

# South Downs Woodturners

December 2022

Wishing you  
**Merry Christmas**  
& Happy New Year!

## Dear Member

**A** last newsletter for 2022, to update everyone before Christmas.

Things seem to have settled down nicely for meetings in our new venue and the attendance has been consistently good, with 30 - 50 people coming along each time. We've had practical evenings, demos by members and by a professional turner and two successful competitions with pleasingly large numbers of entries.

Now that we can look forward to a full year without (hopefully) any more changes in dates and venue, we can make more stable plans, both for meetings and for competitions. You'll find details of both for the coming year elsewhere in this newsletter, with special thanks to Gordon and Dave for their work in putting these together.

One very pleasing feature of our meetings is that we seem to be recruiting new members most evenings. New members may not be familiar with how the competition cycle works to generate overall trophy winners each year, so Dave has kindly provided an update, which you'll find on page 4. We are trying to make competition topics wide ranging enough to challenge everyone from novice to advanced. I've been amazed, at every competition and every Chairman's challenge, just what good work you all produce. One member recently told me that while on holiday he had dropped in on a meeting of the local woodturners club and felt that nothing he saw on display was as good as many of our novice members can achieve!

Something which has become very clear in recent years, accelerated by covid closedowns, is that both clubs and professional turners are moving to online demonstrations, and we've been rather behind in this area. It was difficult in Lancing because the broadband there is slow, but Bramber has a faster link, so it should be possible. We've had a lot of good advice from Cheam Woodturners, who have been using online demonstrators for years, and we are currently investing in the technology to give it a go. Stewart Furini has very kindly agreed to do a first trial and we plan this for the January meeting. Assuming it all works, we will be able to invite professional demonstrators from anywhere in the world (time differences permitting). It should be possible to view the demos either in the Hall or on your own computer at home, and we may be able to share costs with other clubs - watch this space.

All best to all members

*Norman*

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

**W**e have our last meeting of 2022 soon, so put the date in your diary now:

**Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 at 7:00 pm in Bramber Hall**

This will be a social evening with wine, soft drinks, mince pies etc. There will be the usual Christmas tree Chairman's Challenge. Fill the tree up with turned seasonal items (snowmen, Xmas trees, baubles etc). Prizes for the best ones! And an extra large raffle. Partners welcome, and any work you'd like to show off.

## JANUARY CLUB MEETING

Our first meeting of 2023 is not so far away, so put the date in your diary now:

**Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7:00 pm in Bramber Hall**

More details below, but this will be the annual Freestyle Competition so now is the time to be turning that special item to enter.

## PROGRAMME & EVENTS UPDATE FROM GORDON EATON – DECEMBER 2022

The **October** meeting saw another good attendance. I do hope members found the “Threading in Wood” demo by Andy Heath and me interesting. Thread chasing is a technique which neither of us employ on a regular basis so demonstrating to an audience was always going to be somewhat risky. Hopefully you were entertained anyway!

The **November 30<sup>th</sup>** meeting saw another good turnout and an excellent entry for the “Candlesticks” competition with a very good standard in all three categories – well done everyone. A change to the advertised programme at very short notice necessitated a stand-in demo from me but I hope you enjoyed the creation of a pepper mill. Barry had to drop out due to having shingles – a very painful business so here’s wishing him a speedy recovery. I know he was very disappointed having put in a lot of work on preparation but we can look forward to his demo some time in the new year instead.

Our Chairman, Norman Billingham sent his apologies – he has a serious back problem and was unable to attend so here’s wishing him a speedy recovery also.

Thanks to Yvonne Young for bringing Jenny along and coping so well with the catering service! Thanks also to Tony Trigg for setting up the AV system and standing in as the official photographer!

The tools and turnings table saw a great response to Dave’s snowman appeal along with a very nice carved and coloured vase from Tony Trigg – lovely work!

### Coming up:

**December (Weds 21<sup>st</sup>)** Christmas social evening.

This will include our usual Christmas tree Chairman’s Challenge. Fill the tree up with turned seasonal items (snowmen, Xmas trees, baubles etc). Prizes for the best ones!

“Show and Tell” tools and turnings table - please bring along any items of interest which you have made during the year and perhaps tell us a bit about them. Bring failures as well, let’s see a well-filled table!

