

Coombe Abbey Woodturners NEWSLETTER

December



2025

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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.

Committee Members and Contacts

Chairman, Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Lee Cartwright
Vice Chairman	Giles Headley
Secretary & Library Custodian	Peter Orange
Events Secretary	Patrick Byrne
Newsletter & Web Site Editor	Rob Sheehan
	Graham Ball
	Graham Cashmore
	Rod Young
	Phil Steele
	Graham Hudspith
Training Coordinator	Michael Archer

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

**Copy Deadline for the Christmas 2025 issue of the Newsletter is:-
Friday 19th December 2025**

**Please forward your News, Stories and Photographs to:-
Robert Sheehan- Newsletter Editor -
M: 07905 185122. E-mail: robsheehan@virginmedia.com**

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From the Editor



Inside you can find the demonstration on Thread Chasing by Phil Steele and the demonstration of Christmas-themed items by John Evans. Also a few pictures from Wizardry In Wood & the Harrogate Show.

Our next meeting, on Saturday December 13th, is the Christmas Party. Please support your club and come along. Good food, lots of competitions, a quiz and a raffle. All for £10 per person.

The meeting after, is the AGM on Saturday 10th January 2026. Please attend and have your say in how the club is run.

Finally, the calendar of events can be found on the back page 48. Paddy Byrne has started booking demos for 2026. More dates will be added soon.

Please book your place for my Hands-On Pen Turning session at Coombe on Saturday 17th January. I will provide a basic 7mm twist pen kit and pen blank. Places are limited to 4 per morning/afternoon session but you can just come to look if space permits.

Regards

Rob

Vice Chairman's Jottings

It was very disappointing again, to have so few heed our previous pleas to the membership for their support at our demos. Just twelve paying members turned up to see Phil Steele and John Evans demonstrate at Walsgrave on 15th November. Only one item was exhibited on the members' gallery table, so neither critique nor awarding of the Eric Taylor prize occurred. Nevertheless, the attendees were entertained as



Phil produced a lidded box with chased threads. After enjoying our jacket potatoes, John took over and mainly used his skew chisels to create a number of seasonal novelty items. Billed as suitable to sell on a club charity stall, he made a gonk, a Christmas tree and finally a hedgehog that incorporated some offset turning.

At the AGM on 10th January, membership fees will be taken. We will be reintroducing the handy tri-fold programme giving dates of events and other CAWT goings-on planned for 2026. Hopefully, with that to hand, you'll not have an excuse for saying you didn't know what was happening! Tickets for our 2026 raffle will also be available for you to take away and sell.

Thankfully, a sufficient number of you have put their names down for the Christmas Party on December 13th. The price will be £10, payable on arrival. You can still book your place by sending a message to Lee, but do so ASAP please. We hope that a meaningful number of pieces will be brought to enter the competitions, together with donations of prizes for the raffle and cash to pay for your tickets! The local representative of Air

Ambulance will be attending, and we are pleased that we'll be able to present another substantial donation this year. As usual we will ask volunteers from attending club members to judge one or two of the competition classes in which they have not entered.

Rob has done a sterling job throughout the year to produce your newsletter. However, his role is the Editor, so it is not his responsibility to create most of the content, just to compile and edit the submissions. Please send info and photos of your own projects, a report on your visit to, or participation in a show or exhibition etc., or just hints and tips on any aspect of wood-turning or related craft.

I leave you with a picture of Phil Steele posing in his festive jumper with his stall of work, taken during a Christmas Fayre in his home village yesterday evening.

Stay safe and have an excellent festive season. Lee will return with his own jottings next month.

Giles



One Line Philosopher:

"You shouldn't talk about art, you should do it."

Phillip Johnson 1954

This Month's Newsletter Sponsor Charnwood

I am very pleased to welcome Charnwood once again as a sponsor of this monthly Newsletter magazine. They have a great range of woodturning and woodworking tools, machines and accessories. They also have a great range of timber blanks for the woodturner. I have always enjoyed my visits and always received good service.

