Surrey Association of Woodturners
Established since 1990
Newsletter Aug 26- Sept 26
Edition 011

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

Welcome to New Members:

Alfie Shearing

Returning Members:

Ross Nesbitt **Alfie Nesbitt**

SAW 100 Club 2026

New applications to join the SAW 100 Club are **NOW 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.
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.

9th October	**Mytchett/Zoom Martin Saban – Smith Live Demo**
17th October	**Princes Mead Demo & Sale of Work**
25th October	**Open Day Paul Hannaby Live Demo**
13th November	**Mytchett/Zoom Steve Gordon Live Demo**
22nd November	**SAW Workshop Day**
11th December	**Mytchett/Zoom Practical & Christmas Social Night**

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

Well, it's me again writing to you as the Chairman, which I still find a bit strange at times. As I am heading towards my third quarter in this position, I want to thank every one of you who has come up and spoken to me, telling me I am doing a good job. I have had emails and telephone calls, texts and WhatsApp messages all with such kind comments.
In truth, I was very concerned about taking the role on, as I am following in some amazing footsteps with previous "chair people", but when I have needed advice is has always been there from Mike Spaven, Paul Nesbitt aka My Jedi Master, Jennie Starbuck and Bob French. SAW is a wonderful club, with a huge wealth of knowledge and experience, and we can all learn and enjoy our craft even more when we know there are others who are willing to guide and share what they know.

Now, we have the AWGB Collaboration Competition on the horizon at Stratford-Upon Avon on the 10th & 11th October, and we have a most wonderful item to put into the competition. There has been such a fantastic group of members lead by Anna-Marie Bennett who have truly looked at the Shakespeare theme and created a true masterpiece. I feel sure we will be coming home as First Place winners and David Stratton will be delighted with the £500 prize that he might buy decent mince pies this year for our Christmas Club Night.

We then have the highlight of the SAW calendar, Open Day on Sunday 25th October. (don't forget to reset your clocks before you go to bed). With Paul Hannaby as our professional turner, and numerous opportunities to spend spend spend I really hope that every member attends, and if you can also help out on the day it would be gratefully accepted. Open Day also means we battle against other clubs, and we get to show the incredible pieces that you have made during the year. So please put the date in your diary and come along to support YOUR club.

Pat Carswell, Chairman

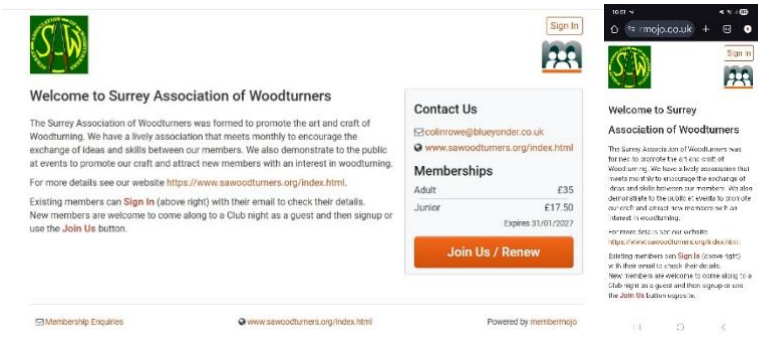
SAW MemberMojo Access

Your SAW Committee is currently enhancing Member Mojo so members can see what events they have signed up to as well as being able to update their contact details and preferences.
We are also trying to make it easier to find and sign into Member Mojo. The easiest way to reach the Home Page is to follow the link below:

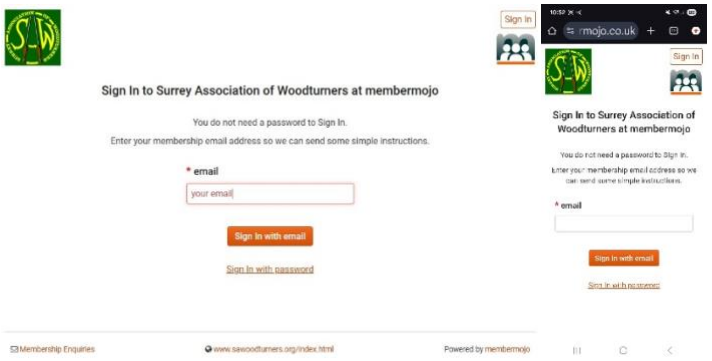
https://membermojo.co.uk/sawoodturners

You can also point the camera on your smart phone at this QR code and follow the link

In either case you should arrive at the SAW MemberMojo Home Page as shown below and could save that page in your Favourites so that you can find it again when needed.



