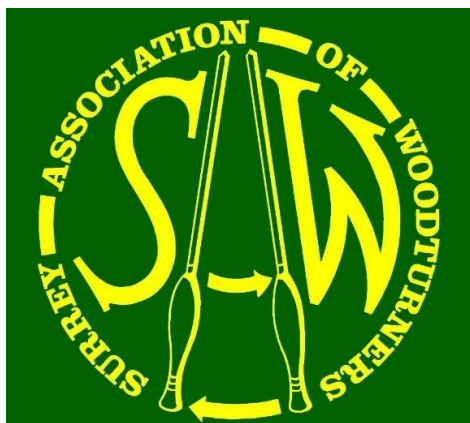




Surrey Association of Woodturners *Established since 1990*

Newsletter Feb 26- March 26

Edition 008

PAID UP MEMBERSHIP – 108 (As of going to press)

Welcome to New Members:

Harry Denholm

Dave Moore

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.*

Login Details: 246 246 1990

Password: 246 246

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.

10 th April	Mytchett/Zoom Practical Evening & Club Competition
26 th April	All Day Seminar Mick Hanbury Live Demo
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 Liz Pearson Live Demo
12 th July	Frimley Green Carnival Demo & Sale of Work
18 th July	Odiham Fete 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
9 th October	Mytchett/Zoom Martin Saban – Smith Live Demo
17 th October	Princes Mead Demo & Sale of Work
25 th October	Open Day Paul Hannaby Live Demo
13 th November	Mytchett/Zoom Steve Gordon Live Demo
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.

Between Centres No.2

So, this is my second opportunity to write to you in my capacity as the Chairman, and I am excited to say that lots of the members have spoken to me, called and emailed me to say you think I am doing a decent job. I had massive shoes to fill, I take an 8 these days, after Mike Spaven. Mike has been very supportive of me and given me guidance when I asked and is still supporting SAW as a member of the committee as well as Vice-President. I have also had the most amazing support from Graham Mansfield as the new Secretary, and we are constantly communicating with ideas which we share with the committee, which in turn will benefit the entire membership.

I have personally contacted several of our local woodturning club neighbours to try and see if there are shared resources we could consider and to foster better relationships with them going forward.

My own personal woodturning journey has recently been interrupted with Club stuff, not being 100% feeling great, sleepovers with grandkids and the fact I kind of lost my Mojo a bit. But after chatting with Jennie and Chris Starbuck and reaching out to a couple of pro turners for advice I feel that I am now back on the road to making savings, trying new colouring techniques and generally having fun.

We have very exciting turning demonstrations coming up, along with great external events which I hope that many of you will attend and support your Club.

If you want to Sign Up to any of them then please speak to Duncan Clark who will happily add your name.



Finally, I would like to give a massive Thank You to all the Committee members, our Volunteers and every single person who makes SAW run and keep going. Without all of you the Club just cannot exist and I am deeply grateful.

See you all soon and I will be the one either in the wheelchair or sitting proud on the stool (courtesy of Graham Mansfield)

Pat Carswell Chairman

Introducing the Demonstrator Nathanael Griffiths **13th February 2026**

Nathanael first got into Woodturning when he was 13 in his Design Technology class in high school. Over the years Nathanael has honed his skills and specialises mainly in Segmented Woodturning. Now, at 22 years old, he's had work exhibited multiple times in the Royal Academy of Arts, was bestowed with the prestigious V&A Choice Award in the Masters



Exhibition at Woodturning Connect 2023 and participated and went on to win Series 3 of Channel 4's Britain's Best Woodworker.

Pat Carswell Reporter for SAWNL

Details supplied by Nathanael Griffiths

Dan Smith 9th January 2026

☐ **Woodturned Bird Feeder — Complete Task Breakdown**

Project Components

- Glass Kilner jar with removable metal insert
- Wooden base
- Wooden ring with seed-release slots
- Wooden lid
- Hanging ropes
- Optional finial
- Optional locating disc for the lid

1. Prepare the Materials

- Obtain a Kilner jar with a loose metal insert.
- Prepare three wooden blanks:
 - Base blank (approx. 6–8")
 - Ring blank (approx. 4–6")
 - Lid blank (approx. 8")
- Prepare spindle blank for optional finial.
- Select rope/cord (6–8 mm recommended).

