

Coombe Abbey Woodturners NEWSLETTER

November



2025

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.

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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 December 2025 issue of the Newsletter is:-
Sunday 23rd November 2025**

Please forward your News, Stories and Photographs to:-
Robert Sheehan- Newsletter Editor -
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In This Issue

Chairman's Jottings	4
One Line Philosopher	5
This month's Sponsor	6
Graham Ball	8
Andy James	30
Paul Fryer	37
Members' Work	38
Items For Sale	39
Teaching at Coombe	43
Notices	44
Christmas Competitions	44
Activities of Other Clubs	45
Coombe branded items	46
Workshop Charge Notice	47
Calendar of Events	48

Advertisers

Turners Retreat	7
Charnwood	9
Crown Hand Tools	11
Henry Taylor	13
Chestnut Products	15
Hamlet	17
Yandles	19
CSM Abrasives Plus	21
Record Power	23
Proops Brothers	25
TMS Volvo	27

From the Editor



Inside you can find my report on the segmented turning demo by Graham Ball and the miniature turning demo by Andy James.

Paul Fryer's work can be seen on page 37. The members' work on display at the demo can be found on page 38. Items for sale start at page 39. Workshop teaching is on page 43.

The Christmas Competitions are listed on page 44.

Events at other clubs can be found on page 45 & Coombe branded items for sale can be found on page 46.

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 pleasing to see so many turn out for our Friday demo by Andy James, a new demonstrator to this club. We hope that at least as many support the club further by also coming to the all day demo at Walsgrave on 15th November. As usual there will be the table for displaying members' work, and we hope that the demonstrator will agree to critique any pieces presented to them. The Eric Taylor prize for best piece (judged by the demonstrator) will be awarded.



The Christmas Party will be held on 13th December, with the usual turning competitions. We need more of you (and your partners, spouses, other relatives & friends) to come along, and for members to enter pieces for the competitions. The subject theme for each was disclosed in the October newsletter and they are repeated elsewhere in this edition. We will have a significant amount to donate to the Air Ambulance again this year, despite the sales of raffle tickets being much lower than in previous years. The 2026 tickets will be printed in time for initial distribution at the AGM. It is surely not too much to expect that every member buys a few and sells a few more. The top three prizes are items made and donated by members. They are a train, a truck & trailer and a child-size Windsor chair. Our thanks go to those who have, once again, been so generous.

For those of you who aim to sell your work at craft fairs and similar events in the run up to Christmas, I hope that they serve you well. Spare a thought for the organisers, who may well be volunteers. Staging such events takes lot of work: liaising with

the venue; soliciting stallholder applications, then selecting who gets a stall (sometimes the hardest part, I find) and informing the remainder; production of a layout and distribution of the different crafts throughout the venue; generation of paperwork, advertising material, stallholder instructions; provision of catering; setting up and co-ordinating help on the day; clearing up afterwards. Do provide feedback - even if yours was not the most lucrative of days, you may have enjoyed the event. Be nice though – otherwise future invitations may get lost in the post!!

Turn safely, and I hope to see plenty of you in the coming weeks.

Giles

One Line Philosopher:

“If you could say it in words, there would be no reason to paint.”

Edward Hopper 1948

This Month's Newsletter Sponsor

Turners Retreat

I am very pleased to welcome Turners Retreat once again as a sponsor of this monthly Newsletter. I can testify to the wide range of quality tools, machinery, accessories, project kits and timber that is available. They also run courses if you are short of Christmas present ideas!

Editor

Turners Retreat (A Company Profile)

At Turners Retreat, we proudly support woodturners and craftspeople. We provide a diverse product range, along with reliable advice and excellent service, to build long-lasting relationships with our customers.

In our warehouse based in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, we stock a wide variety of state-of-the-art lathes and machinery manufactured by well-known brand names, such as NOVA and Record Power. We also have an extensive range of tools made by wood working manufacturing specialists, Robert Sorby, available to buy on our website or over the phone.

