

# Coombe Abbey Woodturners NEWSLETTER

February



2023

*This Month's Sponsor*



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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	Graham Ball
Vice Chairman	Giles Headley
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Lee Cartwright
Secretary	Rod Young
Events Secretary	Eric Taylor
Newsletter/Web Site Editor	Rob Sheehan Graham Cashmore Peter Orange Pat Hanley
Training Coordinator	Michael Archer
Library Custodian	Gary Jones

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

Copy Deadline for the March issue of the Newsletter is:-

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Please forward your News, Stories and Photographs to:-

Robert Sheehan- Newsletter Editor -

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## From the Editor



February already. I've only just got used to January! Happy New Year to anyone I didn't talk to at the AGM.

Speaking of the AGM, there have been a few changes. Michael Archer is now looking after all training requests. Giles Headley is now vice chairman and Pat Hanley has joined the committee. Many thanks to Terry Ivins and Brian Edwards who have stepped down and passed on their roles to others.

Also at the AGM, it was decided to look into buying a better lathe for the workshop. I asked people to email me their suggestions and I have already received a few. The main limitation is the length of the lathe as the workshop is quite narrow. Apart from that, the consensus so far is 16" swing over the bed, rotating headstock and a more powerful motor (2hp?). We will discuss it again at the committee meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> January so let me know what you want.

Congratulations to all five people who were recently assessed and passed as tutors by the AWGB. If you think you have what it takes to be a tutor, contact Eric and we will set up another session.

*Rob*

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## Chairman's Jottings

I am pleased to say that we had a good turnout for the AGM which took place on Saturday 7th January 2023 with forty members attending.

A report of our activities in 2022 were read out by me as chairman and a financial report from our Treasurer



Lee Cartwright was read out to the gathered company by our secretary Rod Young as Lee was unable to attend because of family commitments.

Rod then gave a brief report as secretary of the club.

When it came to electing a new committee for 2023 Brian Edwards expressed his wish to stand down as vice chairman and relinquish his seat on the committee.

You will see on page two of this newsletter that there were just two alterations to the committee from last year with Giles Headley taking the vacant vice chairman's seat and we have welcomed Pat Hanley as a new committee member.

We elected to keep the "Air Ambulance" as our chosen charity for 2023 and Jillian Steedman offered to head this up for us so please help Jillian as much as you can by purchasing or selling raffle tickets when they become available.

Giles Headley presented the newly engraved trophies to the competition winners who retain the main trophies for twelve months and have a smaller shield to keep for all time.

The club member of the year trophy was presented to Pat Hanley for all his work on behalf of the club throughout 2022.

There were a number of issues expressed by the gathered company which were discussed in a lively debate and require the new committee to find answers for. So there will be plenty of work to keep them busy for some time.

The meeting was brought to a close when all issues had been discussed.

I am pleased to report that the Tutor assessments which took place on Thursday 12th., January 2023 went very well and you will be able to read about this within the pages of this magazine.

I hope to see you all at our demonstration days both at Walsgrave Baptist Church and also at our evening demonstrations at Shilton Village Hall.

Stay Safe and keep those bevels rubbing.

*Graham*

*One Line Philosopher:*

“Every day is a fresh start for you. That every sunrise is a new chapter in your life waiting to be written.”

Juansen Dizon

## **This Month's Newsletter Sponsor. Henry Taylor Tools**

I am very pleased to welcome Henry Taylor once again as a sponsor of this monthly Newsletter magazine. They have a great range of high quality woodturning, carving and woodworking tools. Henry Taylor Tools generously donated tools to the Coombe Abbey workshop when it first opened in 2007. Please support our sponsor by buying their excellent tools.

