

# **Coombe Abbey Woodturners NEWSLETTER**

**April**



**2022**

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### **HEALTH & SAFETY NOTICE**

Woodturning can be dangerous! Always follow the manufacturers' instructions and safety advice when operating power tools. Never try the techniques shown at our demonstrations or in our Newsletter if you are unsure or the procedure does not feel safe. Always use the guarding and other safety equipment.

The Club takes reasonable care to operate and instruct in a safe manner and strongly recommends all members to follow the Club's Health and Safety rules and the guidance notes that the AWGB issue in their Revolutions magazine from time to time.

### **Members of the Committee**

Chairman	vacant
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	Eric Taylor
	Graham Cashmore
	Terry Ivins
	Giles Headley

Website: <http://www.coombeabbeywoodturners.org>

**Copy Deadline for the May 2022 issue of the Newsletter is:-  
Thursday 21st April 2022**

**Please forward your News, Stories and Photographs to:-**

**Robert Sheehan- Newsletter Editor -**

**M: 07905 185122. E-mail: [robsheehan@virginmedia.com](mailto:robsheehan@virginmedia.com)**

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## From the Editor



Robert Sheehan

In this issue, you will find the demonstration by Gianni Deidda. If only all demonstrators could make as many pieces as he did and

then donate them to the club as raffle prizes.

The new Coombe Abbey Woodturners web site is (just about) up and running, There are still a few teething problems but have a look and let me know how I can improve it.

<https://coombeabbeywoodturners.org/>  
Google still finds the old web site but that site now points you to the new one.

We have the Daffodil festival on Sunday <http://www.revelgroup.org/DaffodilSunday/>  
And the Steve Heeley demo later in the month. With Covid on the rise again, here's hoping both go ahead.

The Wycliffe wood sale will be on again on Bank Holiday Saturday and Monday. Mainly smaller offcuts so no good for a large bowl, unless your name is Graham or Pat and you like your segmented pieces. I still managed to come away with £50 worth of timber. No idea what I'm going to do with it.

The clocks have just gone forward as I write this. We have just had a lovely sunny week and now it's cold and overcast. Welcome to Spring!

*Rob*

## Vice Chairman's Jottings

### From the Parkwood Turner



Due to ill health Brian has stepped down as Chairman. I would like to thank Brian for all the hard work he has done while Chairman and wish him a speedy recovery.

This leaves a vacancy for Chairman, if any member feels they can bring their knowledge and would like to help the club in the position of Chairman please speak to me or a member of the committee.

This last month I have been asking myself, What I want from a woodturning club? Ask 10 members and you will get 10 different answers.

As a club we are fortunate to have a permanent club room at Coombe Country Park. If you ask me, we should be making more use of this facility, especially new members. We have a lot of experienced members in our club who are willing to pass on their knowledge to beginners. At present, we are not allowed to open for training due to covid restrictions we hope these will be lifted soon, we open Sundays and Tuesdays to give the general public a hands-on insight to woodturning. This means there are 5 days when the workshop could be open for members. A few members meet on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday mainly to chat so there are lathes free to use and to answer any queries you have.

I feel another important thing the club should provide are demonstrations from professional woodturners these can be all day or evening events. The cost of these demonstrations is getting expensive so as a club and we have the funds should we be prepared to lose money on an all-day event then use our members to demonstrate in the evening events to help mitigate these losses. I know it is a bit scary to stand in front of the members but take it from me I have had problems galore when demonstrating. So please give it a go.

I would like to thank Hinckley and North Warwickshire Wood turners for the welcome I received when I gave a demonstration this month.

If you can think of ways to improve our club, please speak to me or any member of the committee That's all for now, more news next month.

Peter Carless Vice Chair Coombe Abbey Woodturners .

