Surrey Association of Woodturners
Established since 1990
Newsletter April 26- May 26
Edition 009

PAID UP MEMBERSHIP – 110 (As of going to press)

Welcome to New Members:

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: 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 2026

Please ensure you put these Club dates in your diary early on to support your Club.

12th June	**Mytchett/Zoom Club Turner**
28th June	**SAW Workshop Day**
4th-5th July	**GMES Demo & Sale of Work**
10th July	**Mytchett/Zoom Liz Pearson Live Demo**
12th July	**Frimley Green Carnival Demo & Sale of Work**
18th July	**Odiham Fete Demo & Sale of Work**
29th-30th July	**Brooklands Demo & Sale of Work**
14th August	**Mytchett/Zoom Practical Evening & Club Competition**
29th-30th August	**Egham Show Demo & Sale of Work**
11th September	**Mytchett/Zoom Bryan Milham Live Demo**
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.

Between Centres No.3

So, my fellow SAW rites, I hope to find you all well and working hard in your workshops and studios. The British weather definitely strikes again !!!...now I suspect we are all finding it too hot to be woodturning. Its almost as if we are never satisfied ..hehehehehe….

I am hoping that more members will get involved in the AWGB Collaboration Competition though, and show that SAW is the best club in the UK. There is a cash prize to be won which is lovely, but more importantly we can show what a great group of people we have at SAW.

Anna-Marie Bennett is the leader of the team, and she has shown design ideas, actual pieces along with fantastic CAD drawings created by Steve Scott. I truly feel we have a great chance of showing off the skills we have, but please will you all speak to the team involved and see what you can bring to the gang. Any pieces can be agreed and made that reflect William Shakespeare and his huge catalogue of works, and the more we have, we can then agree what we wish to put forward…so come on folks…. get your quills out, parchment at the ready and let's create….

Pat Carswell Chairman

Introducing the Turner
Les Thorne 13th March 2026

Les Thorne has been on the Register for Professional Turners since 2001 after spending the majority of his life involved with wood in some capacity.
From his new workshop, 'The Woodturning School' in Four Marks in Hampshire, Les is primarily a production turner and works on a huge variety of jobs and with many different clients.
Use the form below to contact Les for your production run requirements, and he'll get to you as quickly as possible.
The No Turning Back workshop has been set up with tuition in mind with dust extraction by Camvac and full air filtration.
With five lathes I can cater for most needs. In the winter the workshop is centrally heated, making a very comfortable environment for working in.
If you are interested in either learning to turn or want to commission some work please contact me and I will send you directions to the workshop either by e-mail or snail mail, which ever you prefer.
When I am at the workshop feel free to pop in for a coffee and discuss your requirements. I production turn many items from furniture components, architectural work and one-off specials. Work currently has included columns for houses, bespoke candle sticks for churches and staircase spindles. No job too small or too large. I also turn gift shop items such as fruit, candleholders etc



Pat Carswell Reporter for SAWNL
*(permission was given by Les Thorne to take details from his webpage)

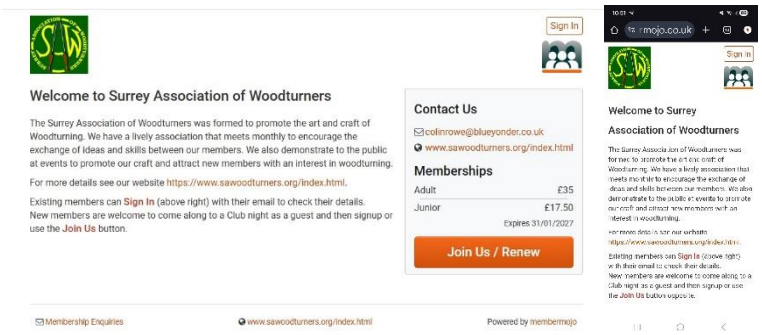
SAW MemberMojo Access

Your SAW Committee is currently enhancing MemberMojo 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 MemberMojo. The easiest way to reach the Home Page is to follow the link below:

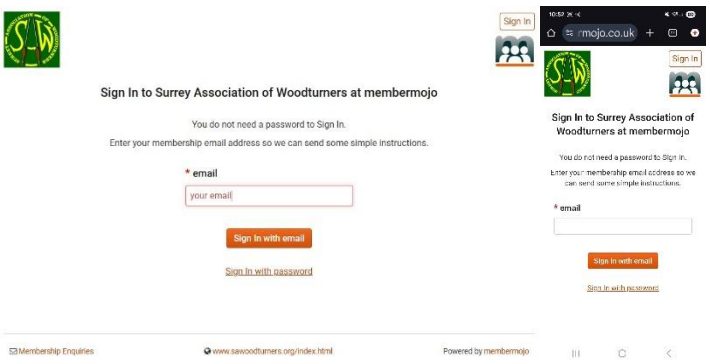
https://membermojo.co.uk/sawoodturners

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

Competition Design & Execution

Definitions Chapter 3
This newsletter will cover further 4 definitions

Bonus Points - Originality
Our turning world rarely has something absolutely new. Videos, You Tube, and other streaming stuff is usually a variation on a theme or may be a new and hopefully safer way of doing something. So, we would award 5 bonus points for something the judges have never seen before. Something only seen once in the last 3 to 4 years gets 4 bonus points, 2 or 3 times in the last 3 to 4 years 3 points, 2 or 3 times in the last year 2 points, occasionally seen in the last year 1 point and common place null point.

Technical challenge
Clean bonding of laminated or segmented turning,the glue joint is just visible, no visible gaps between segments, no raised surface between parts. 1 point
Decoration, colour and texturing is successfully used to enhance the appearance of the piece. Use of different woods to enhance the appearance. 1 point
Wall thickness. Thin walls 3mm or under for small pieces and appropriately thin for larger pieces 1 point
Crisp Work. Work details are not sanded off, beads, coves and v cuts are clean and smooth and well finished. 1 Point
Hollow forms Hollowing through an aperture of a maximum of 25 mm (1 inch) 1 point
Multi Centre turning more than 2 centres in any 1 plane or more than one plane are used. 1 point
Advanced turning skills users 2 or more of the above “points for 2 and 1 for 1.
Advance Chucking point removal / integration tenons/spigots turned to feet, recesses are disguised with beads, texturing or decoration. Pieces added to disguise recesses.

Penalty Points Execution Chapter 3
Finishing Penalties are added for uneven finish, streaky or gloopy finishes 1 penalty point.
Stained areas e.g. colour runs, super glue stains, wrong coloured dust transfer to pores in wood.1 Penalty Point

Imperfections Broken components, unfilled cracks (unless natural to the piece with inclusions, natural edge) separation of components
Over sanded areas 1 Penalty Point

Poorly sanded detail 1 Penalty Point
Chucking Point Jaw marks visible as stains or indents. Recess too large (safety point) or too small for the size of the piece (safety point) 1 Penalty Point
Timber NOT compliant with use e.g. laburnum/ yew used for food use
Please use these guidelines and feel free to discuss the marks awarded or subtracted on any competition piece you have submitted for judging.