*Editor*

### **Henry Taylor Tools (A Company Profile)**

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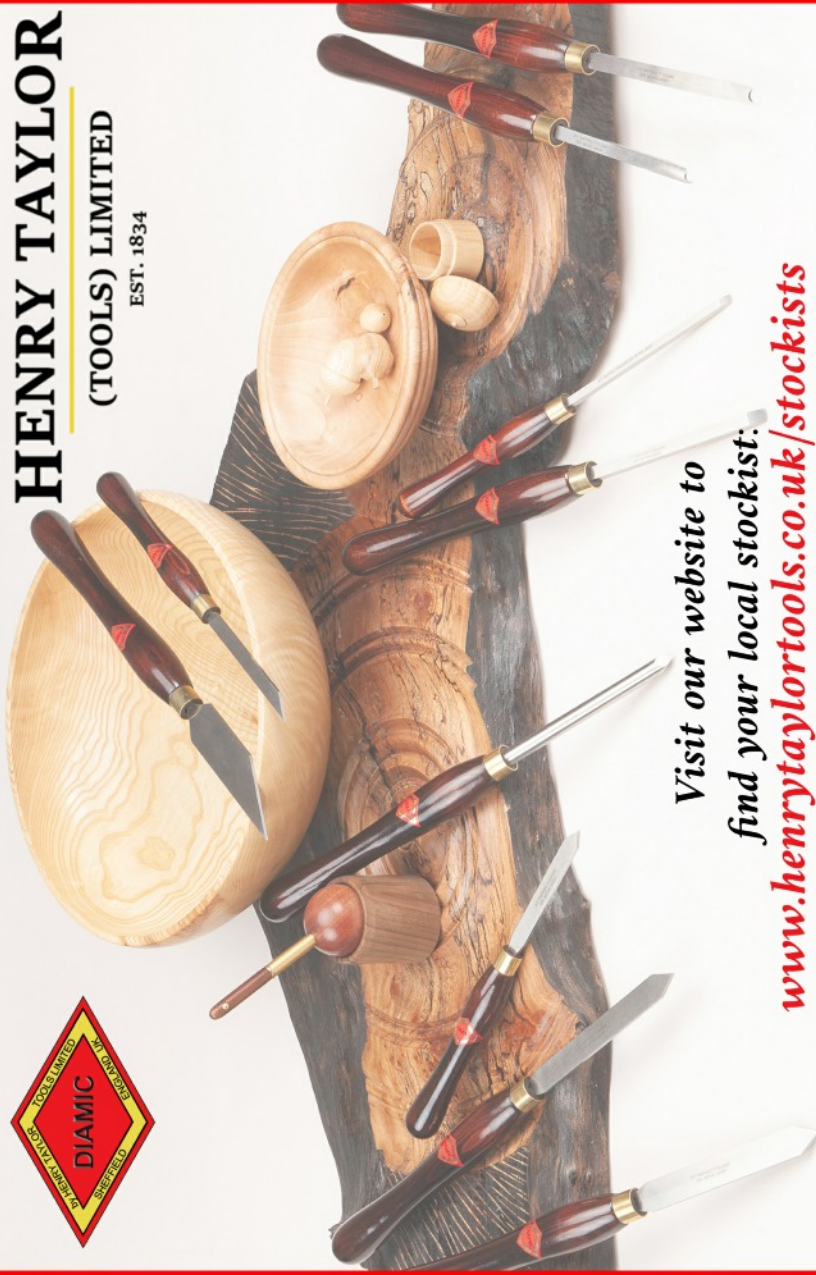
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## AWGB Tutor Assessment

On Thursday 12th January, David Atkinson and Steve Gordon of the AWGB visited the Coombe workshop to assess the ability of five Coombe members to become AWGB accredited tutors. Previous to the assessment, the five members had to pass the AWGB online training. Congratulations to Phil Steele, Giles Headley, Pat Hanley, Don Kildin and Lee Cartwright who are all now AWGB accredited tutors.



Dave Atkinson (AWGB)  
Andy McDonald (Trainee)  
Phil Steel (Coombe)



Frank Burns (Trainee)  
Steve Gordon (AWGB)  
Giles Headley (Coombe)



Dave Atkinson (AWGB)  
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Dave Atkinson (AWGB)  
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## Notices

### Sad News

Billie, wife of club member Lionel Crabbe sadly passed away in January 2023. The funeral was held at Canley crematorium on 12th January 2023.

I am sure all club members will join with me in offering Lionel and his family our heartfelt condolences at this very sad and difficult time.

### Obituary

Sad to report that John Martin-Law passed away on Christmas Day 2022. John was a member of Coombe Woodturners until he relocated from Sibson where he lived with his wife Linda to Fleet in Hampshire to be near his wider family members.



John often contributed articles and photographs to the club Newsletter and also took part in the club's Christmas Competitions.

I am sure that everyone who knew John will join with me in sending John's wife Linda and the rest of the family our sympathy at this very sad and difficult time.

