

South Downs Woodturners

August 2023

Dear Member

It's been a long time since the last newsletter, so it's time I got a new one out. My apologies for the delay, due to other commitments.

We've had several meetings since I last put fingers to keyboard, including the AGM in April. For those readers who were not at the AGM, I've included my (final) Chairman's report in this newsletter (Page 8). The AGM was my last as Chairman and Dave Smith took over then. Throughout my time as Chair, I got a great deal of support from the other members of the committee and I want to take this opportunity to thank them all for that support, which made my life a lot easier.

The AGM was also the start of a new subscription year and our first chance to see how many members we really have, as we've not asked for subs from existing members since the beginning of Covid. We've lost some but retained far more, so our membership number is very healthy and we are well positioned to go forward with the programme. We've also had our first remote demo after the January try out with Stewart Furini. More details on page 3, but it went well and gives us confidence that we can do more of these in 2024.

Our next meeting is on August 30th and we'll look forward to seeing many of you there.

All best wishes to all members

NEXT CLUB MEETING

We have our next meeting at the end of the month, so put the date in your diary now:

Wednesday August 30th 2023 at 7:00 pm in Bramber Hall

This meeting will be a practical evening. We plan to have all three lathes in operation - demonstrators still to be finalised. It will be your opportunity to 'have a go'. If you have a particular tool or technique you'd like to show off, do bring it along. We hope to have a sharpening station in operation along with the shop, the library and the tool-bank. Plus the usual raffle and 'Tools and Turnings' - bring along anything you'd like others to see.

Chairman's Challenge: A writing implement - pen, pencil, brush, or marker of any kind

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to members Gordon Eaton, David Watson and Bill Giles who were assessed by the AWGB for their tutor badges and all passed with flying colours. Shown above proudly displaying their certificates. Well done chaps!



LEESIDE TOOLS

We hear from Chris Grace that the owners of what was Leeside Tools in Yapton are opening on Thursdays and Saturdays for the rest of the year to clear their remaining stock, with 15% off. General tools and bits, and a few turning and carving tools. Until they officially closed, Leeside used to be an Aladdin's cave of second-hand tools and could still be worth a visit.

2023 Programme - Remaining Dates

Below is the programme of meetings for the rest of 2023 for your diaries. All subject to change, but hopefully accurate at the time of preparation.

- August 30th** Practical/social evening
Three lathes set up for member participation - bring some wood, tools, and eye protection and join in! 'Show and tell' Tools and Turnings table
Chairman's challenge: A writing implement
- September 27th** Visiting demonstrator: Patrick O' Connell from Ashdown Woodturners Club Subject: TBA
- October 25th** Competition: Tableware – any wooden item with turned elements which might have a place in the dining room or kitchen. Fill-in demo: 'Pens' by Norman Billingham
- November 29th** Professional demonstration:
We welcome back Kevin Hutson who proved very popular and entertaining when he visited us last year. Subject: TBA
- December 20th** Note : NOT last Weds. Christmas social evening, full content TBA. Christmas tree Chairman's challenge, festive items, mini competition, mince pies, wine etc.

RECENT MEETINGS



At our March meeting we entertained, and were entertained by, Terry Smart of Chestnut Products. Terry began his presentation by showing us the basics of finishing a spindle-turned piece. He emphasised order and compatibility of different finishes and suggested using their compatibility chart, available as a download on their website and on the back of their catalogue. Choose the product to fit the project, i.e. food safe or toy safe, indoor/outdoor.

One of the most important parts of finishing is the preparation. Terry used a net abrasive 80, 120, 180 grit in line with grain, then 240 and 320 with the lathe spinning. This was followed with successive Nyweb pads: Green 400 grit, Red 600, Orange 1000 and White (which has no abrasive). Remember GROW for the order of use. He finished the piece using a combination of sanding sealer and wax. He went on to show the uses of burnishing cream and microcrystalline wax, He also recommended the use of a tack cloth to remove final traces of dust before applying a finish and suggested keeping the cloth in a jar or a sealable bag. Resist the temptation to touch the work as oils in your hands may mar the finish.

