

South Downs Woodturners

May/June 2022

Dear Member

We've moved! As you all know, we have had to relocate from Lancing, at least for a while, and we've been fortunate to find a new home in Bramber. The new hall is just 8 minutes by car from the old one so as close to our old home as we could find, and easy to access.

The first meeting at the new venue was on May 25 and was successful, with a very good attendance - many familiar faces and some we've not seen for a long time. Thanks are due to Dave Smith for organising the competition and to Jim Young for an excellent talk - more details below.

The new location allowed us to reopen the shop and the library, and we hope soon to be able to restart the tool bank, but all of these things need volunteers to help. I've expanded on this below but do please think about whether you could offer to help out. It's not a major commitment but even occasional help is very welcome and allows us to keep things running without overloading a few willing people.

Our next meeting will be the first time since 2020 that we've had the big lathe up and running. Do come along and support the club. Unfortunately the change in day to Wednesday which was forced on us by availability, means I can't be there next time as (rail strikes allowing) I have to be in London, but I'm sure the meeting will be in good hands and I'll look forward to hearing about it.

Norman

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Our next meeting will again be in our new home, so please put the date in your diary now:

Wednesday June 29th 2022 from 7:00 pm in Bramber Hall

This meeting will be our first attempt to set up the big lathe and all the video kit and to do a full demo evening. The demonstration will be of bowl turning, ready for the competition in September. Bowl turning is a wide ranging business. A bowl can be anything from a simple nut bowl to a large natural-edge bowl so there is plenty of scope for everyone whether novice or advanced. Do come along and watch, then make something for the competition.

Volunteers needed

Keeping the club running involves quite a lot of activities. Apart from the obvious organisational things, we need to run the raffle, provide refreshments and run things like the shop, the library and the toolbank. We also need to set up the meeting room and the video kit and take it all down and tidy away at the end of the meeting. All of this takes effort and we are currently reliant on a very small group of willing helpers.

We very much need some extra help, particularly to get the tool bank back into operation and to support Mike in the shop, but also to be less reliant on so few people. The amount of work involved is not great and it does not have to be at every meeting - the more people we have the less each of us has to do. Do please think whether you could offer a bit of help. You can contact any member of the committee or e-mail me directly.

CAN WE HAVE OUR BOOKS BACK PLEASE?

At our first meeting in Bramber, we were able to set up the library for the first time since the start of the pandemic - special thanks to Robin and Andy for doing it. Getting all the books and DVDs out let us check the records, and there are quite a lot of books and DVDs out there which were borrowed before lockdown. If you have one, you will have had it for over two years, so you've hopefully read/viewed it by now

It would be good to get these items back into the library so that other people can borrow them. We do know who has what and we don't want to have to come after you with a sharpened bowl gouge, so please check around to see what you may have and return it to the library as soon as you can - thanks in advance.

ARE YOU STILL IN? YOUR FINAL SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

A final reminder that subscriptions are now due from any new members who have not already paid, and from the few existing members who had *not* paid their subscription for 2020 before lockdown. There are still members in both categories and you'll soon be getting an e-mail reminder if we think you are one of them.

We will be finalising the membership and e-mail lists after the June meeting, then printing new membership cards, which you'll need to be able to come to future meetings. If you have not renewed or joined by the June meeting, we'll assume that you have resigned or are not interested and we'll remove your details from the lists.

Bob will be very happy to take your money at the June meeting. If you prefer to pay by BACS, the details were in the last newsletter, or drop me an e-mail and I'll send you a reminder. **Please be sure to add your name to your payment so that we can identify it.**

The subscription rate is unchanged at £35 for an adult member and £17.50 for members under 18 years old. We'd be very sad to lose any members so please do renew as soon as you can.

PROGRAMME & EVENTS UPDATE – JUNE 2022

Hi all
Just a quick update on the programme for the next few months:

This month (**June 29th**) – the good news is that the planned bowl turning demonstration will take place in preparation for the bowl competition in September. The bad news is that it will be me demonstrating! This will be our first time setting up the main lathe, lighting, cameras etc at our new venue so we would ask for patience if all does not go quite to plan – have a good browse at the shop, library, tools n' turnings table etc!

Next month (**July 27th**) – we look forward to welcoming visiting demonstrator Kevin Hutson. Kevin may be known to some of our members and is very well spoken of by other clubs. He is going to demonstrate turning a square-edge box and a chess piece.