To login you should click on the **SIGN IN** link in the top right-hand corner and then enter your email in the box provided.



Click **SIGN IN WITH EMAIL** and you will be sent an email with a link to open a new browser window where you click the **SIGN IN** button.

If you have set up a password, you can click **SIGN IN WITH PASSWORD** and then on the next screen enter your password and click **SIGN IN**.

I will have the QR Code available at Club nights so if anyone needs any help signing in our wants to change any of their details or signups come and see me at the Office Desk.

Duncan Clark Reporter for SAWNL

A Message from the Treasurer

I know I do not often make statements this early in our Club's year but please do not panic. SAW is a healthy and financially stable Club, with sufficient liquid assets to weather all foreseeable challenges.
That said, we cannot be complacent and rely solely on past good fortune to cover future commitments.
Those of you with long memories will know that I regularly predict shortfalls for the end of the Club's financial year. Few of these actually materialised, though usually because of an unforeseen, and unforeseeable, source of income, some of which have been substantial.
I currently have no indications of any such windfall for 2026, but I am aware of some significant one-off expenses. These, however, can be covered by the reserves built up during the good years.
What I am looking at now, however, is the relationship between our predictable Income to our unavoidable expenditure. By the latter I am looking primarily at those costs which do not generate a related Income. Such things as Room Rent, Demonstrators fees, Insurance, and general running costs.
As an example of how these have moved in recent years. Our last increase in Subscriptions was in 2020, but that was the Covid year, so our figures are distorted. However, we can compare 2022 to 2026 and see the movements: -

	2022	2026	Increase
Hall Hire	£1,255	£1,607	£351
Demonstrators	£1,487	£2,300	£813
Insurance	£ 229	£291	£65
Total	£2,971	£4,198	£1,229

Over the same period membership has fallen which has reduced income from Subscriptions.

	2021	2026
Membership	121	115
Subscriptions	£3,873	£3,718

Most of these movements have been covered by fortuitus income or improved revenue from the Raffle, Shop and the 100 Club.
For 2026 I foresee that these revenue streams will not be enough to cover the anticipated movements and that a shortfall of some £1,200 can be expected.
Costs are undoubtedly going to rise in future years, which will only add additional pressure to the balancing of the Clubs Income and Expenditure.
I find, therefore, that at the next AGM I must seek an increase in the level of Club Subscription. In the past there was a program of annual rises of £1 per annum, At the 2020 AGM this was rejected in favour of a move directly to £35.
I would be content with seeking a scheduled increase of £1 per annum but on this matter am happy to listen to the views of the membership.
Increasing Subscription levels will not, by itself ensure the finical stability of the Club. Much will depend upon the other revenues sources such as the Raffle and the 100 Club both of which I strongly recommend to your participation.
If you have any views or comments then please contact me, either by email or at the Club shop on Club nights.

I believe that, even with increases in fees SAW will remain a very competitively priced club and offer good value for money.

David Stratton, Treasurer

Introducing the Demonstrator- Bryan Milham 11th July 2026

I came into woodturning completely by accident. We'd bought out first home and DIY became the order of the day. As an electronic engineer I had a nice collection of small tools but nothing that would build a cupboard, hang a door or fit a shelf. About the only big tool I had was a years old power drill.

This made the next Christmas quite easy for everyone, tools. Tape measure, hammer, chisels & mallet, saws, a No. 4 plane and the fathers-in-law old workmate, my first home toolset was well underway. I soon acquired a workbench, a couple of old mahogany workshop floor-standing cupboards and a bench-top. I got permission to buy a vice and fitted out a corner of the garage as my workspace. My first man-cave was evolving. Eventually the wife's 'Can you make me a...' exceeded the range of hand tools I had amassed and I needed a Jigsaw. I was now proceeding down the power tool range.