Mike Spaven Reporter for SAWNL

Practical Night 10th April 2026

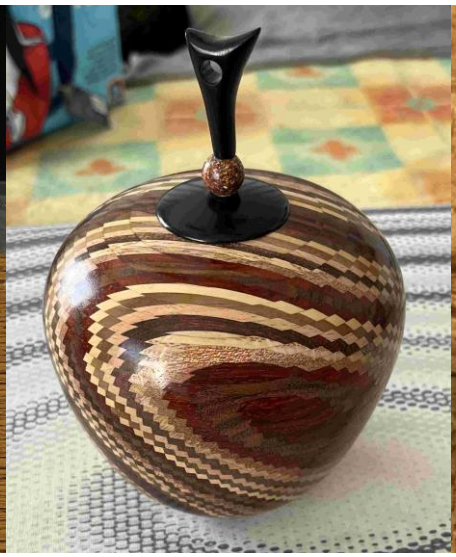
Our April Practical night saw a new innovation. We have had many comments about items that can be turned to meet the criteria of the forthcoming competition. Well April is always based on something that is mainly spindle work and our August night will be based on mainly face plate. Mike Spaven asked 3 turners to turn either 1 wide rimmed bowl, a thin bowl or a coloured bowl. Texturing was an option. Colin Parr, Robert Grant and Graham Mansfield volunteered to be the turners for the evening. Robert manfully tackled a large bowl (probably too large for the smaller Axminster lathe) and Graham worked on colouring on the jet lathe. All turners had a full audience. Graham invited an audience member to have a go, and Mike Southern bravely volunteered to colour a piece previously turned by Mike Spaven. Regrettably we have no photos due to a senior moment from the writer of this newsletter piece. Ah well better luck next time.
Our shop under David Stratton did a good trade, raffle team by the Bennet family took donations from members. Anna Marie also showed the concept for the collaboration at the forthcoming AWGB seminar. Work is ongoing and various members are working on pieces, and we also have IT help from a member who has knowledge of Computer Aided Design.
We had 12 pieces submitted for the competition in the side room. Dennis and Colin were the judges. But we can always take more.
Phil Hamilton covered Critique Corner, and several members came up with pieces to be discussed.
Next August will have a new framework. Each lathe will have 2 turners, one will be a member who wants help on a specific topic. Please let Mike Spaven know if you will be willing to take part.


Colin Bradshaw

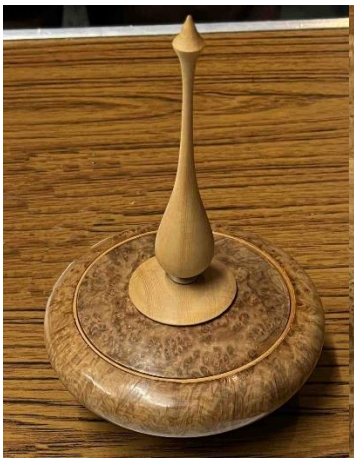

Duncan Clarke


Gerry Pascal


Graham Mansfield


Kim Holmes


Mike Southern


Mike Spaven


Neil Atkinson


Paul Bolton


Robert Grant


Simon Pearson


Ursula Brand

Mike Spaven Reporter for SAWNL

Critique Corner April 2026

Over the first 5 months we have had nearly 20 items or help items covered. One common theme has been “How to do deep hollowing or reach the end of a wide hollow form through a narrow opening”. In many cases the turner was trying to push the limits of his/her experience or tools.
I learnt the hard way of pushing the limits of my capabilities, and what I now say is build up to more extreme turning. For example, finishing the bottom of a box is difficult to achieve but it is more easily accomplished on a shallow box. It is easier to see your turning tools at work at the bottom of a shallow box and the forces on the turning tools are so much less. Make each cut a practice cut. The more overhang over the tool rest, the lighter the cuts have to be, and tool presentation on the centre line is critical. More downward pressure on the tool is needed to resist turning forces.
Under cutting rims in hollow forms becomes more difficult the further away from the entry point you are trying to turn. So, start out practicing with a wide hole and with experience move to a narrower hole.
If you are fortunate to have or to borrow a hollowing jig, start by turning an open wide necked vase with no undercut. This way you can see how to set up the tool, make cuts and ultimately to finish to inside free of ridges, ruts and excess tear out.
If you do have a disaster, consider cutting the piece in half and looking critically at the thickness, ridges ruts or where you went through the side. As John Jordan a famous US woodturner said “if you aint broke it you aint trying” You can learn more from mistakes. But as I have said many times a wise man learns from the mistakes of others, a fool learns from his own mistakes and a bigger fool keeps making them before asking for help. After all the definition of a fool is someone who does the same thing over and over again and expects a different result.
Please keep coming up to the help corner and don’t forget the workshop days help you on your turning journey. We have all been on the same journey.

