

South Downs Woodturners

February 2022

Dear Member

Another cliff-hanger but I'm hoping to get this out to you whilst the February heading is still correct! Things are looking more positive for the club as Covid restrictions are being removed - though caution still advised and sensible. We now understand that the Parish Hall's vaccination centre contract finishes at the end of March but the hall will then get a deep clean before it is released for bookings. This means that we'll still be in Henfield in March and April but we expect to return to Lancing in May. More details to follow, but the first Lancing meeting will be on May 12th followed by meetings on the first Thursday of the month for the rest of the year (The hall is booked for local elections on May 5th). Being back in Lancing will give us access to all the club kit stored there and we'll be able to use the big lathe, and hopefully restart the library, the shop and the toolbank.

The meeting at Henfield earlier in the month was a success, with even more members attending than in January. Unfortunately I couldn't be there as my wife and I were both self isolating with Covid. Thanks to the science of vaccines our symptoms were mild and we are both more or less recovered apart from the post-Covid cough. The meeting was the first outing for the new Nova lathe and the users liked it so much that the committee members present promptly sold the other club small lathe to a new member. We've now bought a second Nova so both will be in use at the next meeting (details below).

This newsletter is a bit text heavy, partly because there are quiet a few things to report as we approach normality and partly because I'm a bit short of visual material (as usual). I have a nice long article from Don Johnston, about turning a big cherry vase, which I'll put in the next issue, but I can always use more material, photos, articles, or anything you think may interest fellow members.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Our next meeting is coming up very soon, so put the date in your diary now:

Tuesday March 8th 2022 from 7:00 pm in Henfield Hall

See Gordon's piece on page 2 for more details. No shop or library again this time but there will be a "tools and turnings" table so do bring along your work to show - it's always interesting to see what members have made.

Chairman's Challenge this time is **A BUD VASE** - anything you like as long as it's turned, and has not won a challenge before. Plenty of opportunities there for everyone from beginner to expert so let's see what you can do. Winners will have to wait for their pens until we can get back to Lancing. We'll have both of the new lathes in operation, along with the ProEdge.

If you have not been before, Henfield Hall is easy to find, at the heart of the village, off the High Street behind Budgens. The address is Coopers Way, Henfield, BN5 9EQ. There is a large car park which is free in the evenings.

Club Committee - would you like to join us?

The AGM in April is the point at which the committee is elected to serve for the next twelve months. All current officers have agreed to stand for re-election till April 2023. However, Jim Young is standing down as an ordinary member at the AGM, having been involved since the start of the club. This means that there will be a vacancy for 2022/3. We could also consider expanding the group a little.

It's important to have new blood to maintain the vitality of the club. If you'd like to join in and help us to move things forward, please contact either me or Graham Willsher to express an interest or learn more. The committee meets several times a year, as needed. Meetings are usually over a pub dinner, though they've all been on Zoom during the pandemic.

Programme Update - March

Another great turnout at February's meeting – I trust everybody enjoyed the evening. It was all somewhat less chaotic than the previous month and it was good to have two lathes working – thanks to Stewart and Andy for interesting demos.

Thanks also to Jim for standing in for Norman and judging the Chairman's Challenge - there were some excellent pieces of work on display.

Many thanks to those members who purchased the pieces of ironwood from me - £140 was donated to St Peter and St James Hospice, North Chailey; certificate below for your information. I look forward to seeing some nice pieces made from the wood in due course.

Next month, on March 8th, one of our lathes will be manned by the one and only Gerry Jones who I believe will be demonstrating the art of creating pieces with "captive rings" – always fun to do! Our secretary, Graham Willsher, will be manning the other lathe and demonstrating the use of carbide turning tools. He will be encouraging members to have a go, so this is a good opportunity for you to try out these tools.



Norman has announced a fresh Chairman's Challenge, a bud vase, so do make something – if it catches his eye you may win a prize! Don't forget the "Tools 'n Turnings" table – all items of interest are welcome.