Editor

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Introducing our new Wood Turning Chisel Sets

We're excited to announce we now have in stock our sets of Quality Woodturning Chisels.

Check out these superb sets, whether you are after a traditional set, or looking for something updated with the latest technology, we are sure you will be happy with whichever you choose

TCSET4S

Carbide Tipped Wood Turning Tool, 4 Piece Set

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A set of 4 carbide scraper turning tools, incorporating the newest technology in woodturning: Replaceable carbide cutting tips.

4 Piece set includes:

- Round Carbide Cutter - Spindle Cove & Bowl Interior
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- Triangle Carbide Cutter - Details & Decorative Work

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- Carbide Tipped - Full Curve

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Premium quality set of 6 woodturning chisels for spindle and bowl turning.

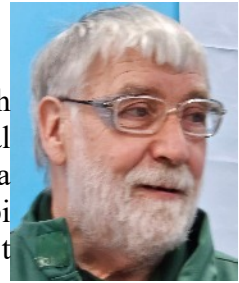
6 Piece set includes:

- 28mm (1") Roughing Gouge
- 19mm (3/4") Flat Skew Chisel
- 12mm (1/2") Spindle Gouge
- 12mm (1/2") Bowl Gouge
- 4mm (3/16") Diamond Parting Tool
- 19mm (3/4") Round Nose Scraper

Thread Chasing

By Phil Steele 15/11/25

Phil's project for the morning was a turned box with threaded lid. Phil started making threads on a metal working lathe while working at the pit. He has quite a collection of thread chasers but prefers to use his 14 tpi set. He also has a Bill Jones arm rest which he doesn't use.



Starting with a cherry blank mounted between centres, Phil first tried to cut a thread at the end. This was just a trial to make sure the timber will take a good thread. There's no point in continuing with this blank if it can't take a thread.



Phil cut chucking spigots at both ends. He then drew a line dividing the blank into 2/3 for the box body and 1/3 for the box lid.



After parting off the box body, Phil hollowed out the centre and undercut the inside of the rim. This was to allow the thread chaser to cut the thread without hitting the bottom of the recess. He decorated the inside of the lid with a few v-cut circles.



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Phil Steele Thread Chasing - continued

Phil ensured the recess was parallel as a tapered recess will cause the lid to jam. After cutting a chamfer on the front edge, Phil started cutting the thread on the chamfer while running the lathe at about 300 rpm. Gradually, he moved the thread further into the recess, making sure to pull the chaser out of the cut before it hit the bottom of the recess.



After sealing the timber with Chestnut sanding sealer, Phil waxed the inside with Briwax.



Phil mounted the box body in the chuck and measured the inside diameter of the threads on the lid. He then cut a spigot 3mm larger than the measurement. This allows for a bit of practice before cutting the final thread. Using a narrow parting tool, Phil cut a recess at the end of the spigot to allow the thread to be cut without the chaser hitting the face of the box.