Sanding sealer will not only seal the timber but will also smooth the surface, resins within the sealer also help to bind the surface together. Shake tin before use, then apply with a cloth or brush in a thin coating. Wipe the neck of the tin before re-fitting the lid. The sealer will feel rough once dry, it clogs the open pores and provides a harder surface. Do not sand through the sealer, though the agents in the sealer help to lubricate sanding. Other sanding sealers include shellac, and acrylic, both slower drying and limited to what can be applied on top.

Terry followed sanding sealer with mildly abrasive burnishing cream. Use sparingly as if cloth is too wet it will skate over the surface and not do its job properly. He finished the piece with Woodwax 22 - beeswax and Carnuba wax in a solvent base, applied to cloth and wiped over the surface with lathe stopped, and buffed up pretty much straight away with lathe running.

Excess wax will be removed onto cloth so clean piece of cloth to continue buffing. Leave approx. 20 minutes before further coats if required up to a maximum three coats. An alternative is microcrystalline wax, once again applied sparingly, as thinly as possible, allow to dry off for a short time and then buff.

Terry also discussed melamine lacquer, a hardwearing lacquer which continues to cure, taking up to three weeks to fully harden, though most hardness is achieved after 7 days. Particularly favoured by pen turners. He also showed us the application of ebonising lacquer using an aerosol gun which clips onto an aerosol can, keeps fingers clean and makes it easier to apply aerosol. He also demonstrated his buffing system using three buffing wheels and corresponding buffing compounds to achieve a high gloss finish. A buffing tree is available, with three wheels on one spindle, ideal for buffing smaller items, and saves changing wheels. There was lively discussion of all aspects of finishing. One lesson we all learned was not to thin cellulose sanding sealer as this reduces its ability to do its job properly. Terry also brought his mobile shop and was pleased to pretty much sell out. A very good evening for all and well attended.

The April meeting was the AGM and a competition evening for vases and or bud vases. The competition results are on page 4 and the AGM report on page 8. As a fill-in demo, Norman Billingham showed how he incorporates rare earth magnets into some of his turnings. He demonstrated making a simple desktop magnetic holder for paperclips (which can also be used as a pin tidy for sewing or to hold small parts in the workshop). He didn't have enough time to show how he makes a magnetic tray for sewing pins but has promised (himself) an article for a future newsletter. Norman emphasised the need for care with these tiny magnets as even the small ones can pull together with quite a nasty 'nip' if they trap a bit of flesh.



In May we had our second remote demo of the year, from Chris Parker, aka 'The Bald Woodturner', who demonstrated from his Lancashire workshop. Despite an initial glitch in setting up the sound system, the demo went well and was well attended both by members in the Hall and by a group of online attendees. Chris's theme was 'decoration and embellishment'.

Chris first showed us how he uses the Sorby texturing and spiralling cutters to produce a variety of effects on both curved and flat surfaces. He also demonstrated using a Arbotech mini carver with the industrial blade then a 2" fine donut cutter from Saburrtooth and the green 4" donut cutter, also from Saburrtooth, in a standard angle grinder

(<https://www.saburrtooth.com/>). For finer work he uses a Dremel engraver, He also used the Kutzall extreme rotosaw, and the Kutzall extreme sphere burr. These US made tools (<https://kutzall.com/en-gb>) are readily available from Amazon, as are the nylon rotary brushes which Chris uses for smoothing his textured surfaces. He also showed us the use of a Manpa 1/8" triangle carbide cutter and Manpa eye cutters, which are available from a company called Chainsaw bars (<https://www.chainsawbars.co.uk/>). After texturing, Chris uses a wide variety of paints, stains and sealants to produce the final decorative effects he looks for. An online questioner was particularly interested in how Chris produces the 'rusted metal' effect on some of his pieces,. He explained that he uses reactive rust effect paint which he buys on eBay (<https://tinyurl.com/mrx9spsv>). This is a two-part process. The paint coat contains very finely divided iron particles whose corrosion is accelerated by a second coat, of a rusting catalyst, before the surface is finally sealed. Chris fielded a lot of questions in a very enjoyable evening - and we didn't have to clean up afterwards!