## *In The Workshop* **I Need A Rest** by Phillip Stephens



One of the key components of the lathe is the tool rest. Love them or hate them you can't do any turning with chisels unless the tool rest is fit for purpose. Most lathes come with one or even two cast iron tool rests as standard based on what the manufacturers believe to be the best size for that particular lathe. However, as your work starts to develop, especially into larger bowls and spindle work, then the limitations of the standard supplied tool rest become apparent. There are an array of tool rests and attachments that a woodturner can use today which allow you the support you need and keep the correct cutting distance for your chisel no matter what the shape of your work may develop into. This article is about some of those types of tool rests and their benefits.



*One Line Philosopher:*

“Life must be understood backward. But it must be lived forward” – Soren Kierkegaard

## **This Month's Newsletter Sponsor. Chestnut Products.**

Please support our sponsor by buying your finishes and accessories etc from them and don't forget to mention that their sponsorship of our Newsletter is greatly appreciated.

One way to support Chestnut Products would be to buy tickets to the Woodturning Weekender (see advert opposite). I enjoyed the last one and I already have my ticket for both days. There aren't many shows on this year so it's a chance to see some top professional woodturners live.

*Editor*

### **Chestnut Products (A Company Profile)**

Chestnut Products was created in the last decade of the twentieth century and quickly became a major supplier of wood finishing materials to the hobby and professional woodturner as well as to other woodworking disciplines. Terry Smart is a familiar face at shows and demos.



Terry started Chestnut Products as a van sales company, driving to various outlets and fulfilling orders from stock carried on the van.

The brand became well known through exhibitions and demand from other parts of the country grew.

Now over 25 years later, Chestnut Products hold an enviable position of being a major supplier to both hobby and professional woodworkers both in UK, Europe and the rest of the world. Chestnut Products is still only a very small company and the personal touch continues.

Terry remains at the helm and there are only two other full time employees to handle all aspects of the company's business.

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- *Thanks for a fabulous weekend. It exceeded our expectations by a country mile* – Shirley and Paul H
- *Great service, great Weekender, great company* – John M
- *I'd just like to thank you and all the team for another great weekend, just what the doctor ordered* – Gary L



## HEADLINE DEMONSTRATORS



Darren Breeze



Richard Findley



Nathanael Griffiths



Joey Richardson

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## I Need A Rest continued...

The main point of a tool rest is to support your chisel with a pivot point that opposes the rotation of your work and allows your tool to cut the material you're turning. The closer that pivot point is to the cutting edge of the chisel the better the cut. A good example of the effect of not having a close pivot point is when you need to part-off your work with a parting tool. When you start off parting your work the parting tool pivot point is almost over the tool rest and close to the cutting edge, but as you work the tool towards the centre of the work, the parting tool will start to try to oscillate up and down as you cut further in. This is because you need to push the parting tool further into the work which changes the pivot point for the tool. Unfortunately, you can't move the tool rest closer to the cutting point as it has now moved into the work, but you can change the ratio of the cutting point to the rest by having a larger handled tool.



A golden rule for stability when using a wood turning chisel with a tool rest is "only have up to 20% of the total chisel tool over the pivot point of the tool rest". One of the ways you could keep this ratio is to lengthen the handle of the chisel. Traditionally end-grain hollowing scrapers and bowl chisels used for pots, bowls or vases tend to have longer handles to keep stability. Today however there are turning tool solutions available that allow you to change the handle length but still use the same chisel - which is a distinct advantage when hollowing.





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**Mild steel tool rests and how to choose and look after them**



Mostly mild steel tool rests comprise two parts: the tool rest bar and the shaft.

High strength steel tool rests are available but only as imports through suppliers from China.



As mild steel tool rests are softer than HSS chisel steel, it can become marked and chipped, which can be transferred as a bump or mark to the work.



The solution is to file the top edge of the tool rest to remove the marks.



Always file the whole length of the tool rest and use a straight edge to confirm it is flat across the bed.



You can use a low grade emery cloth paper or wire wool to polish the edge if required.



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## I Need A Rest continued...



Something to consider if purchasing additional tool rests for your lathe. The shaft may obstruct the movement of the Banjo across the lathe bed which may mean that you have to cut the shaft to fit your lathe.



