

Coombe Abbey Woodturners NEWSLETTER

May



2024

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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.

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**Copy Deadline for the June issue of the Newsletter is:-
Friday 24th May 2024**

Please forward your News, Stories and Photographs to:-
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From the Editor



The sad news of Eric Taylor passing away and his obituary can be found on page 4.

Funeral details can be found on page 5.

Matthew Crawford hollows a eucalyptus log under the supervision of Giles Headley on page 10.

On page 12, you will find my report on the demonstration by Mick Hanbury.

You can find my holiday photos of Japan and Hong Kong on page 30.

New member Dexter turns a bowl on page 33.

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Carole Nicholson turns a square bowl on page 37

Woodworks@Daventry is on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th May. Don't miss the best woodturning show of the year.

The Godiva Festival is on Saturday 6th July and Sunday 7th July. Volunteers please to help set up/break down and speak to visitors to the club's stand.

Regards

Rob

Obituary

Eric Taylor 1937 - 2024

By Graham Ball

I was so sad to learn that my good friend and fellow Coombe Abbey Club member Eric Taylor had passed away on Monday 15th April 2024.

Eric and I became friends when I joined Coombe Abbey Woodturners in 2005. Eric was Treasurer and welcomed me into the club. A crisis occurred when the then Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary resigned. Eric called an EGM which took place in August of 2005. I offered myself as Secretary. A new Chairman and Vice Chairman was elected and the committee met on a regular basis to carry out the club's business. Eventually the committee decided that we needed a permanent club workshop and Eric set to work in trying to find suitable premises, as the chairman had said he had approached the Coombe management who declined to help. Eric looked at a number of venues before contacting Head Ranger at Coombe Joe Taylor (no relation) who eventually offered a suitable room at the visitor centre.

To equip the new room we needed finance, and it was decided that Eric and I would be delegated to apply for a lottery grant. We eventually succeeded after much work and form filling and a grant of just over £8000 was awarded. Eric contacted the suppliers of lathes and other machinery and the workshop was officially opened in 2007.

Eric was an agent for Henry Taylor Tools and Chestnut Products and very generously they set the workshop up with their tools and materials and we were ready to go. Eric had put in an enormous amount of work to make this happen.

We designated Sundays and Tuesdays for teaching members of the public and Eric arranged with our insurers that each member of the public would be insured for two lessons and then had to join the club to be insured for further lessons. Eric attended the workshop every Sunday and



Tuesday mainly as administrator but, if required, he did teach, as he was an accomplished woodturner but he did admit that he didn't really have the patience for teaching.

I have mentioned that Eric was agent for Chestnut Products and he brought into club meetings a large selection for members to buy at a discounted price. The camera system employed at club meetings was funded also by the lottery grant aforementioned and it was Eric and I who sourced this from a supplier based at that time in Nuneaton where Eric Lived

Eric eventually became event organiser and booked the demonstrators for our meetings as well as making sure the Walsgrave Baptist Church hall was available and the Hall at Bulkington (later Shilton) was available for our evening meetings. But it didn't end there, he organised coach trips to exhibitions and open days at Harrogate in Yorkshire and Yandles in Somerset as well as liasing with Axminster Tools when they needed demonstrations at their store in Nuneaton (now of course closed).

Eric was well known throughout the woodturning industry and when it was decided that we needed sponsors for our Newsletter Booklet, Eric was quick to step up and persuade suppliers to be a monthly sponsor.

I could go on as there are so many memories of Eric's involvement in the club and he will be greatly missed.

Rest in Peace Eric my friend.

On behalf of Coombe Abbey Woodturners I offer our sincerest condolences to Eric's Wife Gillian, Daughter Wendy and Son Richard and the wider family.