We're extremely proud of our timber selection too! We have everything from beech to mahogany, wild mango to yellow boxwood and pink ivory to purpleheart. We have wood species suitable for every type of project.

Not forgetting, our huge range of pen kits, blanks and project kits which will keep you busy for hours on end! They're perfect for making hand-crafted gifts or items to sell at craft fairs.

If you're new to making or would like to build your confidence, we have a variety of Courses for you to enhance your skills. Dates, prices and availability can be found in the links below.

We no longer have a retail store but will operate via online and telephone orders. We will still offer in person training courses.

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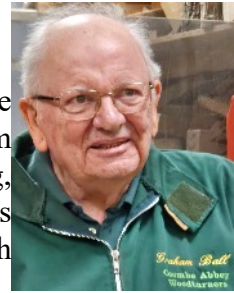


Works submitted must be your own and must be made using at least one product purchased from Turners Retreat.

Segmented Turning

By Graham Ball

In 2004, Graham acquired a bigger workshop and he got his first lathe at the same time. Since then, Graham has specialised in open and closed segment turning, producing some magnificent work. Each project starts out by being drawn on squared paper from which measurements can be taken.

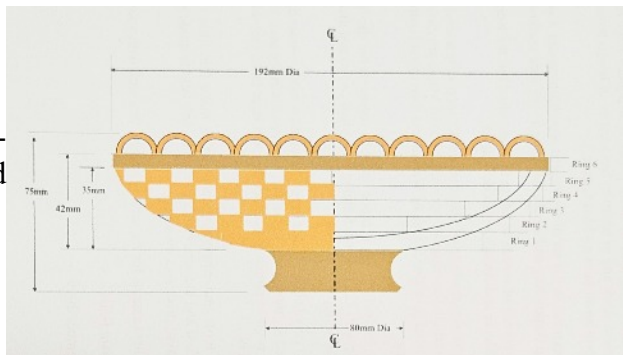


Graham started by drawing a quick sketch on the blackboard. Using inside & outside diameters and wall thickness, measured directly from the drawing, he inputs the data into his home-written Excel spreadsheet.

A simple drawing of a bowl, used to demonstrate how a project is planned. Measurements are taken directly from the drawing for each layer and input to his home-written Excel spreadsheet. This outputs the segment angle and length of timber required for each layer.



The plan for one of Graham's open segmented bows with feature ring.



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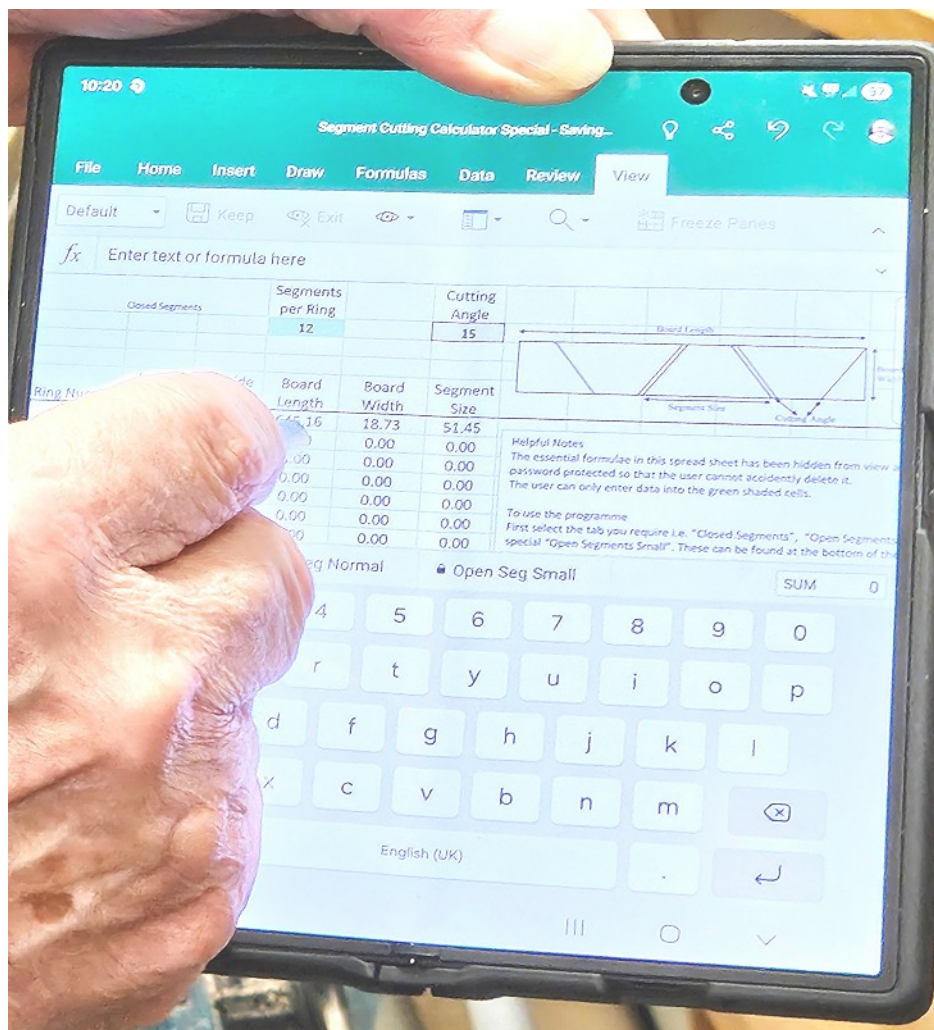


