some wonderful examples of our craft (and Art)





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

So, my SAW rites this is my last Newsletter of 2025, and it seems like only yesterday it was 2024 which ended not great for me personally. For some unknown reason I agreed to Skin Cancer surgery on 24th December, which in hindsight was not the best idea for me and my family.

So, 2025 was always going to be a bit brighter and a better year with a trip Up North to the Sunderland area to stay with Nancy's family. This was always going to be a real adventure as I had never charged my EV outside of home. In truth we had no issues, and everything went smoothly, and we ensured we had comfort breaks at the right times.

So, my woodturning has also been exciting with me being given some Yew, which became a really nice pot. I also found an Oak Burr which again I turned into a small dish. I was happy with what I had done, but my Jedi Master. Aka Paul Nesbitt said "go thinner" which I very carefully did, holding my breath with each cut. So, upon sharing contact on WhatsApp, he said the words I didn't want to hear.... "go thinner".

So, after asking Nancy to have the plasters and the swear box to hand I switched on the lathe and did as he said. The Force was with me as it's still in one piece, no hole in the bottom and I am really happy. In fact, I am so happy I might just bring it along to the December Club night and put it on the Competition table.... take a look and see if I was confident enough!!

Anyway, fellow Members, Nancy and I send you best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. I am so grateful for all the kindness and support you have shown me, and I look forward to an exciting 2026.

[Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter](#)

Closing dates for Newsletter 2026

January 25th, 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