August 24th will see the return of a practical/social evening with three lathes set up for member participation as well as a Chairman's Challenge. There will also be a "Show and Tell" tools n' turnings table – bring along a recent piece of work and tell us about it!

September 28th – hopefully Anna Cates will be demonstrating the creation of candlesticks (for the November competition). Competition – "Bowls" – normal or live-edge, plain, decorated or coloured. Show off your bowl turning efforts in the competition. Novice, intermediate and advanced categories as usual.

October 26th – two-member demonstration: "Threading in Wood". Andy Heath and I will demonstrate different approaches to creating threads in your turned goods.

November 30th – Competition – "candlesticks." Create a candlestick and take part! Novices and less experienced intermediates may enter one item, the more advanced turners will be expected to enter a pair. Dave Smith will have more to say about this in due course.

December 21st – no formal plan as yet but expect a Christmassy social evening, the usual Christmas-themed Chairman's Challenge, a lathe set up for a ten-minute turning challenge plus mince pies and maybe even wine!

Thanks to Jim for last month's interesting and informative talk on selling your wares.

See you on the 29th.

Cheers

Gordon Eaton

Chairman's note:

You'll notice that the programme as it stands relies very heavily on a small number of members who are willing to step up and demonstrate their methods. We very much need some new blood to step up and provide new demonstrations. This need not be a full evening demo, it can be a fill-in on a competition evening, or manning a lathe at a practical evening, but we can't keep things fresh by relying on the same few people all the time. It's clear from our competition entries that there are some extremely competent turners amongst us, so please consider whether you can share your expertise by volunteering to do something one evening.

FIRST TIME IN BRAMBER



The audience assembles for the first time in this venue



Will the chairman ever stop waffling so we can get on with things?

May 25th was our first evening at Bramber village hall. Turnout was excellent and (almost) everyone remembered to bring a coffee mug.

The main event of the evening was our first competition in two years. Whilst we'd hoped for a few more entries no-one could have faulted the quality of what was on show (see report later). As well as the competition, the library and shop were open for the first time since meetings restarted.



The shop and library all set up and waiting for customers

While members voted for their competition favourites, we had a general social evening, giving everyone a chance to catch up and do their shopping.

After the tea break, Jim Young gave a very useful and encouraging talk on how to make work for sale and how to sell it. He had set up a typical version of the stand he uses for shows, and emphasised the importance of presentation and lighting and of not under-pricing your work. He also emphasised that selling is not guaranteed - some fairs can be profitable whereas others may be frustrating weekends of selling very little. His talk was followed by a lively Q&A session. Special thanks to everyone for helping out with setting up and closing down the meeting and leaving the Hall so tidy



Jim's typical show stand



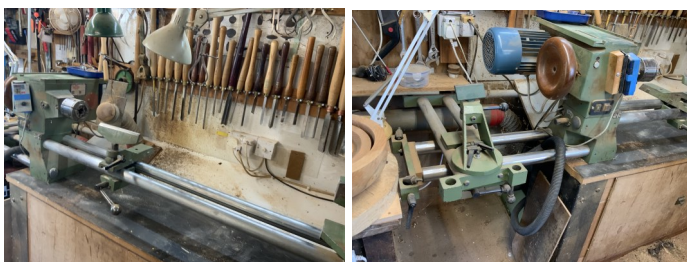
Jim shows us how it should be done



Jim shows off his wares while Robin looks on admiringly

Special thanks to Barry Chidlow who supplied the photographs

LATHE AND TOOLS FOR SALE

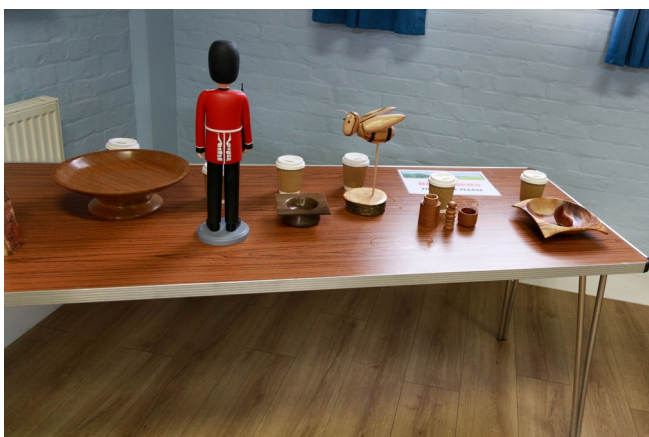


It's sad to have to report that Allan Fielding has been forced to give up turning for health reasons. He's looking to sell his lathe and tools.