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- 28mm (1") Roughing Gouge
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- 12mm (1/2") Spindle Gouge
- 12mm (1/2") Bowl Gouge
- 4mm (3/16") Diamond Parting Tool
- 19mm (3/4") Round Nose Scraper

Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued



Graham's home-written Excel spreadsheet. Input the number of segments, the inside diameter, wall thickness, open or closed segments etc., and the spreadsheet tells you how much timber will be required in each ring. It will also calculate the exact segment length and length of timber stock required for each layer. Graham will provide the spreadsheet to any member for personal use (no re-selling!).

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Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued

Making the Bowl

- Prepare a glue chuck onto a faceplate
- Cut the Walnut base 100mm dia approx x 25mm
- Glue onto the prepared faceplate glue chuck
- Face off on the lathe.
- Cut ring 1 in Maple 132mm dia x10mm and glue to base.
- Face off ring 1 to 7mm thickness

Open Segment Rings - 16 Segments 7.5 deg Angle. 7mm thick. Maple.

	I/side Rad	O/side Rad	Stop Set	Board Width	O/side Seg	Board Length
• Ring 2	30	78	78.6	48.5	20.7	280.3
• Ring 3	58	87	87.7	30.1	23.1	355.2
• Ring 4	73	93	93.8	21.4	24.6	397.2
• Ring 5	80	96	96.8	17.5	25.4	418.0

- Using positioning jig on the lathe glue on all segments one ring at a time and sand flat each ring as appropriate

Closed ring No 6 Walnut 16.25 deg Angle.

	I/side Rad	O/side Rad	Stop Set	Board Width	O/side Seg	Board Length
• Ring 6	66	96	n/a	31.26	38.2	588.2

- Prepare timber 15mm x 31.26mm x 588.2mm
- Cut the 16 segments to size (see above).
- Glue to form a circle and sand one face
- Glue the sanded face to ring number 5.
- Turn to a 7mm thickness.
- Make feature ring (see overleaf) and glue to ring 6.