In June we had a more conventional evening. Our very own Anna Cates demonstrated her methods for turning green wood. As always with Anna there was lots to learn from a fine demonstration of tool control as she sent showers of shavings flying, and showed us how to centre a blank in order to maximise the chances of retaining the natural edge. She took us through the processes of making various possible forms, as well as discussing how to fix the inevitable splits and flaws which can come when turning wet wood to thin-walled vessels. Another great evening - thanks Anna.

Last, but far from least, July's meeting was a competition evening with the theme 'decoration and embellishment'. Entries were a bit thin for this one - results next time. As a fill-in demo, member Barry Chidlow showed us how to make a Victorian illusion. This item had everyone confused until Barry explained how it works. We hope to persuade him to write it up as a Journal article. More details of this meeting in the next newsletter.

APRIL COMPETITION



April 26th was a competition evening. The topic was 'Vase(s) or bud vase(s)' There was a good range of entries all work of very high quality. As usual, judging was by popular vote. The final results were:

Beginners (top)

- 1st Dennis Manley
- 2nd David Weaver
- 3rd Tony Smith

Intermediate (middle)

- 1st Colin Dowle
- 2nd Greg Cottle
- 3rd Anthony Trigg

Advanced (bottom)

- 1st Robert Brady
- 2nd Peter Pullin
- 3rd Keith Golds

Congratulations to all for their excellent work - *and thanks to Barry Chidlow for the photos*

MACHINES FOR SALE



Dave Watson offers these items for sale on behalf of a friend whose husband is deceased. They are a Draper 5-speed drill press, a Clarke 2x36 belt/disc sander and a Scheppach SD1600f scrollsaw. All in good working order. Looking for offers around £50 for each item. You can contact Dave by e-mail (davidwatson66@hotmail.com) or phone 07766601622.

LATHE FOR SALE



We've been contacted by Andrew Hibbert, who is forced to give up turning and wishes to sell his lathe and tools. The lathe is a Coronet 3. The chuck looks to me like an engineer's chuck. If interested you can contact Andrew by e-mail ahibbert72@gmail.com.

A Twisted Box by Mike Sims

A. The Competition box.



Some time ago, Mike Sims won a Chairman's Challenge pen for a rather nice twisted box with a finial lid (A). Some members wondered if the 'box with a twist' was really made on a lathe. So this article by Mike describes how it was done.

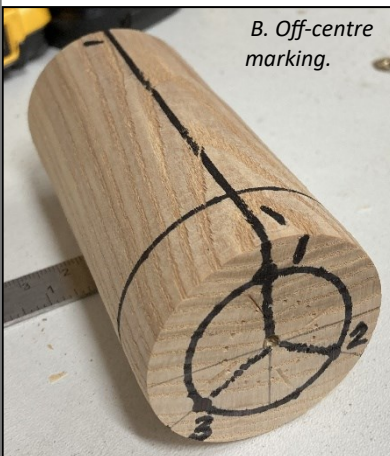
This is not a detailed description of box-making. It assumes that you have made some, so some basics are glossed over. My box is small with a detailed finial on the lid so, if you want to duplicate it, choose a tight and straight-grained wood without knots or cracks. Start with a blank that is 16 cm long by 5.5 cm square.

Round the blank between centres to about 5 cm diameter and put a spigot on the tailstock end to suit your chuck. Next mark a point where a parting cut will be made to separate the lid from the base. I decided 10 cm for the bottom and 6 cm for the lid, with the lid portion at the end with the spigot. Make the parting cut and saw through the last bit to avoid tear-out.