Sadly, I shall not be with you for this meeting – I have a special birthday (40 at last!) so have various events going on including a dinner on the evening of the 8th. I shall be advising content for the April meeting shortly – our last in Henfield! We look forward to returning to our "home" in Lancing in May. A full programme for the rest of the year will be published soon (unless a resurgence of Covid or possibly world war intervenes).

Enjoy the March evening, see you in April.

Pip pip

Gordon Eaton

Oops!



Tony Trigg posted this picture on our Facebook page, saying "Just a bit thinner, just a bit thinner, just a bit oh!! ", We've all been there. In my early days of turning there were no scroll chucks and we turned bowls on a faceplate attached to the bottom with screws. I can still hear the clicking sound of a gouge destroying its edge on the tips of the screws.

Tony also asks if anyone might want to share accommodation at the Chestnut woodturning weekend this year? It may be financially viable for a few of us to rent a holiday let rather than find a B&B? If you are interested, Tony is a regular attendee at meetings.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We've given everyone a subscription holiday for the last two years since we were unable to hold proper meetings. As things open up again and we return to Lancing, to more normal meetings, and hopefully to some professional demonstrations, it's time to resume subscriptions. Although our subscription year used to run from February, we have decided to restart the subscription cycle from the AGM in April, so subs will be due then.

We have three groups of people on our membership list:

- Those (most existing members) who had paid their subscription for 2020 before lockdown. If you are in this group, you will not need to pay again until April 2023.
- The few existing members who had *not* paid their subscription for 2020 before lockdown. If you are in this group, we will ask you to renew your subscription in April.
- Potential new members who, during the pandemic, have expressed an interest in joining. If you are in this group, we will ask you to pay your first subscription in April.

If you no longer wish to be a member, please let either Peter Pullen or me know and we'll remove your details from our database and mailing list, as required by GDPR. If you have not renewed or joined by the June meeting, we'll assume you to have resigned or not be interested and we'll also remove your details from our database and mailing list.

The subscription rate is unchanged at £35 for an adult member and £17.50 for members under 18 years old.

HAWTHORN FOR SALE



Sue Cairns has English hawthorn logs and trunk sections which she would like to sell. She says they are up to 2 ft across.

If you are interested, you can contact Sue at sueccairns@hotmail.co.uk.

CLUB DEMOS - CAMERA OPERATORS NEEDED

Regulars at Lancing meetings will remember that, just before lockdown, we were experimenting with a new camera system for demonstrations on the big lathe. The old system was a Rolls-Royce job with three radio-controlled cameras, but was proving far too complex for routine use. We had very few people who knew how to set it up and get it running, and the start of every meeting was delayed by difficulties in getting things working, and by the lack of trained operators.

We bought a new camera system which we were trying out just as lockdown hit. It is based on standard security cameras and is nothing like as sophisticated as the old one. However it is extremely easy to set up and use. The cameras are all powered over their signal cables and the image can be selected and expanded with a few mouse clicks. It can all be set up in a few minutes and operation is pretty much intuitive.

We plan to evaluate this system in the first few meetings in Lancing but it would be very useful to have more than one person (me) who knows how to use it. I will bring the unit to Henfield to show people how to set it up and run it. If you would be prepared to volunteer to learn the system please contact me either beforehand or at the meeting - all offers of help gratefully received and the more folk we have, the less each of us will have to do.

GRINDER FOR SALE



Peter Arthur is offering for sale his Record Power RSG8 8" grinder. As shown alongside, it currently has two diamond wheels, and home-made adjustable tool rests, but the sale includes the original wheels and guards, so it could easily be converted back to a standard 8" grinder.

Peter is asking £125 for the complete setup. At that price I'd bite my hand off if my workshop had any spare space at all. If interested, you can contact Peter at peter.arthur49@hotmail.co.uk.

Peter also tells me that over the years he has collected lots of excess small bits that may be of interest to the newer members. He will bring these along to the next Henfield meeting and offer them for sale.

AND FINALLY

A slightly shorter than usual newsletter this time, but I wanted to get it out in February, and Covid has held things up a bit. 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. I'm always happy to receive material for newsletters. I can use pictures of your work, your workshop or anything else you think may interest fellow members. For now, my very best wishes to all members as always.

Norman Billingham