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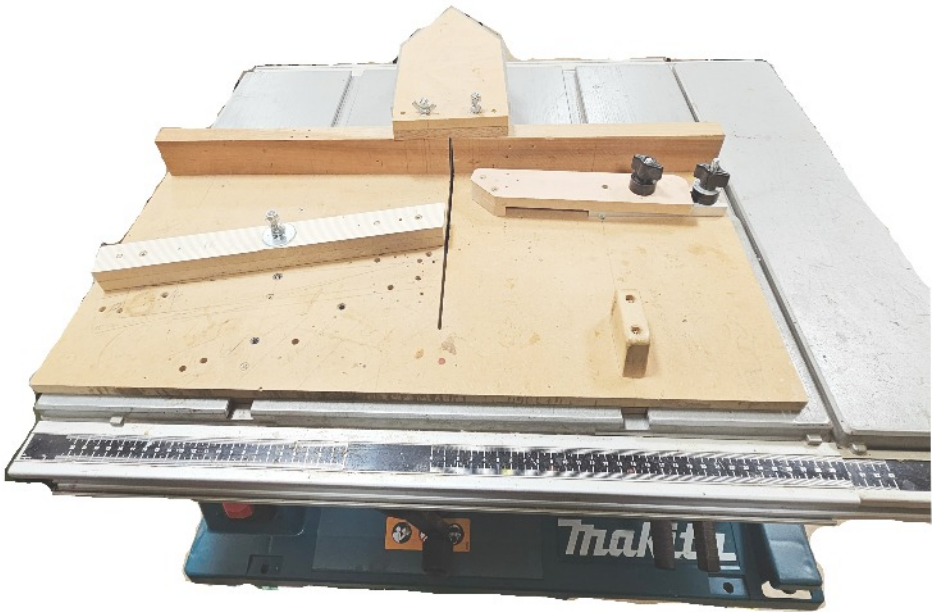
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Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued

If the bowl contains a feature ring, Graham recommends starting with that. Even with the most careful assembly, feature rings can vary from the drawing. Once assembled, the height and diameter of the actual feature ring can be measured and the drawing and subsequent rings tweaked to match. Graham uses a home-made sled on his table saw to cut the segments. The spreadsheet gives the cutting angle and, after trial and error, Graham has fences that are doweled into the baseboard of his cutting jig, to repeat the exact angle necessary to produce a perfect ring.



The picture above shows Graham's segment cutting jig. The angled fence, length stop, blade guard and jig stop to prevent the jig being pushed too far into the blade and cutting the jig in half! Holes in the base board can be seen. These allow different angled fences to be positioned without having to measure the angle each time. Graham still uses calipers to measure the segment length and accurately set the length stop. The length is provided by his Excel spreadsheet.



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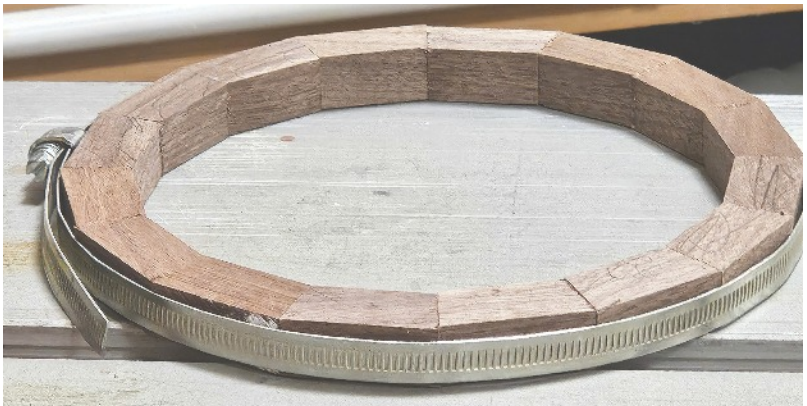
THIS EVENT WILL BE LIVESTREAMED

Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued

An example of glued up segments. The brown segments are cut at a 30° angle. The white segments between are parallel and don't need to be cut at an angle.



Graham uses Jubilee clips to hold the segments in place while the glue dries. The band comes in a long length and is cut to size. The clips then attach to the band.





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Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued

Feature Ring

An example of a Feature Ring. These stars appear 1/3 up from the bottom of a vase but a feature ring can be placed at the top or anywhere the design requires.



Above: Cutting one component of one segment of the feature ring.

Right: The component in detail. Six of these will be required for each star plus six identical pieces in a contrasting colour.