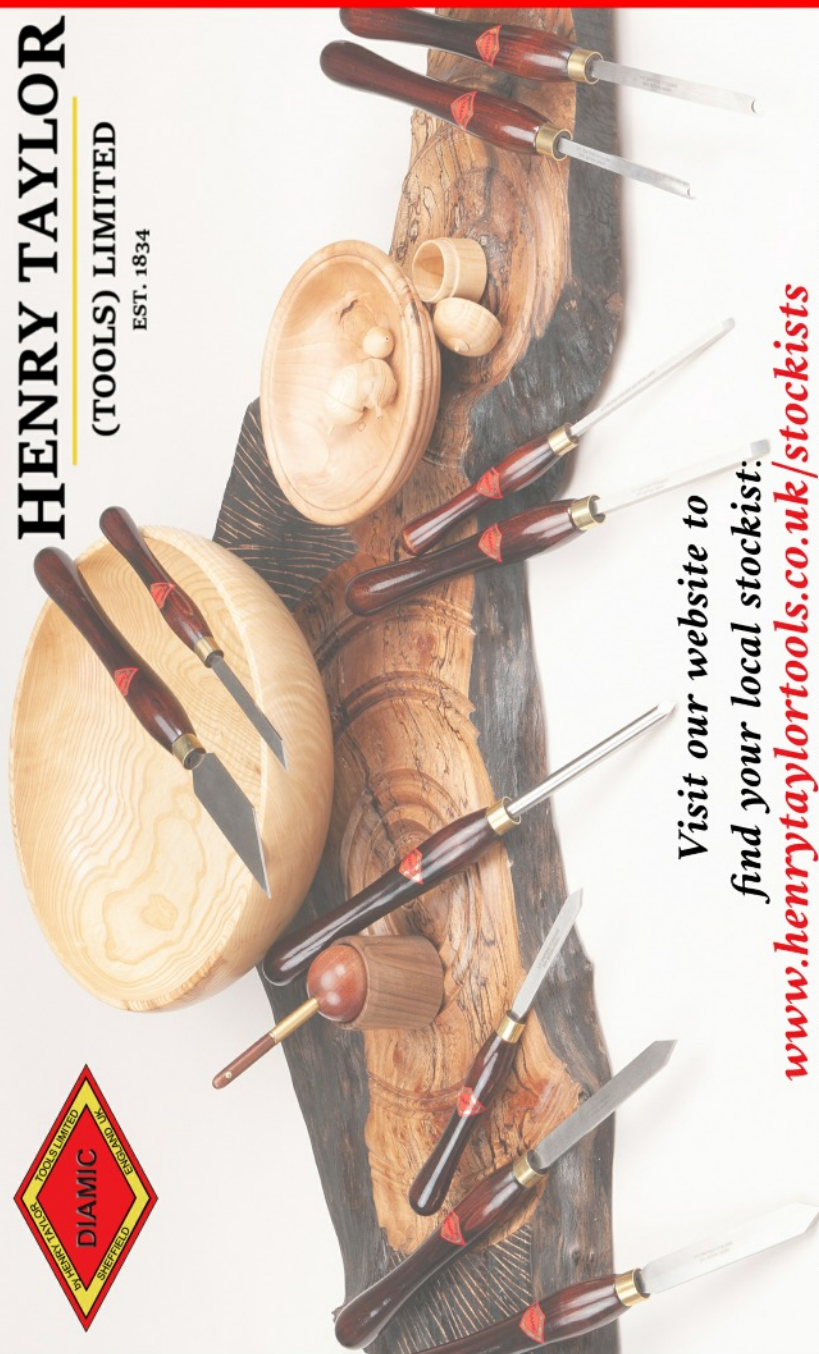




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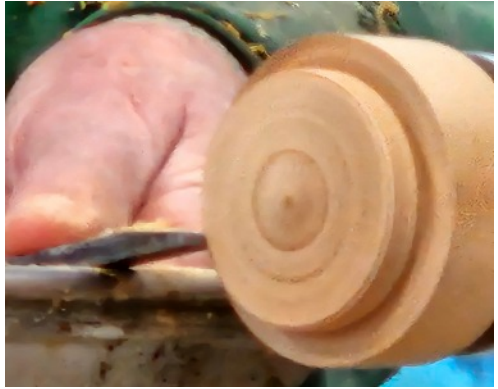
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Phil Steele Thread Chasing - continued