Plus mince pies, wine etc and an extra large raffle!

### 2023.....

The (more or less) complete programme for 2023 is attached. There will inevitably be one or two changes as we go on but, as you can see, we have a fairly action-packed year ahead!

**January – Freestyle Competition!** This is always popular and well supported. Enter anything you like which includes some turned elements.

I shall be looking for a volunteer in February to demonstrate vases – any takers?

Incidentally, if any members have ideas or suggestions regarding the programme, please talk to me (or email me, see below) or speak to any of the committee members. We would love to hear from you.

I am now away until the 23<sup>rd</sup> so Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all and best wishes to Barry and Norman for a speedy return to full health.

See you in 2023!

Gordon                      gordoneaton@hotmail.com

## Would you like some wood?

Club member David Fry cut up a really large walnut tree last winter and has a huge quantity of logs which he has cut up and kept under cover. Various sizes and a lovely deep brown colour. He will sell them for £20 cash per log or 3 for £ 50 if anyone is interested. You can contact David on 07860-191198 or email dfry.architects@googlemail.com.

Gary Clayton-Jones, a friend from my engineering club writes “I have just had a large sycamore tree felled for safety. It was quite mature. I am not sure if it would be any use to you any other woodturners or carvers of your acquaintance. If so I can cut suitable lengths as needed. If not it will ultimately become our firewood. Gary lives in East Sussex near Robertsbridge. He can be contacted on 01580 880851 or email claytonjonesref@gmail.com. Mention my name.

## 2023 Programme - Dates for your Diaries

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

<b>January 25th</b>	Freestyle competition: Any item/items with turned elements Interactive remote demo (trial) by the ever-popular Stewart Furini
<b>February 22nd</b>	Member demonstration: Vases/bud vases - any style, any decoration - For April competition. Demonstrator TBA. Chairman's challenge
<b>April 26th</b>	Competition: Vases - any type or style including bud vases Club AGM, election of officers etc. Member fill-in demo: "A Clever Trick" - Barry Chidlow shows how to make a fun illusion!
<b>May 31st</b>	Interactive remote demonstration from professional turner Chris Parker aka "The Bald Woodturner." Chris will demonstrate a variety of texturing and colouring techniques. This will be the inspiration for our July competition - "Embellishment of Turned Pieces" Website: <a href="https://www.thebaldwoodturners.co.uk">https://www.thebaldwoodturners.co.uk</a>
<b>June 28th</b>	Member demonstration: Talented turner Anna Cates is back with another entertaining and informative project. Subject to be confirmed but <i>may</i> be turning of green wood.
<b>July 26th</b>	Competition: Embellishment of Turned Work Taking inspiration from Chris Parker's remote demo in May - any kind of turned piece with additional decorative effects, colouring etc. Member fill-in demo, subject TBA. Demonstrator: TBA
<b>August 30th</b>	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
<b>September 27th</b>	Visiting demonstrator: Patrick O' Connell from Ashdown Woodturners Club Subject: TBA
<b>October 25th</b>	Competition: subject TBA Fill-in demo: "Pens" by Norman Billingham
<b>November 29th</b>	Professional demonstration: We welcome back Kevin Hutson who proved very popular and entertaining when he visited us last year. Subject: TBA
<b>December 20th</b>	Note : NOT last Weds Christmas social evening, full content TBA. Christmas tree Chairman's challenge, festive items, mini competition, mince pies, wine etc.



### Tools and Turnings, November Meeting

As well as the competition entries (page 5) there was some notable work on the table at the November meeting, including this rather lovely carved vessel (far L) and some novelty items (L). The latter were shown by David Weaver - I'm not sure who made the vessel, but I envy his or her skill.

Thanks to Tony Trigg for the photos

## RECENT MEETINGS - OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>

October 26<sup>th</sup> was another well-attended evening at Bramber. The main event was a joint demo by our very own Andy Heath and Gordon Eaton who showed different techniques for producing threads in wood. Gordon began the evening by demonstrating how he uses thread chasers or a woodworkers tap and die set to produce threads, making a lidded box and a nutcracker.



