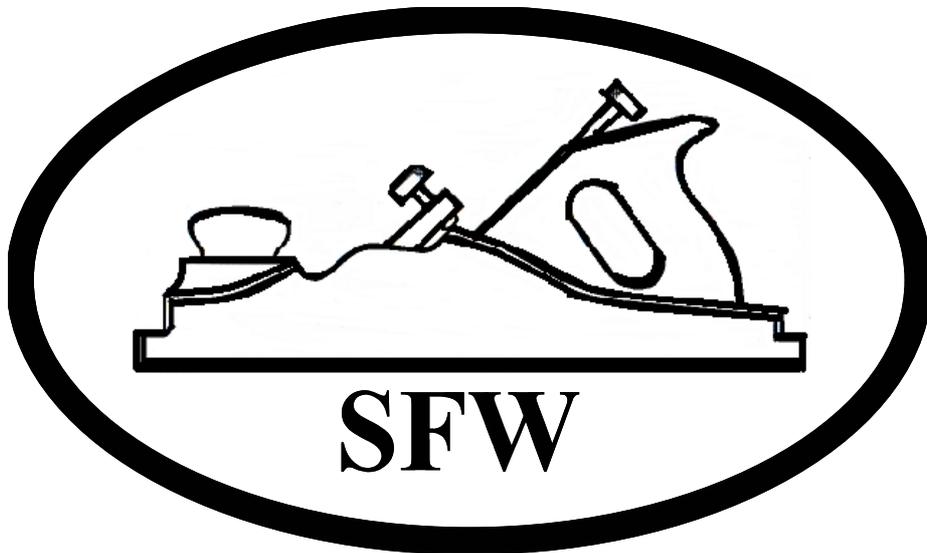


SOUTHERN FELLOWSHIP OF WOODWORKERS

Newsletter

February 2008

Issue 1/08



New Web site

www.sfwoodworkers.co.uk

Fellowship Programme on back page

Officers and Committee Members

Chairman	Vacant	
Secretary	Roger Hardwick	West View, Frimley Road Ash Vale, Surrey. GU12 5NZ Tel. 01252 376797 email. rogerhardwick@btinternet.com.
Membership secretary	Clive Clarke	Lower Park, Station Lane Milford, Surrey. GU8 5HS Tel. 01483 42573 email; ch.clarke@btinternet.com
Treasurer	David Allaway	Thatchers Mead Thames Drive Charvil Berkshire RG10 9TP Tel. 01189693229 email djallaway@tiscali.co.uk
Committee	Robert Hayden	39 Mytchett Farm Park, Mytchett, Surrey. GU16 2AB Tel. 01420 483434(work), Mobile 07887822196 email; Robert.hayden@de.mod.uk
	Terry Hiscox	24 Woodlands Close, Camberley, Surrey GU21 4DY. Tel. 01276 34568 email: terryhiscox@btinternet.com
	Malcolm Mackenzie	97 Westheath Road, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 8QZ Tel: 01252 540265
	Andrew Swain	Clent House, Hill Farm Road, Taplow, Berkshire. SL6 0EY Tel. 01628 661569 email:andrewj.swain@virgin.net

Secretary's Bit

First I must apologise for the late publication of the newsletter. I could give you a number of excuses as to why, but suffice to say life has been very busy and not enough hours in the day.

I trust you all had a very good Christmas and I wish you all a prosperous and healthy new year.

I had very little time over Christmas to spend in the garage working with wood. I spent much of the time fixing my Land Rover and doing metal work for other people. Also a lot of time organising a New Year Social. I have been asked to make a new lectern for the Salvation Army, which I attend in Woking. Whether I will complete it in time for an article in the next newsletter, I'm not sure.

I did send an email out to ask if any of you had made anything over Christmas or had any woodworking related presents. I've only had one reply from Neil Hiscox, mentioned later in this newsletter. I do feel that fellow members are very interested in what others are making, so don't be afraid to let us know.

Have you checked out the Website yet: **www.sfwoodworkers.co.uk**

Have a look. It's not great but a good start. Hopefully, I will learn how to edit it a bit better and how to include photographs. I will evolve and keep changing. I've only gone for a basic set up for now, so it's not costing the fellowship much to run. I would have liked to have a forum page but this option costs a lot more. To start with I'm thinking of having a Q&A - comments page. Members can send in questions/ problems they have (woodwork related of course) and I will publish them. Replies would come to me and I will then publish the answers. Updating is instant so you will see them very soon after I receive them.