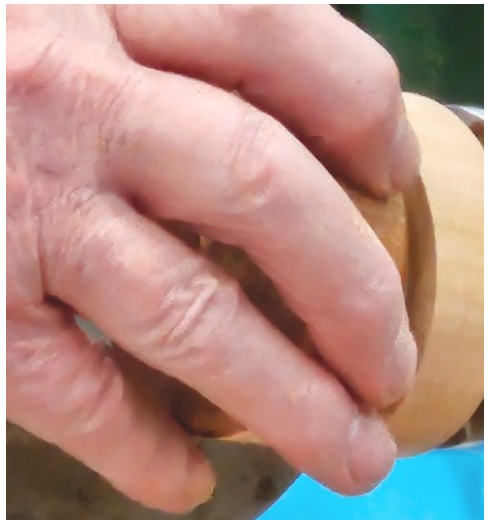
After cutting a chamfer on the leading edge, Phil started chasing a thread. This time, the chaser was positioned just below centre.



The threads start at the angle of the chamfer before gradually being brought parallel as they are cut along the spigot.



Phil kept checking the fit of the lid. If it didn't fit, Phil used a Point Tool to take the tops off the threads and cut them again. Phil used sanding sealer to strengthen the threads before re-cutting. The process was repeated until the lid screwed on smoothly. Phil didn't worry about matching the grain at this point.





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Phil Steele Thread Chasing - continued

With the threads complete, Phil hollowed out the centre, decorated the inside with rings and sealed and waxed the inside. When screwed together, Phil removed the spigot on the lid, decorated it with burnt rings, sealed and waxed it.



Shaping the outside affects the grain match, so the shaping must be done first. The grain match was done by removing slivers off the mating face of the box base.

Left and Below: the finished box with threaded lid.





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Phil Steele Thread Chasing - continued



Above Left: Thread chaser for male (spigot) threads.

Above Right: Thread chaser for female (recess) threads.

Bottom: Phil's home-made recess tool to create a gap between the thread and the body, to stop the chaser catching on the body and ripping out the threads.



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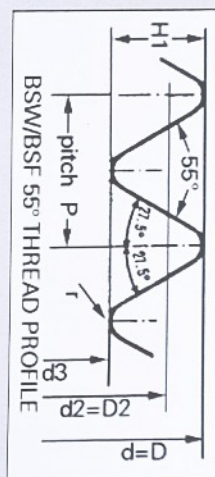
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Phil Steele Thread Chasing - continued

Thread sizing chart. Used by engineers when cutting threads on a metal working lathe. Can be used as a guide when sizing a mating thread. Phil just allows 2 or 3 mm and adjusts as necessary after a few trial fits.

BSW BRITISH STANDARD COARSE PITCH THREAD CHART



Whitworth Coarse Thread BS 84
BSW (British Standard Whitworth)
British Standard Whitworth Coarse Thread Series (parallel, cylindrical)
In GB most common Thread. Corresponds to the Metric Thread in its type of use.

THREAD DATA CHART:

British Thread (British Standard Whitworth) -- Coarse Pitch									
Nominal Size Ww	Thread Form Type	Major Diameter d=D mm	Pitch mm p	Threads per inch tpi	Pitch Diameter mm d2=D2	Minor Diameter Male Thd. d3	Thread Height H1	Tap Drill Diameter mm	
1/16"	BSW	1.587	0.423	60	1.315	1.050	0.270	1.15	
3/32"	BSW	2.381	0.529	48	2.041	1.703	0.338	1.90	
1/8"	BSW	3.175	0.635	40	2.768	2.362	0.406	2.50	
5/32"	BSW	3.969	0.793	32	3.459	2.952	0.507	3.20	
3/16"	BSW	4.762	1.058	24	4.084	3.407	0.677	3.70	
7/32"	BSW	5.556	1.058	24	4.878	4.201	0.677	4.50	
1/4"	BSW	6.350	1.270	20	5.537	4.724	0.813	5.10	
5/16"	BSW	7.938	1.411	18	7.034	6.131	0.904	6.50	
3/8"	BSW	9.525	1.588	16	8.509	7.492	1.017	7.90	
7/16"	BSW	11.113	1.814	14	9.951	8.789	1.162	9.20	
1/2"	BSW	12.700	2.117	12	11.345	9.990	1.355	10.40	
5/8"	BSW	15.876	2.309	11	14.397	12.918	1.479	13.40	