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Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued

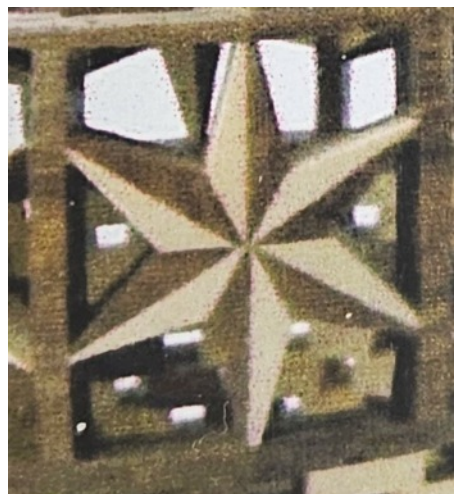
Two contrasting coloured pieces are glued together. This is repeated six times for each star to produce the six arms of the star.



Two arms are glued together then a third is added to produce half a star. The flat edge of half a star is then sanded flat before two half stars are glued together to produce a star.



The points of the star are flattened to provide a gluing surface before the star is glued to a surrounding frame and glued to a backing board. This component is then mitred at the angle needed to create the feature ring. The backing board is on the inside of the vase when assembled and will be turned away when the inside of the vase is turned.



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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Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued



Above: Graham's home-made indexing disc.

Right: An open segmented ring being glued onto a solid base ring. Graham uses Titebond adhesive.



The segment positioning jig. Segments are placed exactly on centre. The stop (seen halfway along the jig) ensures all segments are placed to give a ring of the correct diameter as per the plan.



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Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued

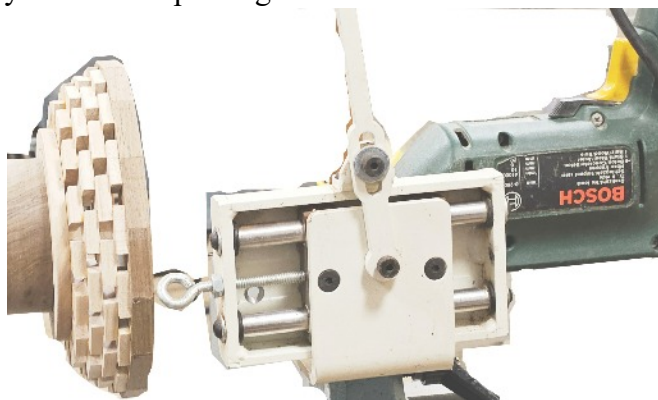


Two partial segment layers.

A closed segment layer glued on top of the open segment layers.



Graham's drilling jig. Combined with the indexing disc, this jig allows an accurate number of holes to be drilled right through the closed segment layer into the open segments below.



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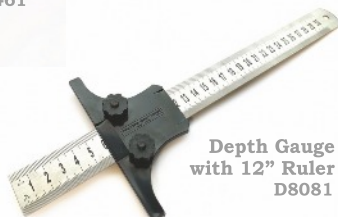
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Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued

A contrasting light coloured closed segment ring has been glued onto the previous dark coloured closed segment ring. This last ring forms the top of the bowl.

Below: With the bowl on the lathe, a thin parting tool has been used to cut the second from top closed segment layer in two. This exposes the holes drilled in this layer. Cocktail sticks are glued into the holes.



Bought balls are then placed onto each cocktail stick and the sticks are trimmed to length.