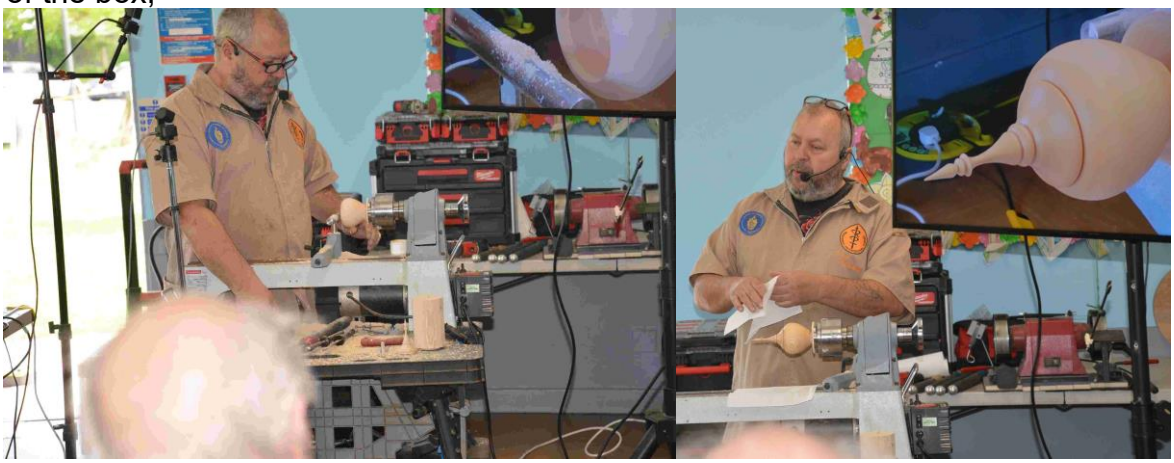
Mike Spaven Critique Corner Master for SAWNL

Seminar Day 26th April 2026- Mick Hanbury

24 souls gathered at Mytchett in the early hours to set up the lathe and AV equipment. Alas while we had access to the small hall we could not get to the lathe and other kit. Thankfully Anna Marie must have had a premonition and had loaded her small lathe in the car. So, with lathe to hand we started the seminar. Our numbers were bolstered by 3 members of Berkshire Association of Woodturners. Colin Rowe was trialling some new cameras and software.
Mick started the seminar with a brief description of his background and journey to being a professional turner.
Project 1 a lidded urn style box



After a brief discussion on the first project, Mick showed us 3 typical urn boxes. He noted the subtle differences between each. Also important is the relationship of each section and detail to the whole piece
Mick centred a 3-inch square blank on the lathe and started to rough down the wood using a roughing gouge. He created a spigot at each end. After a close look at the blank for cracks and other potential risks, Mick fitted the lid end in a chuck noting the safest use was with the spigot cut to the true circle so that all the jaws were in contact with the wood. A small dovetail was also cut. The blank was divided into thirds, and the top was parted off. Mick noted that the blank may not run true when placed in the chuck due to the effect of the jaws tightening on the winter/ summer growth rings. The blank was given a light trim to recentre the wood. He also marked the jaw position to allow the blank to be re -chucked and run true. Mick shaped the finial using a detail spindle gouge ground to 35 deg. Mick emphasised the need for a turner to understand what each tool can do and what it cannot do. Finer detail may require a skew chisel. Sanding should be minimised to avoid over abrading of finial details. Now is the time to apply your chosen finish.
Mick then mounted the base in the lathe and again using the spindle gouge, shaped the base to close to final shape. The centre was hollowed using the spindle gouge as a drill as well as a cutting tool. Back hollowing or drill to depth can also be used. The undercut was done with the 6mm Simon Hope hollowing tool. The Robert Sorby mini hollowing system with the Circular scraper was used to provide a good surface for final sanding. At this point Mick used his “patented” wax for sanding the inside. It is a 80/20 mix of the cheapest baby oil and beeswax. The benefits are a significant reduction in air born dust and with some woods e.g. yew it minimises the risk of heat checking. Excess wax on the sandpaper can be removed with a small brass brush. Do not finalise the hole diameter for the lid until all internal sanding has been done. The following photograph also shows the neck opening. The final adjustment to fit the lid can now be made. Now the lid is in place the final shape of the body can be done along with any sanding and finishing. The piece is then parted off from the chuck. Mick uses a small disc sander in a Jacobs Chuck to remove all tool marks on the base of the box,