With this design, I prefer to make the base first followed by the lid. This is because the depth of the twisted covers that form the outside of the base dictates the size of the hole that you can make to form the inside of the base. This hole in the base then dictates the fit of the lid into the base. Additionally, the lid cannot be jam-chucked into the base to be finished later, so it must be made independently.

To make the base, start by placing the 10 cm blank between centres. This step establishes a centre point on the end that will be at the top and you will have to judge where the new centre point for the tailstock live centre will be. Tighten down when you are happy with the centring. If you cannot get the blank to rotate true, then turn it to round with the lightest of cuts.

At this point the blank can be taken off the lathe and off-centre points marked on each end. We are going to turn on three different centres and we must mark them at 120 degrees apart. Start by marking a 3.5 cm diameter circle on one end. When marking I tend to use a fine point sharpie rather than a pencil as the markings are clearer. Now mark three centre points on the circle that are 120 degrees apart. Make a notation against each centre point, marking them as #1, #2 and #3. Now, extend

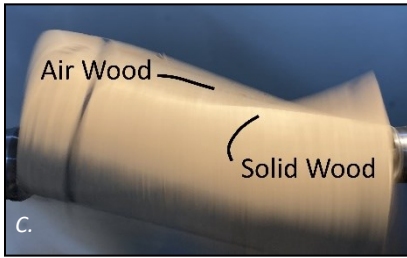


a line from the true centre through the #1 centre point and on to the circumference of the cylinder (see B). Extend this line straight down the length of the cylinder and over the other end of the blank and into the true centre point. At 1.75 cm back along this line, mark off-centre point #1. Now draw a 3.5 cm circle on the end and mark the other two off-centre points - #2 and #3 - on that circle, as before. Whether you go clockwise or anti-clockwise when marking points #1, #2 and #3 is not important. It is important that, if your numbering is in a clockwise direction, then the numbering on the other end must be anti-clockwise. Just to review after all this marking: we now have three points 120 degrees apart on the same circle, where #1 has the same relative position on each end, as do #2 and #3. It can also be useful to mark the numbers (1, 2 & 3) on the outside of the cylinder at each end. When you are happy with this then punch the three off-centre points on each end.

We can now turn the three twisted faces. Before returning the blank to the lathe, decide which end will be the bottom of the base taking into consideration the grain alignment relative to the lid blank. Firstly, mount the blank between true centres and

make a mark around the cylinder at 1.5 cm from the bottom. We will make a spigot on this end after the twists have been made. This line also marks the parting off point when the base is being finished later. Now you can mount the piece between centres so that the drive centre is on #1 and the live centre is on #3. Rotate the piece by hand to ensure that nothing is catching and then, standing out of the 'firing line' and setting the rpm low, turn the lathe on. Increase the speed to whatever you are comfortable with. It is worth mentioning here that the gouge will only be in contact with the wood for part of each revolution, so you might want to increase your speed somewhat to compensate for this. In my case I would turn at around 1500 rpm. While on this topic, a few words about terminology, technique and safety:

1. When turning off-centre there is an area of the shape that is delineated by an edge that is distinct or solid. This is termed, the **solid wood**. Additionally, there is an area that is less distinct or fuzzy where you can see through it (See C). This is termed **air wood**, sometimes called ghost wood. Both solid and air wood will be seen on a piece that is being turned off-centre.
2. Sharp tools are essential. Blunt tools will promote mistakes.
3. Take light cuts. As the gouge is only in contact for part of each revolution, excessive pressure will advance the tool too aggressively during the part of the revolution when the tool is not in contact.
4. Use the heel of the gouge to feel for contact before committing to a cut.
5. Look at the profile of the piece at the top, be it air or solid wood, in order to assess the shape that you are making. Do not look at the point of the tool to assess shape.
6. Periodically stop the lathe and check the mounting of the blank to ensure that it is still safe.