If you are looking for a reliable, heavy duty lathe with out-board capacity, please contact Allan. He is looking for around £600, a fair price for that lathe. Allan's phone number is 01273494365. Allan has already sold most of his wood stock but Jim Young has some of his large blanks and part turned

bowls in his workshop. If anyone wants to look over these blanks they are welcome to contact Jim. His phone number is 01273494719 or email jim@southoaks.plus.com.

FIRST COMPETITION OF THE YEAR - 'FREESTYLE'



Beginners' table



Intermediate table



Advanced table

The June meeting was our first competition of the year and had a "freestyle" theme. There were fewer entries than we might have hoped for after so long, but what was on show was all work of very high quality. Some of our 'beginners' are likely to find themselves promoted to intermediate very soon!

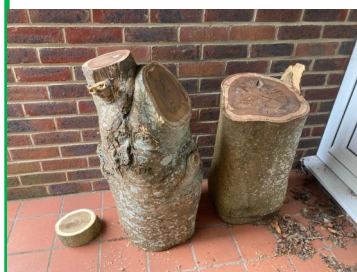
As usual, judging was by popular vote. The final results were:

Beginners.	1st	Bill Giles
	2nd	Chis Spanswick
	3rd	Sarah Macdonald
Intermediate	1st	Alan Reed
	2nd	David Watson
	3rd	Andy Holland
Advanced	1st	Gordon Eaton
	2nd	Keith Golds
	3rd	Jim Young

Congratulations to all for their excellent work

Special thanks to Barry Chidlow who supplied the photographs

LABURNUM FOR SALE



We've been contacted by a lady in Washington, West Sussex. She had to take down a laburnum tree in their garden and wondered if any of our members would be interested in making her an offer for the wood. She says it has been kept under cover since it was felled in February this year. In the photo with the two tall pieces, the one on the right is 60 cm high and 35 cm diameter. The pieces in the other photo have been cut into roughly 21 cm lengths. My guess is that most of this will be too short

and cracked to be of much use, but laburnum is a beautiful wood. If you are interested, let me know and I'll pass on contact details.



CAN YOU HELP?

We've had an enquiry from someone who is looking for a woodturner in the Worthing area who could make a wooden spindle to replace a broken one in a Georgian house. He can provide an original which could be copied. If you are interested, e-mail me and I'll pass on contact details.

ENGLISH WALNUT TREE AVAILABLE



We've been contacted by a gentleman who has a walnut tree in his back garden that he needs to have removed, as it is now creating significant shading. He says: "It has a circumference of about 60" at chest height, with the first branches leaving the trunk at about 7' from the ground. It's probably about 40 years old. Apologies for the other logs propped up against it. It was our initial expectation that after felling, we would burn the wood (after seasoning) on the grate. However, we understand that it may be of interest to woodturners and other woodworkers. This sounds potentially a better use than burning! Can you advise us about felling, and subsequent disposal, please?"

If you are interested, let me know and I'll pass on contact details.

WORK BY MEMBERS

I've had virtually no input to my requests for photos of members' work. Judging by the competition entries it seems unlikely that you aren't doing any turning. Please do consider taking a picture of your latest work and mailing it to me. For now, I've trawled through my files and found one or two photos I think I've not used before, just to show that there is still some great work out there.



Cheeseboards and knives by Bob and Jan Harris



Coasters by Robert Kemp



Natural edge bowl by Tony Trigg



Lidded box by Peter Pullin

SOME VERY SAD NEWS

I'm very sorry to have to inform you all that Valerie Harper has notified us of the death of her husband Joe. He was diagnosed with covid on June 5th and died in hospital on June 16th. Joe had been a member for a long time and he and Valerie were always welcome at any meeting. He was true gentleman and will be greatly missed. Our deepest sympathies go to Valerie and her family at this sad time. I will notify members of the details of his funeral when I have them.

AND FINALLY

A bit late as usual, but I hope you find it useful and informative. I'm still very short of material for newsletters. I can use pictures of your work, your workshop or anything else you think may interest fellow members. I have a nice article from Mike Sims which I will put in the next issue but I can always use more material.

As always, if you want to express your feelings on anything club related please contact me, or any member of the committee. It's always good to hear from you. For now, my very best wishes to all members as always. I'll look forward to seeing many of you again soon.

Norman Billingham