*Concentration as Gordon makes a male thread with a die*



*Making the female thread with a tap*



*A nutcracker and a threaded box*

After the break, Andy Heath took over and demonstrated the Simon Hope threading tool, which use the lathe to drive a spinning cutter tool against the work, which is rotated and driven forward by a jig mounted in the toolpost.



*The Simon Hope cutting tool*



*Cutting the thread*



*Box with a threaded lid*

Special thanks to both demonstrators, and to Barry Childow for the photographs

## Competition Talk

### Dave Smith summarises how they work

The competition has developed and evolved over the years and we now have what I hope is a very inclusive and friendly method of finding the winners from the many great pieces that are entered on the competition evenings. Entering into the competitions, apart from being fun and interesting, is an opportunity to see how everyone interprets the brief, pick up ideas and advance one's own journey. That said, the competition criteria haven't really changed and we still refer to the original rules laid down in the clubs constitution.

The competition is divided into three categories, Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced. Within these categories there is a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize to be won at each event. These are determined by votes of all members present, using the following criteria:

- Design and Innovation - has the item been designed, is it pleasing, and is there any innovation?
- Finish - has the wood been finished appropriately with tooling and/or sanding and has an appropriate finish been applied - is it to a good consistent standard?
- Turning skills - what level of complexity and turning ability was required, taking account of the group being judged i.e. Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced?

*continues*

The tokens used to score the pieces are added up at the end of the judging and turned into points and those with the greatest number of points are determined to be the winners. All the points throughout the year are noted and at the end of the year an overall winner in each category will be announced. It should be noted that in the situation where there are too few entries, items will be judged directly by two appointed members and a score given.

At the end of the year the winners in the beginner and intermediate categories will be promoted into the next group. This can also be determined by the committee, where necessary, so there is no significant difference in ability within each group to provide a fairer basis.

We run four competitions a year and the themes are usually published at the start of the year so everyone will have ample opportunity to design, make and take part.

The first competition of the year has a "freestyle", brief and any turned item can be entered the following three are determined with a narrower theme. The program tries to include a demo prior to each competition so techniques, hints and tips can be discussed and any queries can be ironed out.

Please speak to any of the committee members if you would like to see any changes or have any ideas that can be brought forward. Ideas for competition themes are always welcome.

Regards Dave.

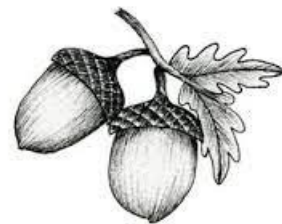
## RECENT MEETINGS - NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>

November 30<sup>th</sup> was another well-attended evening. The main event was the competition with the theme 'candlestick(s)'. There was a very good range of entries all work of very high quality. As usual, judging was by popular vote. The final results were:



### Beginners

- 1st Ian Gifford,
- 2nd Robin Gilkes
- 3rd Phil Baines



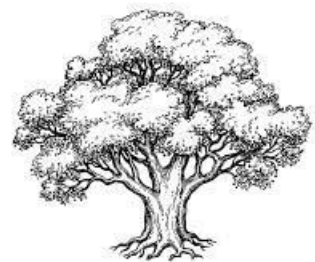
### Intermediate

- 1st Bill Giles
- 2nd Paul Rooney
- 3rd Colin Dowle



### Advanced

- 1st Peter Pullin
- 2nd Gordon Eaton
- 3rd Andy Heath



Congratulations to all for their excellent work.





Plenty of excellent entries - unfortunately not all can win

Barry Childlow had been due to do the 'fill-in' demo, but had to drop out due to illness. Fortunately, Gordon Eaton stepped in at the last minute and gave his usual very good show. Gordon is an enthusiast for the Crushgrind salt/pepper mill and showed how to use these excellent mechanisms. They make very good mills but do need quite a bit of care to get all the holes the right diameter and the recess for the locking clips in the right place.

Gordon promised to send out details of the dimensions of a standard mill, and I'll add the picture to this newsletter. I also have pdf copies of the diagrams in the Stiles and Bates catalogue for all the different types - drop me an e-mail if you'd like a copy.