I would very much appreciate your comments on the web site to give me some guidance on how to develop it. I'm fairly computer literate but websites are still a bit of a mystery to me so if any of you have any knowledge on the subject do come to my assistance.

To put anything in the Newsletter please post or email them to the Secretary. Details on the inside page.

Deadline for next Newsletter is 15th April , 2008.

Email to:- sfwoodworkers@btinternet.com

NEW MEMBERS

None this period. Please do your best to encourage more people to join our Fellowship, as the larger the membership the more we can enhance the programme. Do you realise we have no female members? Have we ever had any female members? There must be some female woodworkers out there.

A number of members have still not paid their subscriptions for this year. The subscription year now starts from the AGM, so if you have not paid yet please contact Clive Clarke. Reminders cost money which just goes to eat away at our valuable funds unnecessarily.

Members' Welfare

Do you know of any members who are not well and unable to attend our meetings? Let the editor know so we can inform the membership.

FOR SALE AND WANTS:

If you want to sell any woodworking items or are looking for one the this is the place to advertise. Adds are Free so take advantage of it. I promise not to bag all the best bargains before they go to print.

FOR SALE:

No items this month.

Wanted

CHAIRMAN.

The Fellowship still needs a News Reporter. Whilst the secretary puts the newsletter together, Stuart Austin does most of the reporting. However, family commitments are now taking up most of his time and we need someone to take his place. Please come forward and volunteer. You will be doing the Fellowship a great service.

MEMBERS ITEMS

CONGRATULATIONS

John Lloyd Competition Winner

"We are pleased to announce that Neil Hiscox, from Woking in Surrey, has won a five day course with John Lloyd. Neil is a member of the Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire Fellowship of Woodworkers and has just completed his latest project which is a rocking chair based on a design by Hal Taylor." Classichandtools.com

Congratulations Neil. Shame they used the old name of the Fellowship!

We should also commend David Barron on his excellent article in Furniture and Cabinet making magazine. Having made a jewellery cabinet for his wife he was asked to make another one. I applaud David's clear description of each stage in making the cabinet, why he chose the materials he used and alternative methods that could have produced similar results. The write up was better than many professionally written articles. I've printed the exploded view of the cabinet later in this newsletter.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS:

Neil Hiscox bought his brother Terry some parallel clamps for Christmas from the internet. The site is called workshop heaven <http://www.workshopheaven.com/eStore/cgi-bin/cp-app.pl>

The quality of the tools seems very good. I purchased previously some rasps for shaping the rocking chair I am making; the guy threw in a leather tool roll as I was one of the first customers.

The secretary had a new compressor for Christmas. A 3 hp 10 cfm one from Axminster. I'd previously borrowed a compressor from a friend and already had a long hose, spray gun and a few accessories. When I went to try it out I found the connector on my hose was the wrong type for the compressor, so had to wait until the new year before I could get the right connector. I also had new Victor dovetail and tenon saws. They're still in the boxes as I keep using my old ones!

Minutes of AGM held on 22nd November 2007

Present: Clive Clarke, Robert Hayden, Stuart Austin, Roger Hardwick,
Terry Hiscox, , Malcolm Mackenzie and 14 members.

Apologies: Thad Carter, Bill Clayden, Robin Hart, Andrew Swain

Minutes of last AGM meeting.

These were accepted.

Secretary's Report

The Southern Fellowship of Woodworkers has now been running for two years without a Chairman. Without this formal leadership, I feel and I think you'll all agree that the Committee has done a very good job with running the Fellowship. However, I still personally feel the Fellowship does need a Chairperson – the big question is- - - Do you the membership feel the same way ?

The reason the Committee has done so well, is the way we have divided up the responsibilities. Terry Hiscox has co-ordinated the Winter programme with both professional and member speakers.

Members' evenings are very important for two reasons. One, it gives you the chance to show what you have been doing and pass on knowledge/experience to others. It also encourages other members to progress their own abilities. Secondly it keeps the overall costs down to balance out the visiting speaker costs over the year. Terry is always looking for new speakers and demonstrators and we ask you do the same.