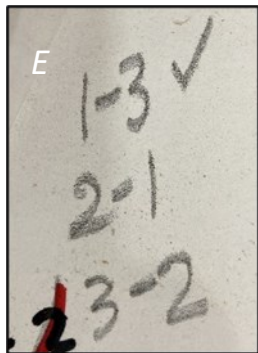


7. **Always wear full face protection.** Safety glasses are not enough for this kind of turning.

Back to the twisted faces. We are going to shape a long shallow cove that will start at the parting off mark and end at the top of the base. As with any cove, remove material in both directions, cutting downhill, starting in the middle and working outwards. When taking cuts, be aware of items 2 – 6 above. Make the cove 8 – 10 mm deep and do not go too deep as you will be hollowing out the base later and you need to make it a decent size inside. For cutting the twist I use a 12 mm spindle gouge because beginning an off-centre cut can be quite bumpy, and the heavier tool helps in this respect. Make your cuts as smooth as possible as they will have to be sanded by hand, although a large negative rake scraper can be used to take out stubborn tool marks. You should now have two twisted edges on this face that curl around the cylinder. Now you can sand this face by hand, working up through the grits. Wrapping sandpaper around a dowel is helpful here. We will apply final finish later, but if you want to see how the finish might turn out, then applying sanding sealer will reveal any unwanted blemishes.

When you are happy with the sanded finish, remount the piece between centres #2 and #1 and repeat the previous steps. If you are not happy with the finish, go back and take another cut with the gouge. You should now have a crisp spiral edge that smoothly delineates this face from the previous one (D). Now, repeat this process again with the blank mounted between centres #3 and # 2. At this point you have the three twisted faces completed. I should mention here that this sequence of mounting centre points (1 to 3, 2 to 1, 3 to 2) produces a twist that goes to the left, as you look at it on end. An alternative sequence that produces a face twisting to the right is 1 to 2, 2 to 3, 3 to 1. Whichever you choose, I suggest that you write the sequence on paper and tick-off your progress as you go (E).

Return the piece between the original (true) centres and put a tenon/spigot that will suit your chuck on the end that will become the bottom. Now chuck the piece on the new spigot, bringing up a live centre in the tailstock to ensure correct centring before tightening the chuck. Remove the tailstock and proceed to hollow the box. You can do this in several ways. I prefer to drill out the wood using a Forstner bit and then finish the inside with a gouge. A 25 mm bit should suffice but check the wall thickness that will result before drilling. Also, do not go too deep. This box is slender, so I like to leave 2 cm of wood in the bottom to give it more stability. Remember also that if you use a Forstner bit, you will have to clean up the bottom of the hollow to remove the depression left by the drill point. This can be done with a box scraper.



When you are happy with the hollowing, you need to square off the end that will be the top of the base. I also prefer to round off the three points at the top of the twists, as the sharp points are susceptible to damage. Now you can proceed to cut a recess around the rim of the hollowed base which will accommodate the lid. I make the recess about 3 cm diameter and about 4 mm deep. I use a small oval skew for this. Firstly, with the skew flat on the toolrest and with the heel nearest the centre, I cut into the end grain with the tip of the skew. Make the outsides of the recess as parallel to the centre as possible – line up the skew with the lathe bed to ensure this. When you are 4 mm deep, move the skew handle towards the centre line of the lathe, removing material to make a 90 degree recess bottom (F).

The bottom can now be sanded inside and finish applied inside and out. Then, you can part the bottom off, just above the spigot. If you want a more professional finish to the bottom or some detail, you could make a jam-chuck for the hollow to hold the base, but that is your choice.

To make the lid, mount the lid blank in your chuck and square up the end. Then reduce the piece to a cylinder whose diameter will fit into the recess in the top of the base.



The tightness of this fit is your choice. The finial on my lid is delicate, so I chose a looser fit. Then you must make a shoulder on the bottom of the lid that fits into the hollowed hole of the base. The depth of the shoulder and the uppermost lid are both 4 mm. If you want to put some detailed grooves or some texturing on the underside of the lid, now is the time (G). At this point you can begin to shape the domed top of the lid and make a post that will become the finial (H). Remove as much material as possible while you have the piece chucked and well supported. Give the domed lid a final smooth cut and sand and finish the dome and the underside of the lid.