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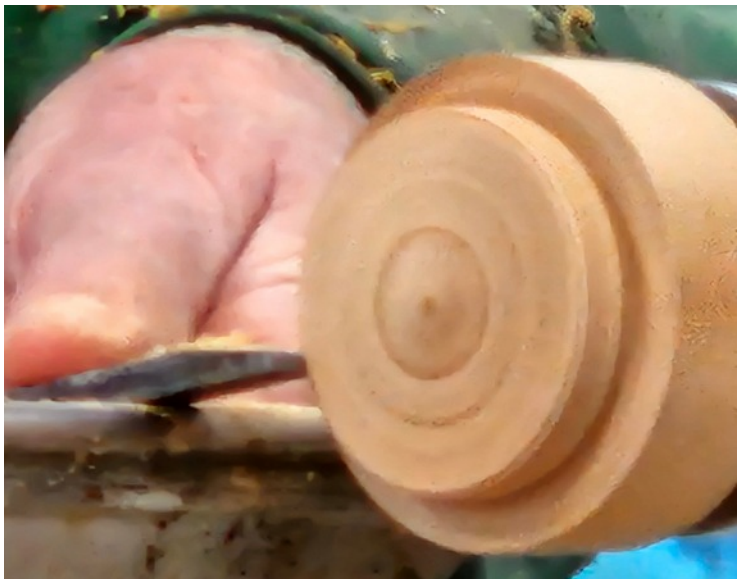
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Phil Steele Thread Chasing - continued



Top: Cutting female thread. Chaser positioned above centre.

Bottom: Cutting male thread. Chaser positioned below centre.



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Christmas Themed Items

By John Evans 15/11/25

John Evans, chairman of Hinckley Woodturning Club, took over from Phil Steele for the afternoon session. John made a few Christmas themed items that he said sell well at pocket money prices. This was John's first demonstration for Coombe woodturners.



John started with a Christmas Gonk, made from a 9" x 2" oak blank. He marked pencil lines to divide it into 3 equal pieces.



John tapered the end and curved the middle section, undercutting the end section. He partly parted off the last third.



After sanding and sealing, John drilled a 4mm hole at the front, for the nose. The hole in the end made by the tail stock doesn't matter as it will be covered up later.



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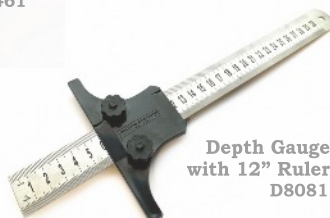
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John Evans - continued



Above Left: Turning the nose. Spigot to fit hole drilled in the body.

Above Centre: Trial fit of the nose.

Above Right: Faux fur cut to length of body. Slit cut down from top so fur will fit round the nose. Fur is super glued under hat, round the nose and along the edges.

The finished Christmas Gonk.
Hats bought from a craft shop.



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John Evans - continued

Christmas Tree, made from branch wood. John wanted to keep the natural edge for the base of the tree.



John turned to round and tapered the tail stock end, leaving a portion at the chuck end untouched.



Base of tree defined by parting partially through. Taper increased and moved back to the parting cut.



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John Evans - continued

Starting to define the segments of the tree.



Tapering the segments more, so that they undercut the segment above.



Tree sanded and sealed.



Tree waxed and buffed to a shine.



John Evans - continued

The finished branch wood Christmas Tree.



John Evans - continued



Above: Some more of John's Christmas-themed items.



Left. Santa hats for the gonk.