The funeral will take place at Heart of England Crematorium, Nuneaton on Friday 10th May at 12.30pm. Family flowers only but donations if you wish to Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

One Line Philosopher:

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Aesop

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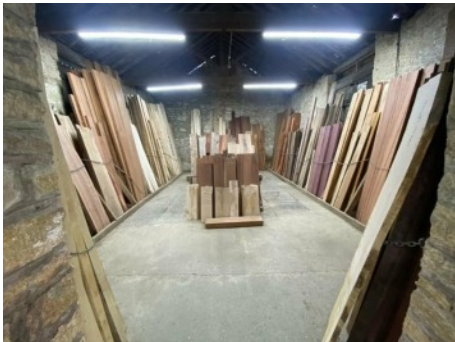
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Editor

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Chairman's Jottings

Hello to all,

The main news this month was the sad passing of long standing club and committee member Eric Taylor. Eric did an awful lot for the club which you can read about in the Obituary found in this Newsletter. He will be sorely missed. We send our heartfelt condolences to his wife Gillian and Family.



On a happier note we were treated to a brilliant demonstration by professional turner Mick Hanbury at Walsgrave Baptist church on Saturday 20th April 2024. The items completed and passed around the audience for us to inspect were of the highest quality and workmanship featuring Texturing and Piercing embellishments which you will see in Rob Sheehan's report of the event further in these pages.

We could have done with a few more attendees but I thank all those who did make it and am sure, like me, you would agree that it was a brilliant demonstration, even though Mick was suffering health-wise and we did need to use the audio loudspeakers to give more volume to his voice.

As I am writing this I see that Woodworks at Daventry is only 17 days away and you should have by now received a flyer of the event advertising everything which will be going on. The Tudor Rose club do a magnificent job in organising this event and it deserves to be well supported by the woodturning fraternity. Coombe Abbey Woodturners who of course will be attending, have been preparing for this for some time now and I thank in advance all those members who have, and will, be contributing to the event on our behalf

All for now, and I hope to see (or hear) from you all soon.

Keep those bevels rubbing

Regards

Graham

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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Member Training at Coombe

By Giles Headley

A few weeks ago Matthew Crawford came to the workshop, accompanied by his Dad, for a lesson with me. As he'd not been advised to bring his own timber and a plan for what to make, I picked out a piece of eucalyptus log that had been left for club use and we set out to make a vase.



We turned the piece to round between centres, cut a tenon and remounted it into a chuck before shaping the outside. Time allowed the centre to be drilled to depth, but not to finish the project.

Matthew, now a club member, returned with Dad on Thursday this week, as it is Easter school break. He widened the bore with a 40mm forstner bit, then hollowed the inside with my Simon Hope tools. Some refinement was made to the outside shape and then the piece was sanded inside and out, sealed and buffed up with WoodWax. The tenon was removed with parting tool and saw, then the stub sanded away and the bottom sealed and waxed.

Both Matthew and his Dad were pleased with the result, the latter thinking he'd better come and have some lessons too!

Cheers

Giles



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Mick Hanbury Demo 20/4/2024

By Rob Sheehan

Mick's first project of the day was a **Ring + Stand** in Ash. He had seen something similar made in pottery. Mick's items are purely decorative. He said that adding useful functionality, such as a light inside the ring, would de-value the piece.

Turning the Ring

Using a 12" x 3" Ash blank, mounted on a screw chuck, Mick trued up the edge with a 3/8" bowl gouge. The double-ended gouge was from Robert Sorby and the handle from Simon Hope. He then flattened the face and, using calipers, marked a recess for his Record Power chuck. Mick also trued up about 1cm of the back face to get the true useable thickness of the blank. Removing the tail stock, Mick cut the recess using the bowl gouge, leaving a button in the centre. He undercut the recess using a skew chisel ground to the exact angle needed by the chuck jaws. Using the recess to mount the blank on the chuck, Mick cleaned up the rest of the face. Now, having two clean faces, Mick could decide which would be the front of the Ring. Using calipers, Mick measured the width of the blank.