Mick usually makes the lid maximum diameter to fit the inside of one of his jaw sets when in the true circle position. The rest of the finial sits inside of the jaws. Check for jaw internal gripper marks and remove if you want a specific set of jaws for repeat work.
Note It is also possible to have a soft jaw set made with scrap wood. This should be sized to fit the jaws and allow the lid to fit in a stable position. The Inner surface of the lid is finished.



Project 2 Shield

Mick set up a 14-diameter piece of 2-inch-thick sycamore on a screw chuck, Again, he checked for potential cracks and other problems before drilling a hole for the screw chuck. He roughly shaped the outside of the piece and created a chucking recess for large diameter jaws. The blank was then reversed, and the back of the blank was finished. Mick demonstrated the use of a texturing tool to add some detail even though this was to be on the back of the shield. The back of the shield can now be sanded.

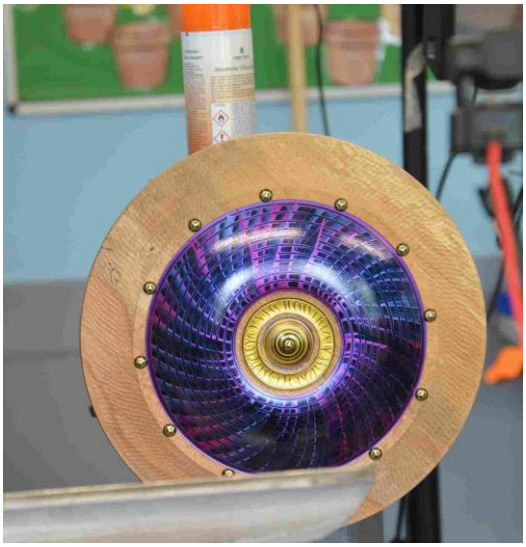




Mick reversed the blank into the new recess, and shaped the outside of the shield creating a rim, detail and centre zone. After spraying the blank with black ebonising lacquer he applied the Jo Sonja irredescent paint to the centre section as blobs. The paint had been diluted with flow medium. The lathe was then started and the paint moved in streaks to the outside of the platter. A second colour was applied . A yellow acrylic paint was applied to the outer bullseye and the rim purple sections were highlighted by taking the painted surface back to the clear wood base.



Mick used upholstery tacks to add further detail. The whole shield was finished with acrylic lacquer.