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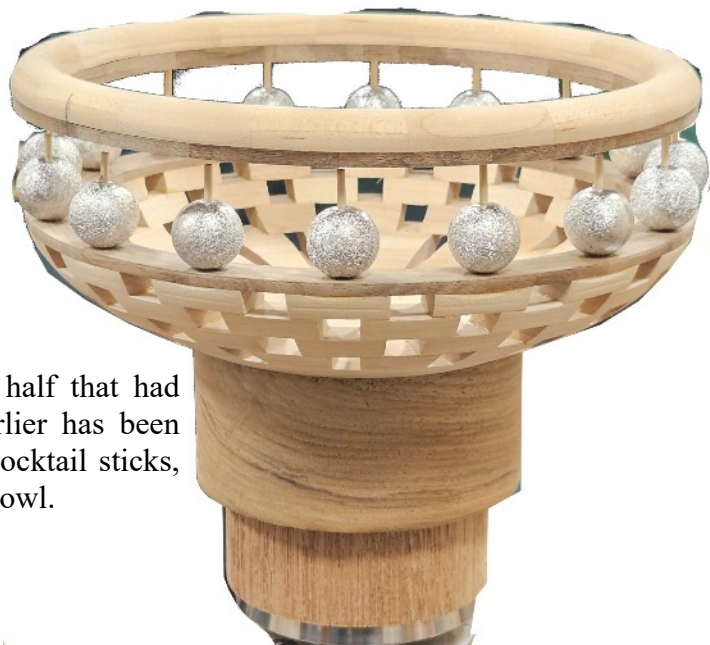
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Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued



The ring and a half that had been cut off earlier has been glued onto the cocktail sticks, completing the bowl.



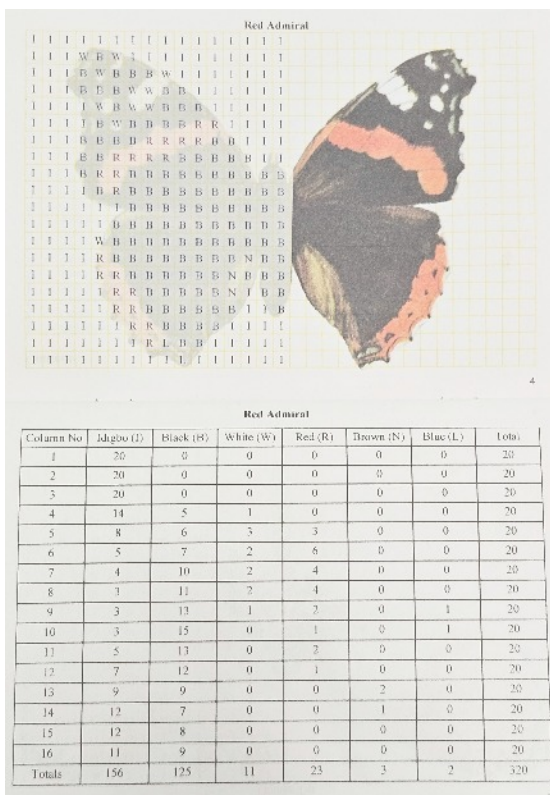
Another of Graham's
Feature Rings..



Graham Ball Segmented Turning - continued

Plan for a Red Admiral Butterfly.

This is just one of the butterflies appearing on Graham's award winning butterfly vase.



The plan above and the blocks below show just how much effort Graham puts into his pieces.

For more examples, see the February issue of the newsletter when I have included many more examples of Graham's work.