On the market there are a number of suppliers that sell stainless steel modular tool rest systems. Robert Sorby is considered one of the leading suppliers and has a large range of stems and crossbars.



The modular tool rest systems have a number of advantages over the standard mild steel tool rests. The crossbars are sold separately to the stems and come in different lengths and sizes. They are made of high-quality steel, normally stainless steel, which resists chisel tool marking and are rust proof.



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## I Need A Rest continued...



The range also comes with the option of a box scraper platform which can support scrapers inside a pot or vase.



Axminster have introduced a set of crossbar tool rest stop collars to their range. The collar prevents the chisel from falling off the end of the rest.



A tool post collar allow you to remove the tool post and return it to the same height.

For smaller diameter posts you can use the crossbar tool rest collar.



Tool rest posts can also support home made rests. Here I used a mounting plate fitted to a 1" tool post to support a wooden tray and placed the unit in the out-rigger pillar unit with a post collar to retain the same height for the tray.

### **Conclusions**

In most cases the standard tool rest supplied with your lathe will support all your needs. But occasionally a more sophisticated tool rest will be needed when supporting your chisels away from the normal contact point. At this stage a sophisticated tool rest pays for itself in preventing snags and those annoying pips, marks or bumps that you have to try and reach to remove. My advice is only buy as you need and not because you like.

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## Work by Phil Steele



I was asked by a friend if I could make a Housewife? With a little bit of research I found out that a Housewife was a term used in the army for a sewing kit. My first attempt consisted of a needle case, the outside of the needle case was turned as bobbins to hold thread, the needle case lid was a turned thimble, the kit was housed in a turned wood box.



I was quite pleased with my first attempt. As an aside, the wood used was a lovely bit of ash that came out of the fire basket at the local pub.



When I presented my first attempt to my friend he said “great but could I make it smaller”? He wants to carry it in his backpack.

So having a rethink I felt the smallest I could go depended on the thimble which then determined the outside diameter of the box, the thimble being a friction fit and acting as the lid. Inside was a smaller version of the needle case and cotton spool as in my first attempt.



Phil Steele



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## Scroll Saw Demonstration

12/3/2022 By Gianni Deidda

After demonstrating for us last September, Gianni was back by popular request. Not only did he manage to complete nearly five pieces on the day, he then donated them all to the club. If only more demonstrators could/would do the same.



Gianni's first piece was a lidded box with bows. Using his favourite modified, Diamond scroll saw, Gianni cut the body of the box base using a #5 Niqua blade (from Tilgear) with reverse teeth at the bottom for a clean cut. The cut was made *inside* the pattern line. This, together with the lid cut being made *on* the pattern line, gives a 1mm clearance fit for the lid. Gianni glued the body to the base using 5 minute PVA glue. While the glue dried, he cut the lid and glued that to the box top.



Above - veneer strips & bow parts  
Left - first stage bow glue up  
Below Left - adding bow loops  
Below - finished box



## Notices

To all members,

Resignation letter from chairman Brian Edwards.

News. EDITOR.

RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMAN'S ROLE

I will be standing down from this position as of now the 4 March 2022. MR PETER CARELESS HAS AGREED TO TAKE ON THIS ROLE UNTIL THE NEXT A.G.M. I FEEL THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN RATHER STRESSFUL AND MY RECENT SETBACK WITH MY OWN HEALTH HAS LEFT ME RATHER TIRED. I'M SURE YOU WILL ALL UNDERSTAND.

Throughout my years at the club I have been so impressed by the SELFLESS GENEROSITY OF MY TEAM MEMBERS WHO ALWAYS STEP UP TO HELP OUT. MY THANKS TO YOU ALL.

I will be popping in and keeping AN EYE ON THINGS OVER THE NEXT YEAR, I'M NOT STANDING DOWN AS A MEMBER.

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD HEALTH TO ALL.

Keep Turning.

BRIAN.

## Scroll Saw Demonstration continued



Gianni's second piece was a money box in the shape of an elephant.

This consisted of five pieces of plywood for the elephant and a base.