Mick Hanbury Seminar 2026 Part 2

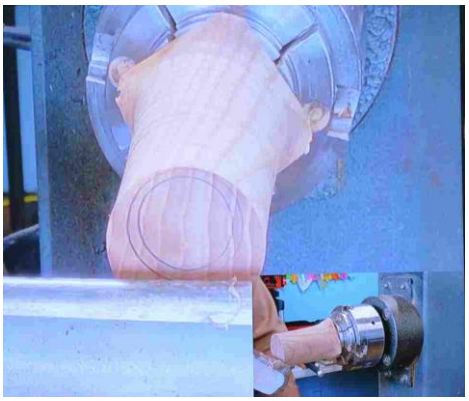
Project 3 a Pierced bowl

Mick used an 8-inch beech blank that had some features and had been used as a home by the dreaded woodworm. After a careful look, the blank was mounted on a screw chuck, and the blank was shaped to a shallow bowl ogee profile and a spigot was created. The bowl was then reversed, and a thin rim was turned with a small bead to surround the bowl section. Mick used the rule of thirds to determine the rim diameter. The rim was approximately 3 mm thick. Looking at the blank, Mick chose the area to mark up for piercing. In this case a dark feature appeared, and this was to be left unpierced. Various tools are available from the Dremel to sophisticated air driven high speed dental drills. Mick used a 1.8 mm cutter. Safety point. Wear safety glasses and take time with breaks when piercing. Use an extractor as a lot of dust is created. The centre was finished with Jo Sonja iridescent paint





For a final piece Mick did a quick demonstration of Off Centre turning. Mick left the diagonal line on one end (corner to corner). Mick roughed out a 2-inch blank and created a spigot. No dovetail was used. The Off Centre was achieved by moving the wood to the left/ or right along the diagonal line and then tightening the chuck. Light cuts are made



Mick was thanked by Anna Marie for an excellent demonstration that appealed to the colourists and LBJ turners alike. We all learned something during the day.

Mike Spaven 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.

Camvac Upgrade Kit Review

If you use a Record Power Camvac or are thinking of getting one, you might find this interesting.
I use the CGV286-4 (small, dual motor version) and noticed that SK Krafts (https://skkrafts.woodturners.uk/) had added an upgrade kit for the Camvac to their range. Stephen Kearvell runs SK Krafts alongside his woodturning YouTube channel and is known for the 3-D printed 'Buddy' range of bits that you can use to mount your tools and other turning bits. I have a few of those and they are quite useful and not that costly compared to other options on the market. I have printed my own Chuck mounts as well.
The Camvac upgrade kits (https://skkrafts.woodturners.uk/product/camvac-upgrade-kits/) consist of a filter, 3d-printed collar and cap and are available for various versions of equipment. The blurb says "The Record Power Camvac Upgrade Kit, known for its enhanced performance, comes with more efficient pleated filters. These feature powerful 3-Stage Filtration and airborne contaminants. This upgrade kit ensures a superior cleaning experience.".
I suppose that statement is in comparison with the cloth bag and frame as supplied as standard. The filters have active charcoal so are good with aerosol solvent extraction.
I decided to purchase a kit for the dual motor version. The box arrived in three days and was well packed. Fitting was easy, removing the top and working on it upside down., you remove the bags and pull away the plastic frames. The new collar simply pushes on over the motor with the filter pushed onto the collar. The cap seals the other end of the filter. I re-fitted the main dust bag (after a bit of cleaning outside) to keep larger chips at bay.



I know some of you could envisage turning the collars or printing your own solution to match a bought in filter. I thought the same but am sadly lacking the time.
When the unit was back together and powered up, the increase in suction was noticeable – mainly by the sound of all the larger objects and bits of sandpaper being dragged out of my ducting (must get round to fitting a mesh…). A quick sanding test on a bit of scrap in the lathe demonstrated good airflow. I have to say my Camvac was moderately full at the point of upgrade, so I don't know how much of the 'improvement' was down to the upgrade or simply cleaning the unit out. There seems to be more surface area than the cloth bags. That being said, the particulate filtering is superior and will keep the dangerous fine particulates trapped in the filter and not in me! I hope you found this review useful and I'd be interested to hear if anyone else upgrades.

Paul Bolton 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, my fellow readers, this edition of your Newsletter is somewhat of a busy one and a real challenge for me as my laptop decided it no longer wanted to play ball. Its several years old now, and unfortunately the "money tree" had shed its leaves and so I have been trying to nurse it along somewhat…. but here we are …and I will apologise totally for errors, omissions and total screw ups should anyone find some.

I would like to point out that Mike Spaven has contributed massively to this edition with numerous articles, so I am eternally grateful for all his hard work and efforts.

I hope the few of you that do actually read the Newsletters enjoy them and there are interesting articles and tips that may enhance your turning adventures.

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

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