Eventually the work on the house slowed down to maintenance level, but I had all these tools, and a need to use them, I wanted to make something. Then one day in a well-known stationary shop I noticed magazines on woodwork. I bought one. Look at all those different tools, all those things I could make, I was hooked.

Some years later we were out at the weekend visiting the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings. Reg Sherwin had his workshop producing commissions, doing demonstrations for the public and teaching students. I had the opportunity to speak to him for a few minutes, discovering we had a common Army background he having served and I was still serving in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Avoncroft and Reg became a regular place I liked to visit.

One day in 1998, the wife noticed a newspaper advert, 'Woodworking Machine for Sale' it was a Coronet Major with Table Saw, Planer/Thicknesser, Tenon attachment and a Lathe. That evening a phone call, a viewing and it was mine. The following weekend I put it all together thinking of all the things I would make now that cutting, squaring and thicknessing timber was going to be so much easier. The small collection of lathe tools that came with it went into the cupboard under the lathe bed; cabinetry was still my main interest. Many more things were made, many still have a place in our home, but one day ...

... I put a piece of timber in the lathe, spindle wise, picked up one of the tools and pressed the 'On' button. I pressed the 'Off' button even faster. I didn't know about turning speeds at the time, but the pulley wheels and belt were set for the saw table, around 5,000 rpm, and the timber spinning at that speed looked dangerous. I was not going to try do anything with this machine. I needed tuition. A local school in had woodwork as an option for adult

education, which included a lathe, so the wife signed me up for the next term. And the rest, as they say, is History.

Now, 28 years later, I consider I am a semi-professional jobbing turner, one day I must apply to the RPT. A lot of my work is for local carpenters making stair parts, but also roof finials up to 6 feet high, and many and various smaller things, all the way down to antique restoration, and a ½" high finial for a French Walnut Carriage Clock.

I am fascinated by the different ways wood can be used, Wood Technology is as complex as metal technology. And being an engineer, I enjoy working my way around problems, developing tools and techniques for my use and demonstrating them for the woodturning world, sharing the ways I have developed for working. And now, I am the Secretary of the AWGB and have been for 4 years.



Pat Carswell Reporter for SAWNL

AWGB Collaboration Competition – 10th - 11th October 2026 in Stratford Upon Avon

So, for those of you that have maybe missed it, Anna-Marie Bennett has taken on the role of Project Manager for SAW at this year's Association of Woodturners Great Britain event in Stratford Upon Avon, the birth place of our very own William Shakespeare in 1564.

Now the event was over 2 days, and the requirements was to create a display or diorama with the members of each club coming together in a collaboration on the theme of said William.

Now this has been a momentous piece of work with numerous members coming together to discuss ideas and product a truly spectacular piece that I feel sure would make dear William smile and want to take ink to parchment and write something about. I could see myself as the handsome, wheelchair bound young hero of said piece, but maybe we should leave such writings to history for now.

I am so very proud of everyone who wanted to be involved, not only with the physical items', but ideas, drawings and support to get the SAW finished item ready and put in front of the judging panel.
I really hope that we will have positive news on our entry and we will walk away not only with the 1st prize of £500.00 (maybe better mince pies at Christmas folks) but knowing that SAW has come together and we have some incredible members who enjoy the hobby we have all taken up.



Pat Carswell Reporter for SAWNL and undiscovered hero of the stage

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, as we edge every closer to Christmas, I hope that everyone is looking forward to the TV adverts to tempt us all to shop and spend, spend, spend….and spend again. I am aware that there is at least one satellite channel showing Christmas movies.

I do have to admit though that Nancy and myself have already purchased the grandkids a present each, and I Have taken up the cheap tins of sweets on offer.

As your Editor though for a fair few editions now, I really hope that those of you that do actually read the club newsletters enjoy them for what they are. A chance to see what's going on, what has gone ion and what is coming up. I am very open to any comments or suggestions, which I would run past the chairman (oh lucky that's me at present).

This is YOUR newsletter and I try to include my won personal sense of humour, but also ensure we convey information, details and help to make items that we have watched at the demonstrations at Club night.

Any comments, then please do email me at my usual address below or grab me at Club night.

Please remember that this is YOUR newsletter

Closing dates for Newsletter 2026

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