2. Turn the Ring Section (Seed-Release Section)

Mount & True the Blank

- Mount the ring blank on a screw chuck.
- True the face with a push cut.

Mark Diameters

- Draw pencil reference lines on the face.
- Use callipers to mark a 100 mm drilling circle for the seed slots.

Drill the Seed-Release Slots (Using Indexing)

- Use the lathe's 24-point indexer.
- Mark six divisions (for three slots + three rope-alignment references).
- Drill three equally spaced holes/slots at 100 mm diameter using a Forstner bit.
- Leave the blank oversized so the drilled holes disappear when turned to final diameter.

Turn to Final Diameter

- Turn the blank down until the drilled pinholes just disappear (≈ 95 mm).
- Shape the outer profile lightly.
- Sand the slot edges before assembly (they won't be accessible later).

Cut the Chucking Recess

- Cut a 63 mm internal dovetail recess for expansion-mode chucking.
- Undercut the recess walls for proper jaw seating.

Hollow the Underside

- Reverse the blank into the chuck.
- Hollow through the centre until the bottom opens (this forms the seed exit).
- Maintain a flat surface around the recess for later gluing.
- Avoid cutting into the screw-chuck hole.

3. Turn the Base Section

Glue Ring to Base

- Align the ring and base using the six reference marks.
- Apply exterior-grade glue (e.g., Titebond).
- Clamp or press together and allow to dry.

Mount the Assembly

- Mount the glued assembly using the ring's recess.
- Optionally support with tailstock (using a crown drive with retractable point).

Shape the Base

- Turn the underside profile (flat for M&Ms, pointed for rain-shedding).
- Clean up tool marks with light cuts.
- Sand the underside.

Drill Rope Holes

- Use the indexer to drill three rope holes at 120° spacing.

- Drill before final shaping to avoid breakout on finished surfaces.
- Use 8 mm drill bit for easier threading.

Undercut the Top Edge

- Add a shallow undercut around the top to help catch stray seed.
- Sand carefully, avoiding the spinning slot openings.

4. Turn the Lid

Mount & True the Blank

- Mount the lid blank on a screw chuck.
- True the face and bring to round.

Drill Rope Holes

- Mark a diameter (110–120 mm) that clears the jar's outer edge.
- Drill three rope holes using the indexer.
- Drill before shaping to avoid breakout.

Dish the Underside

- Create a shallow dish on the underside.
- Cut a 63 mm recess to fit the jar's metal insert.
- Add a small internal undercut for a snug fit.

Shape the Top

- Reverse the lid into the recess.
- Shape the top profile.
- Leave a small flat area for attaching the finial or locating disc.

5. Create Optional Locating Disc (Improves Lid Stability)

Turn a Small Disc

- Mount a small spindle blank.
- Turn to approx. 63 mm diameter.
- Part off a thin disc (~6 mm).
- Drill a centre hole matching the finial dowel.

Glue Disc to Lid

- Glue the disc to the underside of the lid to engage the jar insert.
- Ensure it is centred.

6. Turn the Finial (Optional)

Rough the Spindle

- Mount spindle blank between centres.
- Rough to cylinder.

Shape the Finial

- Turn desired decorative shape (teardrop, spike, etc.).
- Leave extra material at the base for trimming.

Turn the Dowel

- Reduce the base to an 8 mm dowel to fit the locating disc.
- Undercut slightly for a clean seat.

Part Off & Fit

- Part off the finial.
- Test-fit and trim length as needed.
- Glue into the disc or directly into the lid.

7. Final Assembly

Attach Lid Components

- Glue locating disc (if used).
- Glue finial.
- Allow to cure.