Andrew Swain has also done a good job with organising summer visits. I've been disappointed on the attendance for these visits. One, to the Greys Museum in London had to be cancelled as only a couple of members had shown an interest in going. Please give us your feedback on why this is so. Is it the day of the week, is a week-end better, too far to travel? Let us know. Please.....

Other committee members have also worked hard, not only supporting Terry and Andrew but also taking responsibility for other events such as the SAW show, newsletter items and hosting Fellowship meetings. All, of course, done on your behalf.

A couple of members have not renewed their membership this year because they feel the speakers have not been suited to them. Though one member had only been to two meetings. Of course it's not possible to please everyone all of the time but I feel the varied programme Terry has provided does have something for everyone.

Of course, listening to speakers isn't just why the Fellowship exists. One of its main aims has to be the sharing of knowledge between people with the same Woodworking interest and the way to do that is to attend the meetings.

I've been doing some more research into setting up a Fellowship website. Progress is slow because I'm not familiar with the technology but I've been getting advise from my brother-in-law who is an IT professional. Problem is he lives in Colorado, USA. I'm also grateful to those of you that have also emailed information to me. One idea I have for the website would be to have a forum page for members to exchange information.

Financially the Fellowship is doing well. The committee is considering making some purchases that we feel would be to the benefit of the membership. One is a Laser printer to improve the quality of the newsletter. Another is video equipment to improve visibility of demonstrations. Again, we would appreciate feedback if you disagree or have other ideas.

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership is one up on last year, 55 compared to 54.

Currently Clive does both the treasurer's job and the membership secretary's job. This year on appointment of new committee members this will be changed to two separate positions.

Treasurer's Report

Good year overall, £450 in the bank more than this time last year. Lower than expected cost on newsletter.

Couple of donations from sale of timber given to the Fellowship.

Speakers have been chosen regarding the distance they have to travel to keep expenses down.

Subscriptions stayed the same.

Attendance has been up so covering cost of speakers.

Refreshment cost low and well worth the cost for the fellowship it provides.

Approval of Accounts

Accounts examined and approved by David Allaway.

Subscriptions

To remain at £10.00

Election of Committee members

Position	Member nominated	Nominated by-	Seconded by -
Chairman	No offers		
Secretary	Roger Hardwick	Mike Pattison	Julian Hatcliff
Treasurer	David Allaway	Terry Hiscox	Stuart Austin
Membership Secretary	Clive Clarke	Jock Ross	Stuart Austin
Winter Programme Coordinator	Terry Hiscox	David Allaway	Bob Hodgkinson
Summer Programme Coordinator	Malcolm Mackenzie	Bill Barnham	George Howes
Special events	Robert Hayden	Roger Hardwick	Keith Tate

Election of Auditor

Stuart Austin has agreed to be auditor. Nominated by Roger Hardwick, Seconded by Keith Tate!

AOB.

Following the formal part of the AGM a number of suggestions were voiced for the committee to consider.

Tool sale at members meetings not just at AGM.
More demonstrations from speakers and less talking and slide shows.
Need to draw up a set of guidelines for speakers
Ask speakers to give their top ten best cabinet making tips
Member evenings doing basic joints and finishing's
Visits to workshops for specific types of woodwork.
More factory visits
Visit to Cheltenham museum at a weekend
Visit to Kew gardens display of timbers.

Following on after the AGM we had a discussion on Woodworking magazines led by Julian and Stuart.

The magazine discussion was interesting. I was amazed at the limited uptake of magazines, both UK and US...but then they do have their price, particularly if one

subscribes on a regular basis...having said that, there are subscription discounts which work very well with the US magazines. Members have found their own interest level and there wasn't really any feedback, which would suggest members will review purchasing magazines. (Go on, prove me wrong!) It was recognised that Furniture and Cabinetmaking is at the top of the UK magazines, (a lot of the other UK magazines do not hit the mark for many members) and the US Fine Woodworking is now viewed as significantly better than F & C. Subscriptions to Fine Woodworking come out at just over \$100 (£50) for 21 issues (delivered) across three years so that at £2.50 a copy makes it phenomenal value.