### Obituary

Club member Colin Grundy suffered a fatal heart attack on Tuesday 17th January 2023. Colin has been a loyal servant to the club especially when the late Charlie Elliott was our chairman, helping to organise the Festival of Crafts and other projects that came up.



Most recently he became our Events Secretary, organising people to demonstrate at our Walsgrave and Shilton venues, before giving this up for personal reasons.

We send Colin's wife Jane and the rest of the family our sincere condolences at this very sad and difficult time.

Graham Ball

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## Martin Saban-Smith

Demonstrating at Axminster, Nuneaton 21/01/2023

Martin is an internationally known professional woodturner with around 200 turning and business oriented videos on YouTube. He is the developer of the Hampshire Sheen range of products. Martin also runs the online woodturning club Woodturning360 (WT360 for



short) where members can attend two online meetings each month using 'Zoom'.

Martin started his demo with a 10" x 3" round blank of Sycamore. This had already split and had been repaired with CA glue. Using an enormous 3D printed bowl gouge tip, Martin explained how to present the gouge to true up the edge of the blank and flatten the face. He then did it for real using a 55° swept back bowl gouge and a pull cut. Martin cut a chucking tenon and a slightly larger foot that was approximately 1/3 the diameter of the finished bowl. Swinging the

gouge in an arc, Martin cut a cove from the foot to the base of the bowl and shaped a gentle curve up to the bowl rim. Martin uses an inertial sander to sand his bowls. This is faster and better than hand sanding while avoiding the "machine finish" from a drill powered sander. He pointed out the difference



between tool marks (rings running round the piece) and sanding marks (shorter lines going diagonally across the piece). Knowing the difference ensures that you use the appropriate method to remove the marks. Starting with 120 grit and going through 180, 240 and 400 grit, Martin had been taught not to use sandpaper higher than twice the previous grit. Once sanded, the piece was quite bland so Martin decided to texture it. Using a 2" tungsten carbide tipped carving wheel fitted to an Arbortech, he textured a band around the circumference. The texturing was done at the bottom of the bowl, with the wood turning away from the cutter. Martin stressed the need to hold the grinder firmly with both hands and also resting against his side for stability. The finish needed cleaning up so he used a rubber-fingered sanding wheel held in a battery drill. Martin



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## Martin Saban-Smith continued

defined the edges of the texture by cutting two shallow recesses, either side of the texture, with a parting tool. With the lathe stationary, Martin then applied two coats of cellulose sanding sealer from a spray can. This was done in an arc covering approximately 1/3 of the bowl at a time.

Martin applied green Frog Tape (high quality masking tape) to the upper un-textured area of the bowl. In the workshop, he would also have done the same to the bottom un-textured area but, for speed, he didn't. Martin sprayed the textured area with three light coats of gloss black lacquer. With the lathe running, he then applied Hampshire Sheen (HS for short) Gold Embellishing Wax to the textured area. This was applied using kitchen towel only to the tops of the texture, not filling the texture recesses. After removing the masking tape, Martin applied HS high gloss wax over the un-textured areas.

Martin then hollowed the inside of the bowl and sanded it to a 400 grit finish. For a fruit or salad bowl, Martin said he would use HS Danish Oil or HS Burnishing Oil as both are food safe. These leave a satin finish. He mounted the bowl back on the lathe using a home-made soft pad in the chuck and brought up the tail stock. Using only friction to drive the piece, Martin removed the chucking spigot.



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## Martin Saban-Smith continued

Martin's second project was a vase. Mounting a 10" x 3" square piece of Sycamore between centres, he turned it to round using a spindle roughing gouge. Using both a round skew and a parting tool (Martin prefers the round skew), he cut a chucking tenon. Then, holding the tenon in a chuck, Martin trued up the end face with a spindle gouge. He marked the length of the vase at 8". Martin said proportions matter so it is better to have the right length for the vase based on its diameter, than using all of the timber. Starting approximately half-way down the vase, Martin gently tapered the diameter and started to round over the base. He said it is important not to make the base too thin at this time as the vase still needs to be hollowed. Martin hollowed out the centre using a 1" forstner bit held in a Jacobs chuck. He then hollowed out further with a spindle gouge (never a bowl gouge). When the gouge started to vibrate (too much overhang), he switched to a hollowing tool. This was a 6mm solid carbide dished cutter on a 10mm bar. When this started to vibrate, he switched again to a negative rake French curve scraper (as used by Benoît Averly). Using a rubber cone (<https://www.rubberchucky.com/#/>) in the tail stock to hold the hollowed out end, Martin finished shaping the bottom of the vase. He then sanded from 120g to 400g using Abranet before spraying the outside with HS gloss black lacquer (no sealer). After the lacquer was dry, Martin sanded off most of the black using 180g before going through the grits again to 400g. Using HS Intrinsic (water based) colours, Martin applied Plum colour with a kitchen towel, leaving a large area bare. The bare area was filled with Ruby which also overlapped onto the Plum to blend the edges. A second coat of both colours was then applied. Still not satisfied, Martin applied a coat of Midnight Blue all over. Finally satisfied, he sprayed