He then transferred that measurement to the front face, marking a line in from the outside edge. Using a thin parting tool, Mick cut on the line to a depth of half the width of the blank. He then cut another recess on the face side and flipped the piece round so that he could cut in from the other side. Mick marked a corresponding line, in from the edge, to match the width of the blank. He then cut in just short of the cut from the other side. Mick marked a pencil line on the centre of the outer edge and rounded over the edge, forming a half circle. He also cut into the face side, continuing the circle to halfway through the blank. Mick then drilled a small guide hole through the blank to indicate the size of the half circle on the face side. Flipping the blank over, Mick cut a half circle on the new face. The drill hole ensures the two edges will meet when he breaks through. Using a light to shine through



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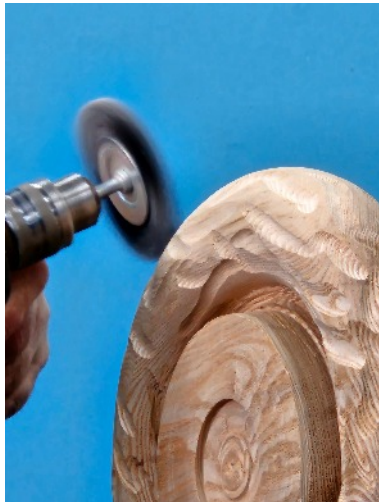
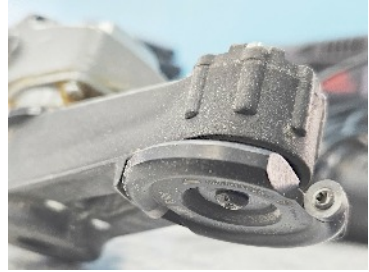
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Mick Hanbury Demo - continued

the hole, Mick flipped the piece several times, each time extending the depth of the ring until the light shining through the thin wood indicated he was close to breaking through.

Texturing With An Arbortech

Before breaking through, Mick textured the surface of the ring with an Arbortech fitted with a cutting disc with two TCT cutting tips (available from Turners Retreat). This cutter doesn't grab like some others so Mick



could carve some wavy grooves all over the visible surface. Flipping the piece over, he carved the other side too. Mick aimed for a random pattern covering about two



thirds of the surface. He then switched to a wire brush in a drill. Brushing hard with the grain, Mick opened up the grain pattern. The brush also softened any hard edges left by the Arbortech and removed any splinters.

Separating the Ring

With the light shining through the drilled holes, Mick could judge the thickness of timber still holding the ring on the lathe. He kept flipping the piece and cutting deeper until very little timber was left. Rather than breaking through with the thin parting tool and risking the ring fly off, Mick broke the ring off with the lathe stationary.

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Mick Hanbury Demo - continued

Stand for the Ring

The centre piece left on the lathe will become the stand for the ring. Mick played with different shapes for the stand. A domed top, an ogee, ... before finalising on an ogee. He left a flat on the top where the upstand would sit. Mick then wire brushed and Ebonised the stand to bring out the grain pattern. On the rear face (base of the stand), Mick cut a small chamfer. He said that this creates a shadow line (& also removed any Arbortech over-cuts).



Finishing the Ring

Mick mounted the ring on Cole/Button jaws, holding the outside of the ring and cleaned up the inside where it had been broken from the centre. A shear cut completed the perfect ring shape. Arbortech & wire brushing from both sides completed the texturing. Mick then drilled an 8mm hole in the ring for the upstand. The hole was slightly off vertical to leave the ring tilting slightly backwards. The pottery original had a section of the ring cut out, leaving a “C” shape. Mick could have done the same to his ring but he didn’t.



Upstand

Mounting a 3” long by 1” square Ash blank between Steb drive centre & a live centre, Mick cut a tenon to fit in the 8mm hole in the ring. He then turned a half bead followed by a typical baluster shape. Another half bead and tenon finished off the upstand shape. Mick fitted the upstand to the ring and drew a pencil line round the half bead. Using a flat milling cutter, he cut a recess in the ring to match the shape of the half bead. After a few trial fits, Mick was happy that the upstand fit the ring with no gaps.