Wizardry In Wood 2025

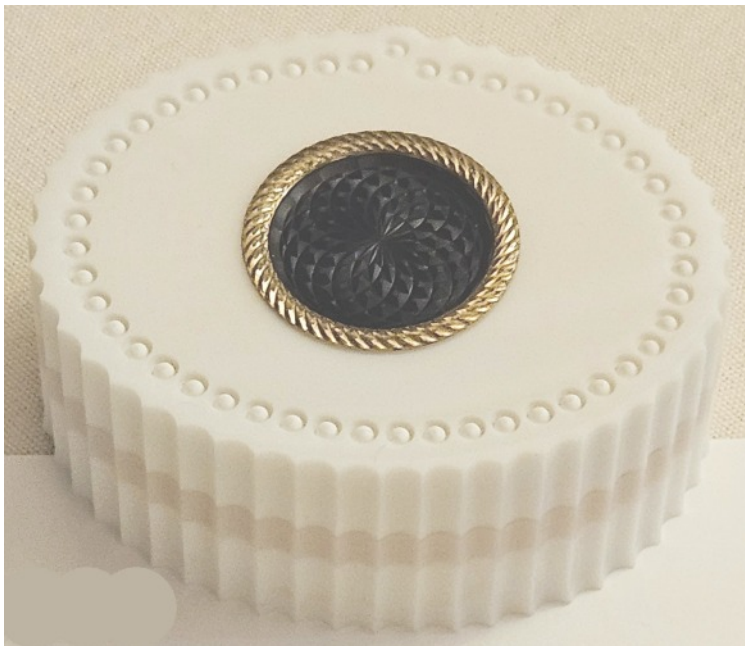
Held in London by the Worshipful Company of Turners. Lots of exhibition-quality pieces on display and for sale. Many of the well-known woodturners were exhibiting, selling and demonstrating.



Wizardry In Wood - continued



Wizardry In Wood - continued



Wizardry In Wood - continued



Wizardry In Wood - continued



Harrogate Show 2025



Some pictures from the Harrogate Woodworking Show. Turning, carving, pyrography, pole lathe, all on display. Demonstrations & lots of tools, gadgets and wood to buy. One stand had lots and lots of my favourite spalted beech for sale. Horrendous heavy rain going to and from the show.

Harrogate Show - continued



Harrogate Show - continued



Items 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.

Diamond Scroll Saw for sale

Former Chairman of Hinckley Woodturning Club, Brian Hartwell, has a Diamond Scroll Saw for sale. Price £65.



Items For Sale - continued

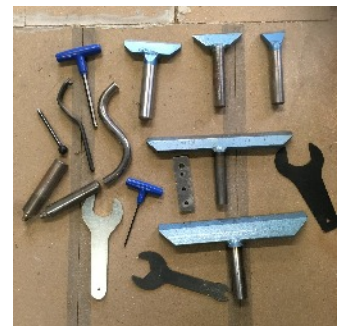
For Sale: Long version of the **Vicmarc VL 200** with 50cm extension and outboard turning attachment. Offers around £4,000.

The sale of the lathe & rest of his tools will be at:

26 Cavendish Avenue, Churchdown, Gloucester, GL3 2HW

It will be at 10.00am on 13th September

Contact Paul Arthurs pdamusic@gmail.com



Items For Sale - continued

For Sale: Arundel M230M Wood Lathe. I'm asking £250.

The two bed bars, which are 7/8 inch square, were originally longer. However, I cut them down because of space limitation and the fact that I was doing much shorter work.

Contact John Reid johnreid@btinternet.com



Workshop Teaching



Julia's first lesson, taught by Don Kildin.

Workshop Teaching



Tim's first & second lesson, taught by Rob Sheehan.

Tim just turned up at the workshop one Thursday and enquired about "having a go". I was also just visiting, intending to have a chat and then go for a walk. A lathe was free, so I gave a lesson and never did get my walk that day.

Notices

Christmas Party Saturday 12th December

This will be a buffet meal. Cost £10 per person.

Please let Lee know asap if you want to attend.

Please bring in raffle prizes.