As far as the internet was concerned, I was very surprised from two angles, one was the limited access of members to IT/the internet, and the other was the very slow speeds available to many members, even though many live not far from the M4 corridor which I would have thought would have been well serviced. I live out in the Sussex countryside and average 5.5-6.0 Mbps (I am very fortunate) - and I am aware that an expensive British Telecom phone exchange upgrade is going to take some time to implement.

Members are missing out on the wealth of magazines available from the US and also on the email US woodworking newsletters/internet woodworking websites. Do ring or email me if you want further information.

J.A.Hatcliffe

Books and DVD's

Our Newsletter is private so there is no need to guard impartiality.

I'm a fan of Taunton's "Complete Illustrated Guide to....." series of large format books. Joyce's "Furniture Making" is the English "Bible" but I just enjoy the encouragement I get so much from the exceptional photos and coloured drawings in the Taunton books and magazines. Much the same applies to the few woodwork titles from the Time-Life. The Yanks approach to instructional books seems to be somewhat ahead of ours. I recall many books from the Readers Digest had these same qualities.

Can I encourage you to look seriously at the above series which covers Joinery, Furniture & Cabinet Construction, Box Making, Shaping Wood, Sharpening and Jigs, all at about £25.00 each, but discounted on Amazon.com, and (thegmcgroup.com) usually do a "buy 2 get 1 free.

As to DVD's, you will have Stobert Davie's and GMC's catalogues and have seen some Press reviews. I feel the David Charlesworth and Rob Cosman offerings on chisels, planning, dovetails and wood-hinge box making have the edge on everyone else's at no significant extra price.

Let Roger Hardwick know if you have an excellent DVD that we should all know about.

Fine Woodworking

This magazine costs us here US \$105 for a 3-year sub. - say about £17 for 7 issues and the November issue of "Tools & Shops"
You can now get a whole years issues plus "Power Tool Basics" and "Beulching Furniture" and other extras on DVD for \$39.95.
Go to "Finer woodworking.com/FW annual for more details.

Transport Cart for 8'x4' Sheets

I spent time over Christmas working out a design for the above (bit of a luxury) but capable of converting to a variable height assembly table (not so)
As I get older, carrying MDF sheets is not a joy, nor is kneeling and stooping while making so this contraption could make it easier to carry on into my dotage.
If it works and is transportable I'll bring it to Mytchett for you to see.

Stuart Austin.

List of Videos DVDs held by the Fellowship available for loan.

PLEASE bring them back for the following meeting, even if you want to continue the loan.

Video – Dovetails by Jim Kingshot
Video – World of Woodwork by Jim Kingshot
Video – Basic Routing by Roy Sutton
Video – Advanced Routing by Roy Sutton
Video – Planes and Planing part 1
Video – Planes and Planing part 2
DVD - B&Q Lay real wood Flooring
DVD - Draper Multi Purpose Workstation – 2 copies

Please see Terry Hiscox if you wish to loan out any of the above.

25th October 2007 Andrew Durand of Chiddingfold

Andrew's background is mainly his former employment at Dolmetsch for 8 years .

Listening to Andrew and seeing the lovely instrument he brought along for us to see , can only be an inspiration " to do better " whatever our respective bents . We have in our variety of speakers a significant number who come to us to inspire rather than to teach us the building bricks of furniture construction . The Committee's constant problem is , of course , how many of one and the other to enlist in a years programme . Anyway , I know some of you like to make stringed instruments , but has anyone tried a keyboard one ?

Andrew explained , the Spinet and its larger brother , the Harpsicord , were initially built into large cabinet boxes that could be carried by two men into a house where entertainment was to be held and placed on folding trestles or 2 chairs . This instrument , I think , had walnut keys--- rather beautiful but strange to our eyes . The cabinet was quite a restrained plain affair compared with how we see keyboard instruments presented today and in the last century

Harpsicords and Spinets trace back to the 1500's and were from then a development of the mediaeval Verginal . So the latter would probably have been the principal musical instrument in the reign of Henry VIII when Church music was also king .in the lives of ordinary folk .These two instruments continued in wide usage until about 1650 and faded slowly until about 1800 by which time there were 200 makers in London alone These then switched rapidly to make the new Pianoforte credited to a Mr.Zumpe of Switzerland . As you could play loud or soft with it , expression was now open to the player . The makers were overwhelmed with the resultant demand . Back to the Harpsicord . Despite its resistance to expressive effort in playing a hardcore of lovers continued and do to this day

The soundboards are usually of spruce as in the violin family and the keys were often in lime or walnut .The cabinetry was usually plain by comparison to some of the rather heavily ornate furniture of the time it would have sat beside . Four octaves were a feature until 1760 , 5 from then on until 1808 and 6 thereafter as it competed with the new Piano .