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Mick Hanbury Demo - continued

Colouring the Ring

Mick placed a large disc of scrap timber on the lathe and cut a tenon to fit inside the ring. This held the ring while he sprayed the ring with Chestnut Ebonising Lacquer. Flipping the ring over, Mick painted the other side too. As no sanding sealer had been used, this left a matt finish. Using Jo Sonja's new range of metallic paints, Mick lightly brushed the tops of the texture

with silver.

Once the paint was dry (helped with a hair dryer),

Mick assembled the Ring + Stand.



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Mick Hanbury Demo - continued

Square Dish with Pierced Rim

Mick's second project was a square dish with a textured and pierced rim. Starting with a 6" square by 4" deep Sycamore blank, he used a 35mm forstner bit to drill a chuck recess. Mounting it on a chuck, Mick trued up the face and marked a chuck spigot. He then cut away the timber from the outside of the spigot and curved it up to form a 4" diameter bowl. Mick then marked a pencil line on two sides of the blank, approx 3/4" from the top of the dish (nearest the headstock) and curved the wings up in a slight ogee, up to the pencil line. He power sanded the wings but didn't sand the bowl as he was going to texture it.



Texturing

Using a Simon Hope texturing tool, Mike textured the join between the bowl and the wings and also between the bowl and the foot. He also produced an "orange peel" effect on the outside of the bowl using the same tool.



Turning the Wings

Using only his fingers as a depth gauge, Mick drew a pencil line 3mm up from the line of the wings, defining their finished thickness. He then mounted the piece in a chuck and turned the wings to a 3mm thickness by cutting to the pencil line from the outside in. The mass of wood in the centre was left to



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Mick Hanbury Demo - continued

dampen any vibration of the thin wings. Once the wings were at the required thickness of 3mm, Mick shaped the mass of wood in the centre to a dome shape. Not particularly liking the shape, he hollowed out the centre to make a conventional looking bowl that floated through the rim.



Piercing

Several piercing machines are available. Mick used a Freedom piercing machine from John Woods of Woodart Products. Rotating from 0 - 35,000 rpm, this machine costs £190. The professional NSK Presto air turbine machine rotates at 350,000 rpm and costs £1200. Dremel type rotary tools can also be used. Mick finds it easier to pierce with the work-piece off the lathe. He has a cranked arm that holds the piece in a chuck at a comfortable working angle. Marking a square line 6mm in from the edge of the piece and 6mm outside the line of the central bowl, Mike textured the wings between the lines. He likes to use animal prints as a guide to the shape of the piercings e.g. Giraffe spots, Leopard spots etc. The cut must be made vertical to the surface being cut, not easy on wings that curve. Mick cut in a clockwise direction to stop the bit snatching and kept the timber between cuts an even thickness. After piercing the four corners, Mick switched to a v-shaped tungsten carbide countersink router bit. Pushing this into the timber at different depths made different sized circles





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Mick Hanbury Demo - continued

that looked like bubbles. To finish a pieced piece, Mick likes to use a thin oil e.g. Walnut oil. This soaks into all of the piercings without clogging them. He suggested two coats of oil per day over four days. Switching to a Saburrtooth ball nose burr, Mick created a serrated rim on the bowl. This was done by eye, with no indexing. He said the trick was to adjust the fit of the last few cuts. Finally, Mick changed the chuck spigot to a chamfered foot and decorated the foot.



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Mick Hanbury Demo - continued



Shield and Sword were Mick's entry to a coronation competition. The shield boss is removable revealing a Union Jack flag.