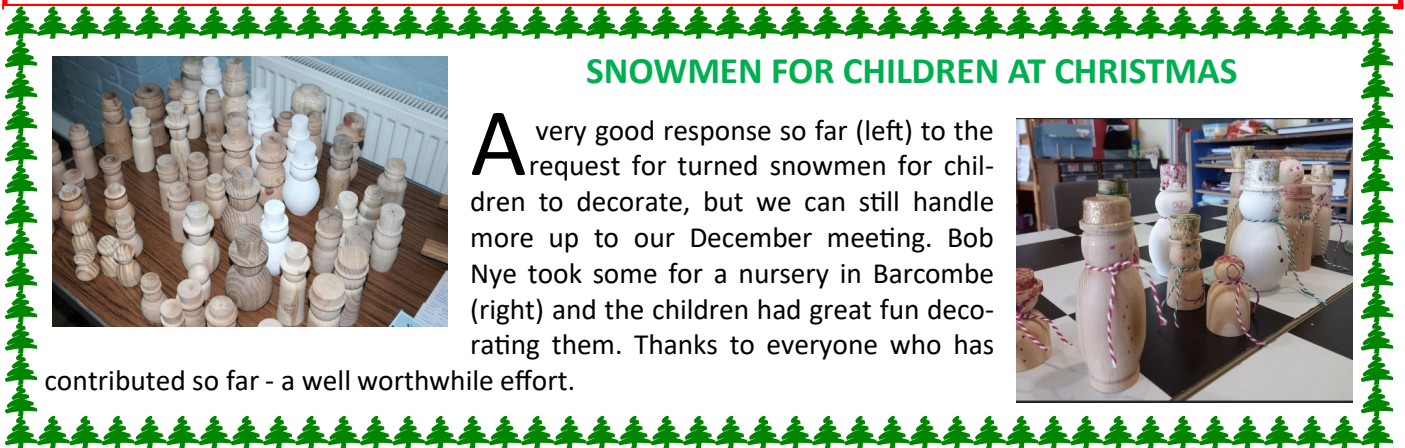


Boring out the main body of the mill



Did I really do that? Gordon shows off the complete mill

Thanks to Tony Trigg for the photos



### SNOWMEN FOR CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS

A very good response so far (left) to the request for turned snowmen for children to decorate, but we can still handle more up to our December meeting. Bob Nye took some for a nursery in Barcombe (right) and the children had great fun decorating them. Thanks to everyone who has



contributed so far - a well worthwhile effort.

### GORDON'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Gordon Eaton says he has long ago given up trying to find appropriate Christmas gifts for his three daughters. Instead, each year they get a gift of cash, but always in a novel container. This year, the lucky girls are getting yule logs. My guess is they will be treasured long after any 'smellies' would have been used up and forgotten - probably destined to be family heirlooms.



## SPHERE TURNING (OR A LOAD OF BALLS)

Tony Trigg describes how he made a collection of spheres as a small commission for a friend.



1) Rough turn a cylinder slightly larger than the required size, I found 64 mm ends up with a 60mm (ish) ball. Mark off 62 mm line each end and centre of ball. Rough turn half a sphere from centre line to tailstock end.



2) Part down at headstock end to 40 mm ish and turn off half the sphere, part down again to 20mm ish and get as close to round as possible, it doesn't have to be perfect, part off - almost sphere shaped.



3) Make a cup chuck to sit in chuck and a rotating one for the live centre.



4) Mount rough turned sphere (in my case, certainly the first few, a lemon shaped object) in cup chucks and turn to round, rotate 90° and do the same and then another 90° on the last axis, I found once with a gouge followed by doing the same a couple of passes with a skew used as a scraper worked, you take off less with each pass. Then do the same through the grits with abrasive, rotating 90° each time. An inertia sander made a better job than hand sanding. A pile of balls in Walnut!

I can feel a demo coming on!

### THANK YOU!

As we come to the end of another club year, I want to express my sincere thanks to all who have so willingly helped out with the organisation and running of the club. Very special thanks go to Gordon Eaton, who has done an outstanding job in organising the programme and doing demos, and to Dave Smith for devoting so much time and help to our newcomers. but also to everyone else who has helped out. Too many to mention in this small space but you all know who you are, and I'm grateful to all of you.