Andrew mentioned the American Clavicord . Here a metal pin key operated , rises and moves/plucks each string and it is unique in having a vibrato . Cabinetry was frequently highly decorative .

An intriguing peek into an almost lost world .

By Stuart Austin.

Furniture Design software.

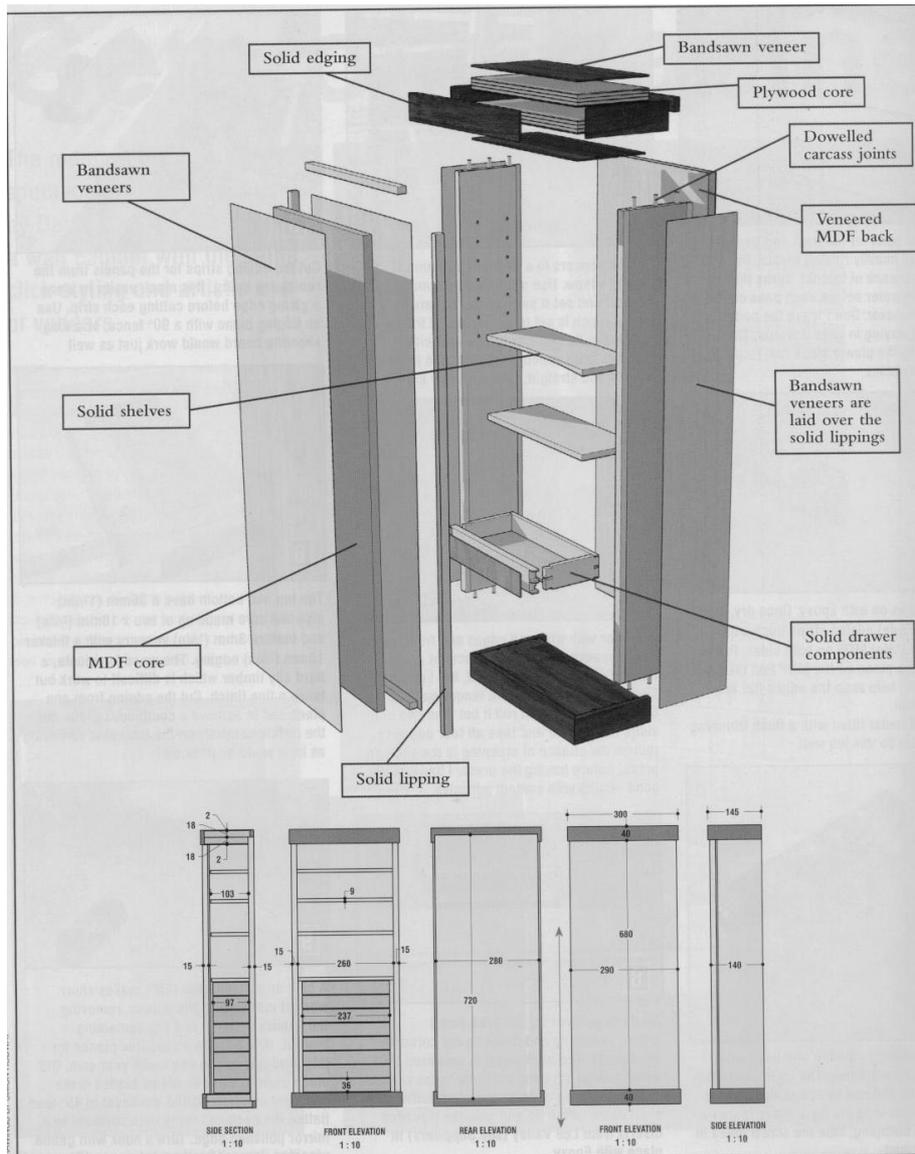
Do any of you use software packages for designing projects to make?