Sanding needs as much care as construction and design. As much care needs to be taken in sanding as in the construction of a piece of work. A few minutes poor sanding technique can irreversibly destroy great craftsmanship and many hours work.



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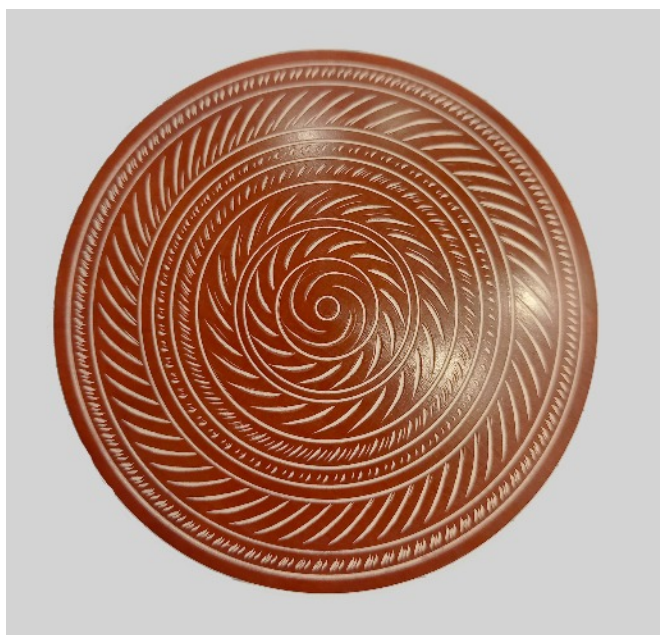
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## Martin Saban-Smith continued

two coats of HS clear satin lacquer. A member of the audience suggested some decoration so Martin cut three v-cuts near the top of the vase, with the point of a skew on its side. After parting off, Martin used a sanding pad held in the chuck to smooth off the bottom of the vase.

Martin's third project was an idea for the lid of a box. Using the left-over piece from the Sycamore vase, he used a spindle gouge to cut a gentle curve shape as might be used on a box lid. This was sanded to 400g but left un-sealed. Using HS Intrinsic colours Flame and Burnt Orange, Martin coloured the top. He then applied a coat of wipe-on sanding sealer. Using a wheeled texturing tool, Martin applied several different textures in bands on the top. He said to keep the tool more upright near the centre, when using this texturing tool. Holding the tool at different angles produces different textures. Martin delimited each texture by cutting a narrow groove with a point tool. Although the texture could be seen, Martin made it stand out by applying a coat of HS White Embellishing Wax. When wiped off, the wax remained in the grooves of the texture. Martin finished the lid with a coat of HS Gloss Finishing Wax.



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## Workshop Lessons

Here are the first trainees of 2023. Phillip Eichbower turned a very nice natural edge goblet and his wife turned a very nice bowl.



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## Notices

### **Kitchen Volunteer Wanted**

We need a volunteer to bake the potatoes when Jill can't make it. All training will be provided. See Jill, Lee or Eric.

### **Harris C of E Academy Rugby**

**Volunteers needed.** Coombe Woodturners have been approached by the school. They would like a woodturning demonstration. Anyone interested in taking a lathe & demonstrating should contact Graham or Lee. Date to be arranged but will be next year.

### **Booking Training Sessions**

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9	10	11 <i>Lisa</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## FEBRUARY

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 <i>Lisa</i>	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## MARCH




Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 <i>Lisa</i>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## APRIL

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 <i>Lee</i>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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[www.turners-retreat.co.uk](http://www.turners-retreat.co.uk)

## **Martin Saban-Smith continued**

Martin's final project of the day was a demonstration of his Hampshire Sheen High Gloss Finishing Wax. Using a goblet that he had already turned, Martin re-turned the outside and sanded down to 400g before sealing with cellulose sanding sealer. The wax was applied sparingly using a kitchen towel and buffed up. He applied a second coat - again just enough to take off the shine on the first coat and buffed it up again. The shine was very good and was still shiny when members of the audience had handled it.