Booking Training Sessions

Michael Archer is now handling all training session bookings.

Please phone him on 02476 448311.

Do not book a session without Michael's prior agreement.

50/50 Raffle

The winner for November is Danny Rooney. He wins the £45 prize.

Christmas Competitions

Rhodes' Trophy

Any turned item. Open to anyone who hasn't won a competition before.

Austin's Trophy

An item with a Natural Edge. Open to anyone.

John Bradbury Trophy

A hollow form. Open to anyone.

Jim Elliott Trophy

A (turned) Lidded Box. Open to anyone.

Roger Warren-Finding Shield (Woodturner of the Year)

Any turned item. Open to anyone.

Roy Nichols Trophy

Awarded to the person who comes second in the Roger Warren-Finding Shield

All pieces should be mainly turned and have been turned within a year of the competition date.

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

Tuesday December 2 Demo Ian Ethel

Tuesday December 16 Christmas Party

Contact Rob Sheehan 07905185122

Tudor Rose Woodturners

Thursday 11 December Christmas Social & Competition

Contact Colin Smith 07939-004375 communications@tudor-rose-turners.co.uk

West Midlands Woodturners

Sunday 21st December Demonstration – Rob Till

Contact Chris Jones 07580 195561 crjones5691@gmail.com

West Northants Woodturners

Wednesday 3rd December Katie Armstrong

Wednesday 17th December Christmas Meeting / Social

Contact Tom Donnelly 01327 349093

Trent Valley Woodturners

Wednesday TBD

Contact Ian Ethell <https://www.trentvalleywoodturners.co.uk/contact/>

Heart of England Woodturners

Friday December 12th AGM

Contact Giles Dugmore (Chair) 0779 2424775

Coombe Woodturners Branded Items for Sale



COOMBE WOODTURNERS CLUB LOGO WEAR

Polo Shirt £16.50

Hoodies

Overhead £26.50

Zipper £28.50

Sweatshirts Crewneck £22.50

Fleece Jacket £24.50

Soft Shell Jacket £31.50

Soft Shell Bodywarmer £27.50

New Style Jacket £28.50

Please order and pay through Lee or Martin

Items take around 2-3 weeks lead time if not in stock

Thank you for supporting your Club

Workshop Notice

Coombe Abbey woodturners

As agreed at the AGM on the 4th January 2025

From 1st February 2025 we will be introducing a £1 entry fee into the workshop for all members.

This will include the use of the workshop & equipment Also to include tea & coffee you will also get entry into the 50/50 raffle each day you come into the workshop.

Clarification to the above notice:

The charge does NOT apply to tutors who are teaching a student, nor to committee members when attending a committee meeting.

This will not cover all costs but will go a some way to helping the club to run the workshop through the year and give members a chance of winning a little more money each month.

Thank you for your support

The Committee

Calendar of Events 2025

Dec	13	Sat	W	Christmas Party
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Calendar of Events 2026

Jan	10	Sat	W	AGM
Jan	17	Sat	C	Hands-On Pen Turning
Mar	14	Sat	W	Chris Parker
May	1/2	Fri/Sat		Woodworks at Daventry
Sept	5	Sat	W	TBD
Oct	23	Fri	S	Ian Ethel
Nov	14	Sat	W	Robert Till
Dec	12	Sat	W	Christmas Party

Meeting Locations:

(W) Walsgrave Baptist Church, 10am - 4pm
Hinckley Road, Coventry, CV2 2EX.

(S) Shilton Village Hall, 6:30pm - 9pm
Wood Lane, Shilton, CV7 9JZ

(C) Coombe Abbey Workshop 10am - 12 noon, 1pm - 3pm
Brinklow Rd, Coventry CV3 2AB

Next Meeting

Christmas Party Saturday 12th December,
Walsgrave Baptist Church

Coming up

AGM Saturday 10th January, Walsgrave Baptist Church