

Chairmans Report 2024

It's been stressful year me and more so for Sue with her health problems, but we keep smiling. Our club programme has been a little disjointed with a speaker cancelling to go to New York, as if that better than presenting to WCC! We were totally blown away and rained off for our outdoor shoot on the Deben. (well done to the 2 members who actually went) But we did have a pleasant evening in Old Felixstowe. The rest of the year went mostly to plan, except for not performing well in our two interclub competitions. Our membership has fallen a little on last year but has remained stable at 39, but this will fall at renewals and hopefully pick up during the year. Our monthly attendance has varied between 14 and 22 members. I can only conclude we are not some members primary interest and we must encourage them to support meetings and activities. Perhaps I should contact them and ask what they would like to do that we are not doing. If our numbers drop too low the use of this hall will be unsustainable. Get the word out for new and enthusiastic members to join us. I will say this again – Paying your subscription does not entitle you to a service, it opens opportunities for you to join in, learn and have fun.

With several of our long serving SG members standing down there will be changes in how the club runs. I will be able to tell you more after our first SG meeting in October where we decide who is best for each role. We had become very reliant on Steve for so many aspects of the club programme, he wishes to concentrate on his Church Wardenship.

The next year will be my last as Chair, I am finding it more challenging as my sight deteriorates, not so much the craft aspect, but mobility. Getting to meetings and outside activities gets harder especially in the dark. Not having Sue as my chauffeur on many occasions this year was in itself challenging. Thanks to those who have helped with my transport. On this note - I will need group leaders to help with the Twilight Shoot around Woodbridge. 'Follow the White Stick' is not an option, I'll have my work cut out to get around after dark without worrying about other members.

I hope we can have open and frank discussions later after coffee break on what we want to do in the forthcoming club year and beyond.