*Norman*

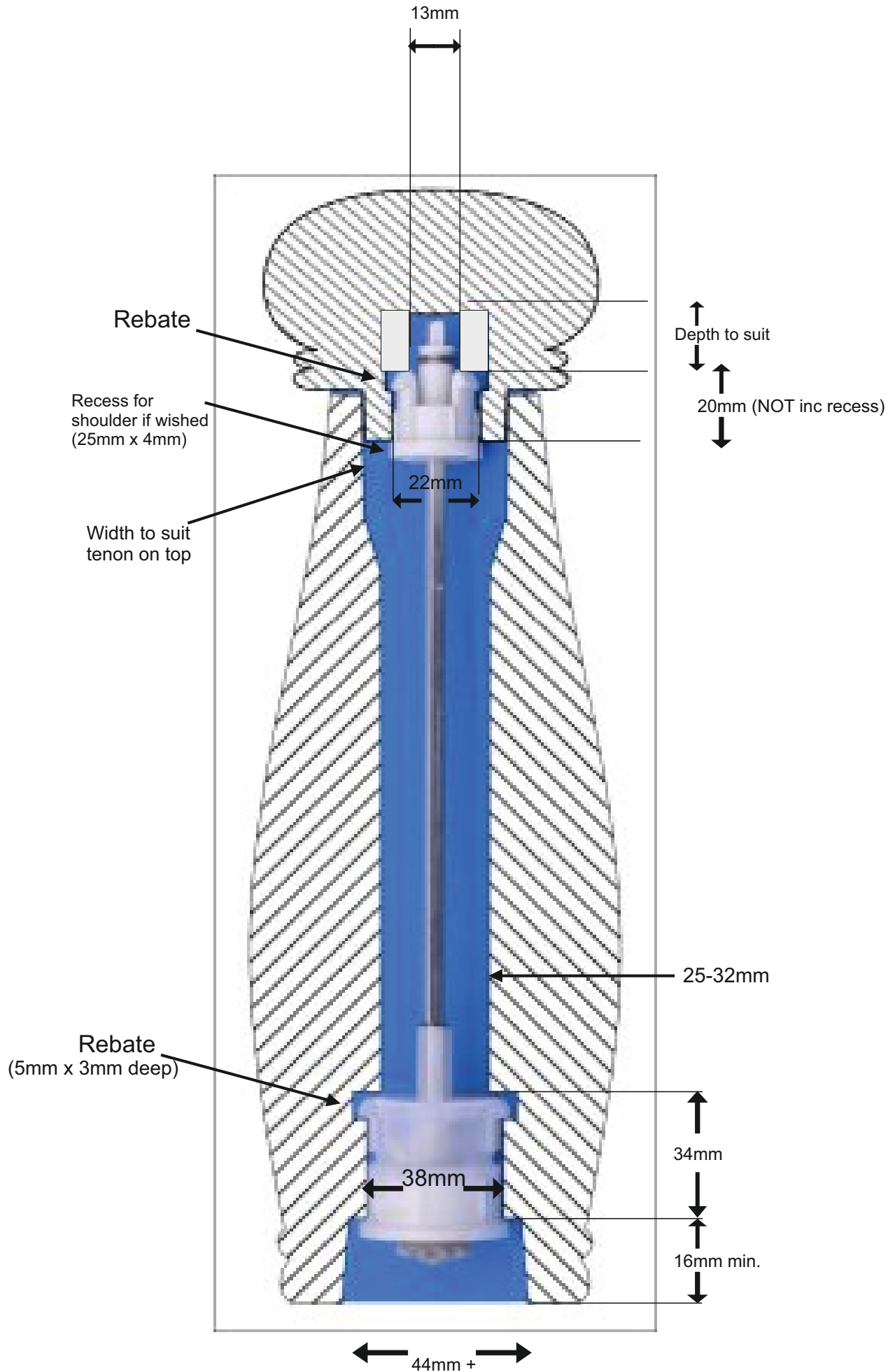
This has been an interesting year with a slow resumption of normality and a successful move to a new venue which seems to be working well.

I can still use pictures of your work, or any description you might want to write about whatever you are doing. I have a couple of good articles in reserve, but short pieces are always welcome.

For now, on behalf of all of the committee, I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and a healthy and happy New Year. In the meantime - keep turning!

*Norman Billingham*





Standard (shafted) Crushgrind mill