Thread the Ropes

- Cut three equal lengths of rope.
- Thread through lid and base.
- Tie secure knots underneath.
- Adjust lengths so the lid hangs level.

Fit the Jar

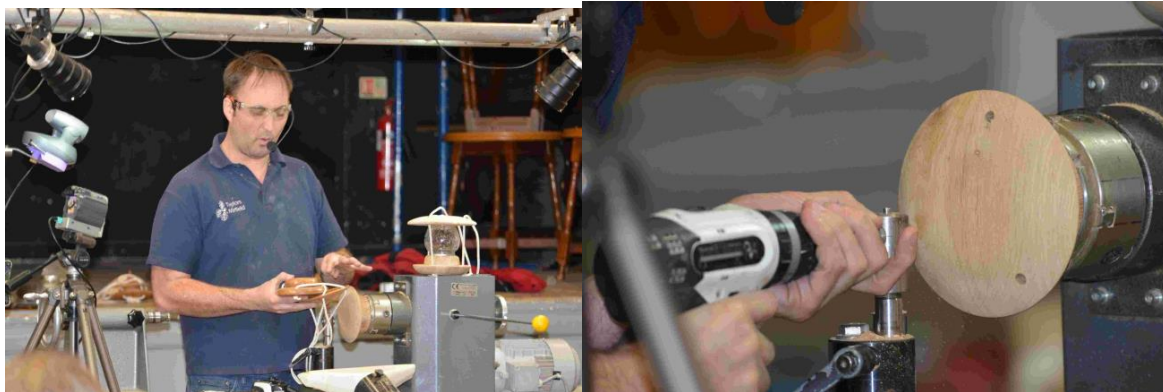
- Insert the Kilner jar into the ring/base assembly.
- Ensure the lid aligns and seats properly.

8. Finishing

- Apply exterior-safe finish (e.g., tung oil, hard-wax oil).
- Avoid toxic finishes if feeding birds.
- Optionally leave unfinished or use cedar for natural weathering.

9. Testing

- Add birdseed to confirm flow through slots.
- Check that the lid hangs level and rotates freely.
- Ensure ropes clear the jar edges.



Colin Bradshaw Reporter for SAWNL

Why wearing a mask is so IMPORTANT

Understanding the Risks: Woodturning and Emerging Fungal Threats

Woodturning is a rewarding craft, but it requires a deep understanding of the materials involved—especially the biological hazards that can hide within the wood

itself. While physical safety often focuses on lathe operation and sharp tools, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recently highlighted a “skyrocketing” risk from fungal pathogens that can be particularly relevant to those working with organic materials like decaying wood.

The Danger in the Dust

One of the most significant risks for woodturners is the inhalation of fungal spores present in soil and decaying wood. Pathogens such as *Cryptococcus neoformans* live in these environments and can be easily aerosolized during the turning process. Once inhaled, these fungi can infest the airways and potentially spread to the central nervous system or blood. These pathogens are present in the workshop environment and known to woodturners as Spalted Timber.

Critical Priority Pathogens

The WHO has identified several “critical priority” pathogens that pose a severe threat to human health:

- **Cryptococcus neoformans:** Primarily caught by inhalation, this pathogen affects the lungs and has a mortality rate ranging from 41% to 61%.
- **Aspergillus fumigatus:** Often found in organic matter such as compost heaps, this fungus can cause serious pulmonary disease and can even spread to the brain. Its mortality rate is extremely high, with some studies reporting rates up to 100%.
- **Mucorales:** Known for causing aggressive “black fungus” infections, this group of fungi can lead to life-altering surgeries to remove infected tissue, such as sinuses or even eyes.

Factors Increasing Susceptibility

While anyone can be affected, certain factors significantly increase the risk of a serious infection:

- **Weakened Immune Systems:** Individuals undergoing chemotherapy, treatment for HIV/AIDS, or those who are otherwise immunocompromised are at the greatest risk.
- **Recent Illness:** Recovering from serious viral infections, such as COVID-19, has been shown to make patients more susceptible to invasive fungal attacks.
- **Limited Treatments:** There are currently only four classes of antifungal medicines available, and resistance to these treatments is rising.