The lid can now be removed from the chuck.

Traditionally, finishing a lid is done by jamming it into the base. We cannot do this because the base cannot be remounted on the lathe. What I do here is to make a collar from a piece of scrap wood that fits around the shoulder that was made on the underside of the lid. This collar can then be gripped in your chuck without marking the wood. If you have a set of jaws that could grip the shoulder without marking the wood, then use them instead of making a collar. To make the collar, mount the scrap wood in a chuck; square the end, and cut (or bore, or drill) a hole that is the same diameter as the shoulder (say, 25mm). The hole should be approximately 10 mm deep. Reduce the outside to about 35 mm diameter, to give a wall thickness of 5 mm. Then make a mark on the outside at 5 mm from the end. This is a line that indicates where the collar should be parted off. Parting it off should give you a collar that is 35 mm od, 25 mm id, and 5 mm deep. It should fit over the shoulder on the lid underside. Then take a woodworker's flat chisel and remove about 5 mm from the



collar with two cuts – this gap allows for compression in the chuck jaws (H). The collar should now hold the lid in your chuck, centred with a live centre in the tailstock, so that you can shape and finish the finial (J).

And there you have it. A twisted box with a finial lid (J). You can vary this box in several ways: you could turn on four axes, rather than three; you could dispense with the finial and the recessed fit of the lid and have a more integrated lid that continues the twists; you could experiment with moving the off-centre points different

amounts and see what effect that has on the twist; or all of these! Whatever you choose - good luck with it.

Mike Sims.

P.S. Multi-axis turning has many variables. If you need to know more, I suggest researching Barbara Dill. She has produced books and YouTube videos that introduce the subject.



BE SAFE!

Woodturning is largely a fairly safe activity but it does have inherent dangers. This is especially true of turning off-centre work, natural edge pieces, any off-balance work or anywhere where tailstock support cannot be used. There is good safety advice on the AWGB website at <https://www.awgb.co.uk/woodturning-safety/>. As a summary:

1. **Always** wear safety visor or goggles and solid shoes
2. Secure long hair and sleeves and remove ties and jewellery
3. Ensure the lathe is set to a suitable speed for the job, and that the work piece is properly held before turning on the power
4. Always turn the work by hand first to ensure it doesn't foul the tool rest
5. Always ensure that the tool is on the rest before engaging the work
6. **STOP** the lathe if at any point you are unsure of what you are expected to do
7. Always use appropriate PPE when sanding or using spray paints

A slightly delayed newsletter but I hope you have found something of interest. We still have a number of interesting meetings to come this year and I'm looking forward to the rest of the programme.

I can still use input from you - pictures of your work, or any description you might want to write about whatever you are doing. I have two articles from Gordon Eaton and one from Mike Sims waiting for space but new pieces and photos of your work are always welcome. It's your newsletter and only as good as your input.

For now, on behalf of all of the committee, I wish you successful and enjoyable turning and we'll look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Norman Billingham

Chairman's report to April AGM for year 2022/23

When I made my report to the Club last year, we were still restricted by Covid, but we had at least got back to some sense of normality through live meetings in Henfield. It was a compromise, but we were able to keep some activity going. Special thanks to Dave Smith for storing and transporting the small lathes when we couldn't access our kit in Lancing. Thanks to Gordon Eaton's efforts, we were able to find a new base - the Hall we are now in. It is smaller than the Lancing Hall but accommodates us well, has easier to access storage, and has built-in projection facilities which save a lot of set-up time. If finances permit, we may try to offer to contribute to a better projector with better definition.

We had our first meeting here in May 2022 and we have gradually settled in to the new space, which is working well. Special thanks are due to Martin Ireson and the men's shed team for the loan of their van and much help in moving the heavy kit from Lancing, to Gordon Eaton for building the rolling shelf unit which makes life simpler, and to all those who helped get things moved and organised in the new storage space.