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**Showroom Address:** Unit A Cedar Ct, Walker Rd, Bardon Hill, LE67 1TU

## 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.

### **In Store at Axminster, Nuneaton**

Friday 17th February 9:00am - 11:00am Festool CSC SYS 50 Demo

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### **North Warwickshire & Hinckley Woodturners**

Tuesday 7th February Preparation for Woodworks at Daventry

Contact Steve Obrien 01788-521527

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### **Tudor Rose Woodturners**

Thursday 26th January 2023

Richard Findley

Thursday 9th February 2023

AGM & Demo by Stan Bird

Thursday 23rd February 2023

Live Demo - Steve Heeley

Contact Colin Smith 07939-004375 [communications@tudor-rose-turners.co.uk](mailto:communications@tudor-rose-turners.co.uk)

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### **West Midlands Woodturners**

19th February 9.15 – 16.30 Demonstration – Rick Dobney

Contact John Hooper 0121 354 8464

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### **West Northants Woodturners**

Wednesday 15th February Ian George demonstration.

Contact Tom Donnelly 01327 349093

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### **Trent Valley Woodturners**

Awaiting 2023 programme of events

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

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## River Table

By Rob Sheehan



River tables seem to be the “in thing” to have these days. This is my take on the idea. At the Harrogate show, I saw a waney-edged plank of Yew about 5’ long and 20” wide. The figuring and colour was amazing so I had to have it. It cost £53. I left it there while I went round the rest of the show. On another stand selling resin, was a small river table. The resin colour was just what I wanted, so I bought a gallon of their epoxy resin for £75 and a little bottle of blue-green pearlescent dye. When I went back to collect my plank, there was another amazing plank of Yew 4’ long and 18” wide for £35, so I bought that too! Then the weather turned cold and if you don’t know, resin requires about 4 days of “room temperature” to cure, so I put the project on hold.

When the weather improved a bit, I got down to work. The Yew planks were cut in half lengthways and the bark removed. I routed two slots in the underside of each half and inserted stainless steel rods to hold the two halves about 3” apart, waney edges facing each other. I then applied a roll of glass fibre mat to the underside to form a mould to hold the resin. Pouring 250ml of resin into a measuring



cup (my resin and hardener are mixed equal measures by volume), I added a level teaspoon of dye. This was trial and error as there were no instructions as to how much dye to use. I then added 250ml of hardener and mixed them well. The colour looked perfect so I poured the resin into the mould. Three pours later (this resin can’t be poured too deep) I ran out of resin! I still had about 2mm of the “river” depth to fill so I have bought another gallon of resin. Prices had gone up and it now cost £100! I plan to pour a thin coat of clear resin over the whole table. Unfortunately, it

has gone cold again so the final pour will have to wait. Here is what it looks like so far. The planks have been sanded and waxed, bringing out their wonderful colour. Note the lighter sap wood along the riverbank edges. To be continued...



Above - Small plank, cut in half and re-joined with steel spacers. No resin yet.



Right - Large plank with resin river

## Calendar of Events 2023

January 7	AGM	Walsgrave
January 29	Committee Meeting	Coombe
February 17	Pat Hanley	Shilton
March 18	Les Thorne	Walsgrave
April ??	Daffodil Festival at Monks Kirby (To be confirmed)	
April 29	Clem Ansell	Walsgrave
May 12/13	Woodworks@Daventry	
June 16	Steve Heeley	Shilton
July 8	Emma Cook	Walsgrave
September 9	Two Members Demos	Walsgrave
October 20	Paul Fryer	Shilton
December 9	Christmas party 12:30 start	Walsgrave

### *Meeting Locations:*

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

*Shilton Village Hall, 6:30pm - 9pm  
Wood Lane, Shilton, CV7 9JZ*

### **Next Meeting**

**Demonstration by Pat Hanley  
Friday 17th Febuary at Shilton Village Hall  
6:30pm start**

### **Coming up**

**Saturday March 18th Demonstration by Les Thorne**