I would like to do an article on what is available. If you do use or have come across drawing software then let me know.

I need to know name of product, where to get it from, features and how easy or hard is it to use. Send information into the secretary. Address on page 2 or email sfwoodworkes@btinternet.com

Members Projects

Exploded view of Jewellery cabinet made by David Barron.



Washed up timber to be sold off

“Hundred of tonnes of timber washed ashore after a cargo ship sank off the Dorset coast is to be sold off.”



You may remember that on the notices for the January meeting I stated that a neighbour of David Allaway had some timber for sale. Well, if you were interested, it's too late as Robert has bought it all. BUT WHERE DID IT REALLY COME FROM?

James Mursell has sent me details of Windsor Chair making courses. An extract of the leaflet he sent is below. I can send a copy of the full leaflet to member wanting to know more, or further details can be found on the website. <http://www.thewindsorworkshop.co.uk/Courses.htm>

Course Chairs

Three levels of chairs are available to be made on courses. Students must complete at least one of the *Introductory* chairs before progressing to an *Intermediate* chair. The *Advanced* chairs are only available to those that have attended at least two previous courses.

INTRODUCTORY	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
 <p>Bow-back</p>	 <p>Double-bow</p>	 <p>Low-back Only <i>one</i> Advanced course per year.</p>
 <p>Wheel-back</p>	 <p>Continuous-arm</p>	<h4>Choosing a Course</h4> <p>Decide which chair you wish to make, taking account of your experience (see above), and choose dates from the table. Contact James Mursell to check availability of spaces.</p>
 <p>Child's high chair Make 2 per course</p>	 <p>Child's armchair</p>	

COURSE PRICES

(from 1st January 2008)

Introductory	£430
Intermediate	£455
Advanced	£525

(All prices are inclusive of VAT)



James Mursell has been making Windsor chairs for the past 12 years. Learning from Jack Hill at West Dean College and Mike Dunbar in the USA, he became a full-time maker six years ago, starting The Windsor Workshop three years ago to offer chair making courses. The workshop is on a farm, which he ran as a commercial fruit growing business for 16 years prior to becoming a professional maker.

Public Events with Furniture and Woodworking Interest 2005

NB It is advisable to check dates and times with the venue before travelling

2008 SHOW SCHEDULE

The International Woodwork Exhibition. Alexandra Palace. February 8th - 10th.

Yandles Woodworking Show April 11-12 - Martock, Somerset

The Hand Tools Event - West Dean College - May 31 & June 1st

The Festival Of The Tree - Westonbirt Arboretum, Glos, Aug 22-25th

The New Midland Woodworking Show
10th & 11th October 2008, 10am - 5pm
12th October 2008 10am - 4pm
Hall 2, Stoneleigh Park
Coventry

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

All winter programme meetings are held at Mytchett community centre.
Start time 7:30pm.

January 24th - Members evening - Colin Waters talk on his new workshop.
Stuart Austin on a mortise and tenon jointing and David Barron to demonstrate his Feestool Domino machine.

February 28th

Chris Hyde, Curriculum Manager, Art & Design at Rycote to talk and demonstrate on Marquetry and Parquetry in the restoration and repair of old and antique furniture.

<http://www.ocvc.ac.uk/about-art-and-design>

March 27th

Stephen Owen, a teacher at the Cranleigh School, will present his ideas on how to develop a project from the original thought to the finished article.

www.stephenowen.com

April 24th - Members evening

Summer Visits

May 2nd or 3rd Wednesday – Tour of Tool collection at Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton and English Woodlands Timber Limited, Cocking near Midhurst.

June – Summer show at Rycote Centre Oxford, starts Friday 13th June and BCUC if the dates tie up. Alternative to BCUC is High Wycomb Museum with a collection of chairs.

July - Makers visit, possibly David Jones, Hounslow.

August – Members Workshop - TBA.

Note: Summer visits have not yet been finalised. Please check for further details in later publications and contact Andrew prior to events.

Contact Andrew Swain to express interest in attending summer visits and for up to date information. See inside cover for details.