Protecting Yourself in the Workshop

Given the high mortality rates and the difficulty of treatment, prevention is the best course of action for any woodturner.

- 1. Respiratory Protection:** Always wear a high-quality, well-fitting respirator (such as a P100) when turning, especially when working with spalted or decaying wood where fungal activity is high.
- 2. Dust Collection:** Use efficient dust extraction systems to minimize the number of airborne spores in your workspace.
- 3. Proper Hygiene:** Wash your hands and face thoroughly after leaving the workshop to avoid accidental ingestion or transfer of spores.
- 4. Manage Health:** Be aware that if your immune system is compromised, you should take extra precautions or consult a medical professional before engaging in high-dust activities.

By understanding these emerging biological threats, woodturners can continue to

enjoy their craft while taking the necessary steps to protect their long-term health.

Paul Stenberg & Pat Carswell Reporters for SAWNL

SAW Workshop Day 22nd March 2026

So, Nancy and I visited Mytchett on 22nd to see the team all at hard working for our first Workshop Day of 2026.

Firstly, a huge Thank You to all the volunteers who make these days work, especially Paul Bolton, Mike Spaven, Robert Grant, Colin Rowe and Duncan Clark.

I was so happy to see so many of the membership in attendance, but there is space for more. This is an opportunity for you to try your hand with different tools, jigs and equipment, and get 1 to 1, hands on time.

Colin will be able to PAT test your equipment and certify it is safe to use and can also be able to potentially offer a repair or to share his knowledge and experience on what needs to happen to the item.



Pat Carswell 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.

The story is that I had three Axminster money vouchers given as Christmas/ birthday presents and one was about to expire. they have a two-year life! So last Black Friday Axminster were offering 20% discount on their planer from Perform. as I have had a Perform lathe for 30+ years I thought it would be a useful addition to the workshop. But there is not enough room in the workshop, so I have set it up on a bench in a garage (no cars accessible) at the bottom of the garden.



note an old Dyson upright vacuum attached to the dust outlet!

Ian Lee Reporter for SAWNL

The jaw sets I showed on recent zoom are made by Skidby engineering. Three sizes are available 15 mm £15, 25mm £15 and 50mm £25 long. Postage and packing £5 per set of 3 sets £50 and £5 p&p, They are available to meet many chuck types e.g., Axminster, record/Nova/Sorby.

I used mine in expanding mode directly on my chuck and also tried it on the large Nova Button jaws. Each button has a soft finish on the outside.

The Contact is Ian on 07787505626



Mike Spaven Reporter for SAWNL

SAW Shop

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

This is achieved 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 most items are from Chestnut Products. Their range meets most of a turner's needs and their discount is better than offered by other suppliers.

We have, on occasion, 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.

When asked if the shop 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 or wood, so it is always worth taking time on club nights to see what is available.

It is also possible to take one off orders from the Chestnut range. These may take a bit of time to obtain, as I will need to include them in the next restock order.

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

David Stratton Treasurer and Shop Keeper

Editors Bites

So, I have been away from the lathe for a little while dealing with SAW stuff, home and family life and several medical appointments which have shown up some new things on my medical CV.

But I finally found the button that makes it go around and a piece of wood to make a small bowl to get back into the swing of things. I am fairly pleased with the outcome and felt nicely in control of my tools as I made a decent mess. I have also been trying to re jig my Studio to see what extra space can be made.

This edition of the Newsletter has been a fairly busy one too with me having to move things around a bit, IT at home issues and trying to make sure I buy stamps before they go up in price to silly money. I currently only send out a small number as most members have it electronically, as Chris Starbuck sends out the link.

So, I hope you enjoy this latest edition of YOUR Newsletter and happy reading to you all.

Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter

Closing dates for Newsletter 2026

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