The stability and strength of plywood is good for fine detail.

A copy of the plans was given

free of charge to the club. Members could also buy a kit of parts consisting of the plans and the wood needed to make the kit. Gianni uses Re-Tack, a repositionable adhesive spray to stick the plan to the wood. He keeps all off-cuts to use on smaller projects.

Gianni's third project was a 3D castle made from a small section of silver birch branch. Unfortunately, I didn't take any pictures of it. A slice had already been cut to act as the base. Gianni then tilted the scroll saw table about 5°. Cutting in an anti-clockwise direction, Gianni cut two oval-ish shapes for the castle bottom and middle levels and a circle for the castle tower. He then re-glued the base slice back onto the castle. Tipping the castle upside down allows the cut-outs to fall out of the lower layer but the cut angle stops them from falling out altogether. Turning it upright again, reveals the 3D castle - base, lower levels and tower. Windows and doors can be added using pyrography.

Gianni's fourth project was a box with hinged lid. No glue is required to assemble the box as the joints are tight enough to hold without glue. However, anyone making the project must check, and adjust if necessary, the holes to match the thickness of the plywood being used.

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## Scroll Saw Demonstration continued



After a few tweaks to the joints, the box went together and the lid raised and lowered perfectly. Gianni had a similar



one on display that had been laser etched with a message.



Gianni's last project was a rather smart looking bird house. Again following his own plans, Gianni managed to cut out the majority of pieces, taking care to match the mortice & tenon joints to the size of plywood being used. Assembly this time was a matter of gluing and screwing the parts. Gianni also managed to fix some self adhesive copper sheet to the roof. The fence, final assembly and painting were left to a member to complete.

Altogether, a very enjoyable demonstration. Further examples of his work shown below.



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## Work by Giles Headley



Hi Rob

Attached is a picture of my latest piece. I don't know what species the timber is, but it stands 200mm tall and 90mm diameter.

The body was hollowed through a 25mm hole in the top, then a separate piece (of beech) was bored 19mm and turned for the neck. The underside was

recessed to match the body's curvature, leaving a 3mm walled tenon for attachment to the body. It was blackened with ebonising lacquer before attachment with Titebond adhesive.

Best wishes

Giles



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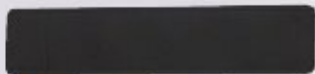
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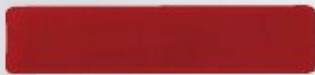
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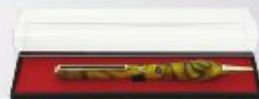
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## Work by Tony Townsend



Hi Rob.

Trust you and your family are well and I would like to thank you for taking over our Newsletter.

The attached picture is Intarsia<sup>1</sup>. My daughter-in-law has a 50th Birthday coming up and she owns The Green Unicorn Vegan Store at Fargo Village. I therefore thought the Unicorn plaque may go well on her counter in the shop. This has been my first attempt at staining the wood but reasonably pleased with the result, so hopes she likes it.

Kind regards  
Tony Townsend

1. Intarsia is a form of wood inlaying that is similar to marquetry. It uses colour and layers of wood to give depth.

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The 'revolution' is a completely new hollowing system from the world leaders in fine turning tools. From its beautifully weighted handle to its cryogenically treated cutting tips the 'revolution' is designed to be the finest hollowing tool on the market.

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## My Workshop

In this new feature, I would like members to show off their workshops. It may be a bench tucked away in a corner of a shed or a huge American style double garage. It doesn't matter. We can all learn something. Tips and tricks to store tools/finishes/abrasives and make the most of the space we have. To start the series, I present my own workshop - Rob Sheehan



My workshop is a “log cabin” kit, 12' x 10' of 1” thick pine. Friends & family helped me to assemble it in 1999. The lean-to shed addition was added several years later to store more timber. An armoured electrical cable (connected by an electrician) provides power from the house to a separate consumer unit in the shed. I then wired the shed with four double sockets on each wall of the shed. I recently upgraded the lighting to three 6' LED strips.