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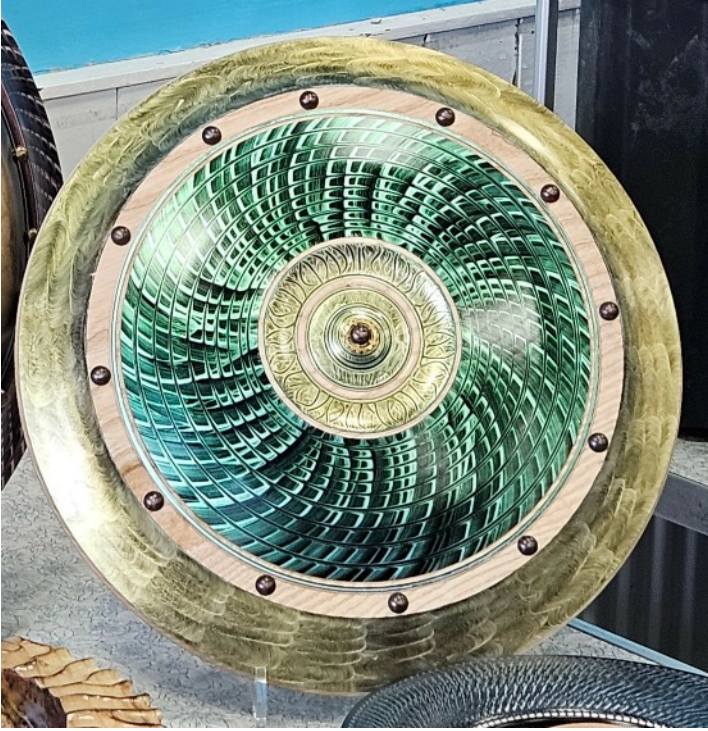
Mick Hanbury Demo - continued



Some of Mick's work



Mick Hanbury Demo - continued



Some of Mick's work



Japan & Hong Kong Holiday 2024

By Rob Sheehan

It's a 14 hour flight to Hong Kong and a another 3 1/2 hours to Japan. Add in the 2 hours to drive to Heathrow and I now need another holiday to recover!



Above left - Bullet Train.

Above right - Himeji Castle.

Below left - Hiroshima building remains after A-bomb.

Below - Hiroshima museum picture.

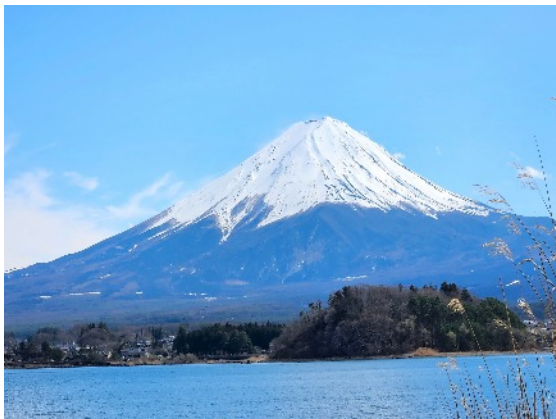


Japan & Hong Kong Holiday - continued



Golden Pavillion, Kyoto
(1955)

Kiyomizu Temple,
Kyoto (778 - 1633)



Mount Fuji
3376m high.
The volcano last
erupted in 1708.

Japan & Hong Kong Holiday - continued



Hong Kong
Avenue of Stars
Bruce Lee Statue

Hong Kong
View from my
hotel bedroom



Hong Kong
View from
Victoria Peak

Workshop Training

This was Dexter's third lesson and he wanted to turn a bowl. Luckily I had a 6" x 3" blank of Tulipwood in my toolbox. Mounting it on the lathe with a screw chuck, Dexter trued up the outside, cut a chucking tenon/foot and shaped the outside using pull cuts and a square ended scraper. After sanding and polishing the outside, he hollowed the inside using a 3/8" bowl gouge and round nosed scraper. He was very pleased with the result. Admittedly he did have a lot of help but not bad for an 11 year old.

Rob Sheehan



Members' Work

These items were on the display table during Mick Hanbury's demonstration. Very nice!



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.



Charnwood W815 wood lathe, tools and tommy bar operated chuck. £75
Beginner's lathe. Collection only from Thornton, Leicestershire.
Contact Rob Sheehan acting for the seller.



