

Please reply to:

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(Hon. Chairman)

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**Test Valley Turners A.G.M. 15TH January 2024**

**Hon. Chairman’s Report for 2023**

When I started Test Valley Turners in April 1993 I didn’t Imagine that 30 years later we would have such a vibrant active group, we started with a maximum membership of 35 (to keep it friendly!) And that throughout the years we would always have a full membership because of the local interest in Woodturning with membership now at 55 and hopefully still Friendly!

The year 2023 for many has possibly been a good year for others not so, personally I had to have further operations for Cancer with regular Immunotherapy session which will be continuing throughout this year; however, it has been a good year for TVT with an excellent programme which was planned and arranged by our Secretary Graham Barnard.

Some meetings as in 2022 were Online and onsite whilst others were held in the Hall only. The “Online” evenings included John Beaver (USA), Andrew Hall (now only doing IRD’s ), and Pat Caroll (Ireland)

Demonstrators in Longstock Hall included Andy Fortune, Alan Thomos (Cornwall and now retired from Woodturning), Les Thorne, Gregory Moreton. We also thank members Mark Lyman and Andy Matthews for their demonstrations. Members are not directly paid for the demo’s but receive the following year’s membership FREE. Our final demonstrator of the year was Honorary Member Stuart Mortimer who asked me to apologise to you as in his words “It was not a good demo!” Could I also add in response to a comment from a member about that evening, what we were watching was a demonstration of how Stuart works and not a tutorial. Members are responsible for their own safety: if you see something in a Demo that you consider would be dangerous for you, DO NOT DO IT. It was also good to have present at that meeting 2 other Honorary Members Gary Rance (one of our original encouragers) and Les Thorne.

We also introduced this past year ‘The Chairman’s Challenge’ we were so impressed with the participation in this that the decision was made for this to be given a ‘half meeting slot to enable a more appropriate ‘Critique/Encouragement’ for the pieces entered This will continue in 2024

Our two social evenings have now become a ‘tradition’ In August we met at The Mill Arms Dunbridge which unfortunately was not available to us for December. This gave us the opportunity to ‘look around’ for other venues which had a Skittle Alley, which proved to be very few. The result was The Eagle at Abbotts Ann, although the food was good it was felt by the members who attended that it was not the right venue for us. Hopefully for 2024 we will return to The Mill Arms. I do encourage you to attend these events as they are great fun evening (perhaps not the Quizzes sometimes!!) It also allows our wives/partners/family to share a club evening with us.

It has become an important aspect of my Report at this point to thank our Group Officers and Committee Members who serve us so well in the smooth operation of the Group throughout the year and enabling the Group to run so successfully. This is particularly important this year as Graham Barnard has served us so well for many, many years is standing down from the position. A great deal of the success of the Group is down to Graham and our equally long serving Treasurer Don Donaldson. Don is willing to serve with your agreement for another year but we do urgently require a member to volunteer to serve as an Assistant Treasurer/Shadow for this coming year with the plan to be willing to stand as our Treasurer in 2025. Likewise the Committee Members serve us well and if you feel that you are able to contribute please speak to me or our Secretary, In addition to the Committee we do have a number of volunteers who serve us admirably such as David Fakes who continually allows us storage space within his sheds and ‘trundles’ machinery from his home next door for our evening meetings. We are also thankful to Vernon Needham for his co-ordination of the Coffee Team. To Paul Patterson for running the monthly raffle and Steve also Rod for the Social Raffles. Simon for arranging the Group Library, a good source of information without having to buy for yourself books or DVD’s. Matthew who is succeeding Colind Sheppard in arranging our Sound and OHP. Now that our ‘Chestnut Shop’ is seeing regular business we do thank Tony Gazzard taking care of this.

As in a previous comment if you feel that you could contribute in helping the Group to run more effectively please do speak to us.



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**The Les Revell Trophy**

For newer members Les Revell was one of our founding members who taught and mentored many new to Woodturning (including then John Davis). His particular interest was in developing Novice Turners and encouraging others to improve their Turning. In 2002 we introduced the Les Revell Trophy which was created and donated by John and Jan Sanders (who had themselves introduced and taught Les Woodturning) This award is annually presented to the member who we consider has made the most progress in their woodturning in the past year whether they be Novice, Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced.

The Gallery is an excellent way for others to see your work, it is not a Competition: It does enable us to see how you are progressing. Arnold does photograph them for the Website and collates the forms that you complete, one member recently showed 6 samples of his work so there is no limit to what you show. We do give each member ONE ticket for showing with the drawn ticket receiving £10 each month.

You can also submit photographs of your work to Arnold Catterall to be included in the assessments.

**Ron K Caddy**

**Honorary Chairman**