This is my Jet 3520B lathe bought from Axminster 10 years ago. It replaced a SIP lathe that I managed to break. It can turn 20” over the bed and 32” long. A bed extension allows me to turn an extra 8” in both length and height. A 2hp motor provides plenty of power. Underneath the bed, you can just see my small metal turning lathe. Behind the lathe is the dust extraction and a magnetic rail where I store tools for the current job. Above the lathe, you can see sealers, finishes and rolls of abrasives.



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## My Workshop - continued



The most used tool in the workshop - my Jet band saw. Trimming bowl blanks, sheet material or timber. 8" depth and 11" width. Next to it is my Axminster Trade Extractor with fine filter cartridge. This is connected to a 4" pipe system round the workshop. Blast gates direct the extraction from any machine.



In the centre, my Jet drill press. Fitted with an after market Wixey cross line laser. On the left, boxes of drill bits, router bits, hand tools, power tools and their accessories. To the right, clamps and more clamps. Also a timber store. Hidden from view behind the table saw is my SIP planer thicknesser. Also hidden is my (very noisy) compressor.

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## My Workshop - continued



My Creusen dry stone grinder fitted with a CBN (cubic boron nitride - artificial diamond) wheel on the right and a ceramic wheel on the left. I use the Wolverine sharpening jig. Above the grinder are more finishes and to the right is another timber store. Behind the grinder is my DAB radio. Classic FM keeps me company when I am working.



My home-made table saw and router table stand. On top, you can see my Bosch table saw with a 1800W motor and 3" depth of cut. Note the riving knife and blade guard are fitted. Beneath the table saw (and upside down), you can see my router table. A 2000W DeWalt router is fitted to an old B & Q router table. The top of the stand flips over so that I can use the table saw or router table. So I get two machines in the space of one. Casters also mean I can move it around.



## Equipment For Sale

### Disclaimer

The club is not responsible for any item appearing on these pages. The buyer and seller must make their own arrangements as to the condition, suitability, delivery, payment and price etc.

16/2/22

### For Sale

Rolly Munro Hollowing system in very good condition £125

For further details

Contact **John Thompson** on T: 02476 396118  
or M: 07922 522106



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## Lathe For Sale



WIVAMAC DB 1000/800 electronic variable speed lathe plus Vicmarc chuck and 4 sets jaws plus steb centre

All in excellent condition Offers circa £1000

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**In Store At Axminster, Nuneaton**

Next demonstration date/subject to be decided

## Activities of other clubs in the Midlands area

As a matter of courtesy and to ensure that there is space available to accommodate members wishing to visit other clubs demo's, please use the contact telephone number where shown.

### North Warwickshire & Hinckley Woodturners

April 5 Hands-on

April 19 Hands-on

Contact Steve O'Brien 01788-521527

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### Tudor Rose Woodturners

April 28 Demonstration by Gary Rance

May 12 TBA

Contact Stan Bird 01788-813162

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### West Midlands Woodturners

April 24 Demonstration by Richard Findley

Contact John Hooper 0121 354 8464

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### West Northants Woodturners.

March 2 Richard Coleman demonstration and March competition

March 16 TBD

Contact Tom Donnelly 01327 349093

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### Gloucestershire Association of Woodturners.

April 6th Mick Denton and April competition

Contact Mike Holliday 01452 523551

## **Calendar of Events 2022**

April 3	Daffodil Festival	Monks Kirby
April 23	Steve Heeley Demo	Baptist Church
May 28	Phil Stephens	Baptist Church
June 18	Roger Gilbert	Baptist Church

### *Meeting Locations:*

*Walsgrave Baptist Church,  
Hinckley Road, Coventry, CV2 2EX.*

*Shilton Village Hall,  
Wood Lane, Shilton, CV7 9JZ*

### **Next Meeting**

#### **Woodturning Demonstration by Steve Heeley**

On Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Walsgrave Baptist Church  
10am to 4pm.

### **Coming up**

**A Demonstration by Phil Stephens**