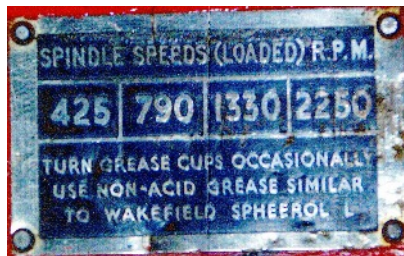
3/8" Beading Tool for Sale. Unused. As new. £15.
Collect from Finham, Coventry. Contact Tony Simkiss 07982087618

CHESTNUT FINISHES

Any item from the catalogue can be supplied.
10% discount on Chestnut finishes
for Club members.

Equipment for sale - continued

Jubilee Lathe. *Reduced price £350.* See Graham or Lee. Tools and chuck included. Currently dismantled for storage but was fully working.

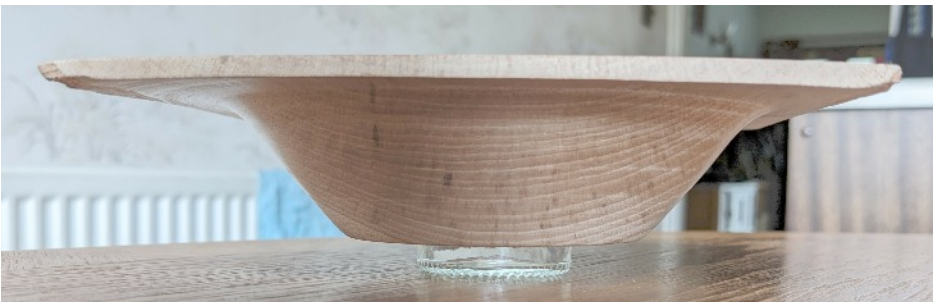


Carole Nicholson Square Bowl

Hi Rob,

Following Mick Hanbury' s demo I was tempted back into making a square bowl from a piece of sweet chestnut. Unfortunately, for the first time, I turned out the bottom of the bowl. Luckily a single portion jam jar fitted exactly. I've glued it in place, just standing proud underneath so the wooden part is just raised. I may decorate the wings later.

Carole Nicholson



Notices

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.

Daffodil Festival Cancelled

Due to flooding, the organisers had to cancel the Daffodil Sunday festival this year.

Woodworks At Daventry

Woodworks is on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th May. It's the best woodturning show of the year. Come along and support the club. We need items to display. Please make sure your name is on the bottom so we can return it after the show. Free to enter and free to park!

Daventry Sports Centre NN114FP

Raffle Donations Needed

Can members please start making items suitable for raffle prizes. The 2024 raffle needs a few more quality raffle prizes. The three main prizes have already been provided, so we are now looking for well-turned items for the minor prizes.

Members are also asked to provide charity items for events and the display cabinet at the Coombe workshop.



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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 May 7 Demo by Bill Bennett
Tuesday May 21 Demo by Giles Headley

Contact Steve O'Brien 01788-521527

Tudor Rose Woodturners

Thursday 23 May Steve Bray Demonstration

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

West Midlands Woodturners

Sunday 19th May Hands On – Turning Fruit

Contact John Hooper 0121 354 8464

West Northants Woodturners

Wednesday 1st May AGM
Wednesday 15th May Ian George

Contact Tom Donnelly 01327 349093

Trent Valley Woodturners

Wednesday 8th May Club meeting and demonstration

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

Calendar of Events 2024

Saturday January 6	AGM	Walsgrave
Saturday January 13	Display/Demo at Warwick Racecourse	
Friday February 16	Ian Ethell	Shilton
Saturday March 16	Chris Parker	Walsgrave
Saturday April 20	Mick Hanbury	Walsgrave
Friday/Saturday May 10/11 Woodworks at Daventry		
Saturday/Sunday July 6/7 Godiva Festival		
Saturday July 13	Gary Rance	Walsgrave
Saturday September 7	Steve Heeley	Walsgrave
Friday October 18	Lee Cartwright	Shilton
Saturday December 14 Christmas party 12:30 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

Saturday July 13th

Gary Rance

Walsgrave Baptist Church

10 am start

Coming up

Saturday September 7th Steve Heeley