The move to this new home let us resume many activities which had been so restricted. In particular we were able to restart professional demonstrations, and the first of these was by Kevin Hutson, who will be back later this year. We also invited Terry Smart of Chestnut Products who gave a very good talk and demo last month (and also nearly sold out his travelling shop!). We will have more professional demonstrators this year.

This hall also has fast broadband, not available at Lancing. This allowed us to think about professional interactive remote demos and we tried out the idea in January with an IRD from Stewart Furini who volunteered to be the first - thanks again Stewart. Apart from a few glitches at both ends, easily fixable, it worked very well and we'll be trying it out again next month.

We have also been able to resume our competitions and Dave Smith has done a great job in organising these, with a good range of entries and some amazingly good work on display. We'll be awarding the trophies for the year later in this AGM. Although I am not a social media user there is clear demand for the Club's Facebook page and it seems to have been well used over the year. Stewart Furini and Anthony Trigg have acted as Administrators, and Stewart continues to maintain the Club web site. I thank both for their efforts.

One very pleasing thing about the last year is that our membership continues to hold up remarkably well. We currently have over 100 members on the mailing list, with new members joining at many meetings. We were very sad to hear of the death of one member, Joe Harper - he is much missed. There has been quite a big influx of people who characterise themselves as beginners, and we must try to ensure that our evenings give some opportunity to real beginners.

Many members have been enjoying the subs 'holiday' which we allowed during the Covid and Henfield periods. With the resumption of full activities we are now asking for subscription renewal from this meeting for all members whose renewal is due. If you have not paid already, Bob Nye will be very happy to formalise your membership and take your money. This may well result in the loss of some members who have been on the list since pre-Covid but have not been seen at meetings. It will be interesting to see how the list settles in June, but I am sure that we will still have a viable membership.

It has been a better year than our recent difficult and strange ones but still needed quite a bit of organisation. The committee members, Peter, Dave, Graham, Gordon, Anthony and Bob have all made my job as Chairman so much easier. All your efforts are much appreciated. Gordon has been a most active programme secretary and is full of ideas for future meetings. However, he feels he is better at giving demos than at organising the programme. Although I think he is a far better organiser than he gives himself credit for, I do understand his point of view. We will try to relieve him of some of the organisational duties and actively seek a new programme secretary - any volunteers very welcome.

Speaking of such things, it's important that we recruit new blood now and again to maintain the vitality of the Club. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help out, or is interested in joining the committee, do please contact any committee member.

Apart from the committee, many other people make Club meetings possible by helping so willingly. We have been able to reinstate the club shop and the library thanks to the efforts of Mike Meredith and Andy Heath, as well as to Tony Trigg who had agreed to operate the shop with Mike - thanks to all. We now need to try to get the toolbank sorted so that it can be put back into operation.

Many other people help out with other things - catering, raffles, and door management, especially Jim and Yvonne and John and Betty. We are most grateful to all of them - it wouldn't work without you all.

It's important to stress, as I do every year, that the Club belongs to all of its members equally - if there are things which we should be doing and are not doing, or things which you think would improve the running of the club, do feel free to contact any committee member, especially if you are able to get involved. We do our best to get things right, but we are always open to constructive criticism and suggestions. Bob will present the accounts shortly. Although for very good reasons we overspent our income this year, financially, the club is in good shape.

I have now been Chairman of the club for five years, having originally agreed to take it on for two. As I announced in the last newsletter, I think it is now time for me to step down and let someone else have a go. Dave Smith has agreed to take on the role if elected by you the members and I'm sure he will do a great job. I have agreed to stay on the committee for another year to help out as much as I can.

Finally, in closing, I would like once again to express my thanks to all who have contributed to keeping the club healthy and functioning over the last year, especially the committee members. Let's all look forward to an interesting year to come.

Norman Billingham