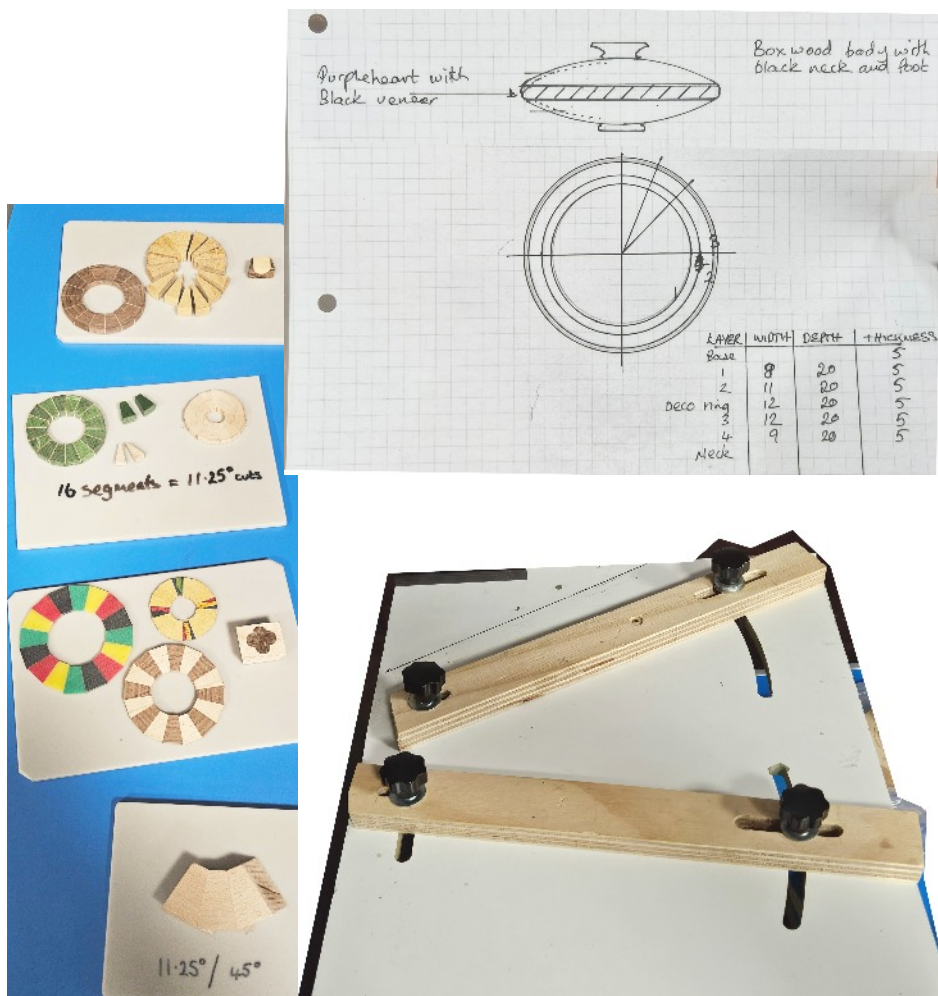
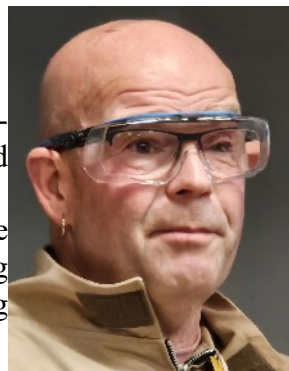


Andy James Miniature Turning

17/10/2025 by Rob Sheehan

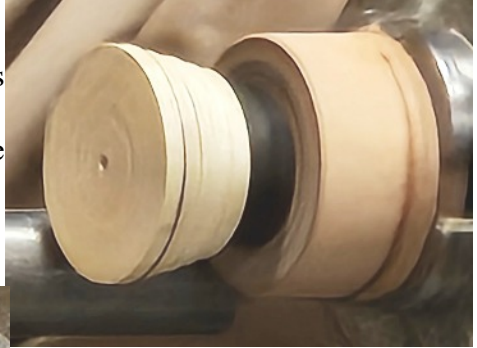
This was Andy's first visit to the club. His miniature segmented pieces are all his own design and usually one-offs. He rarely turns two the same.

An example plan and stages of ring assembly are shown below. Andy uses CNC cut angle setting triangles to set his jig to ensure accurate cutting of the segments.



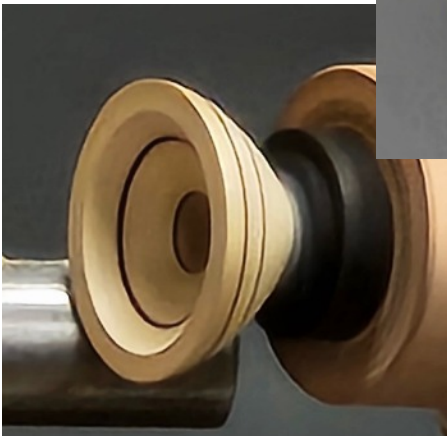
Andy James Miniature Turning - continued

This segmented vase blank is approx 3" diameter by 2" deep. It is glued to sacrificial base block. Andy drilled a hole down the centre to start hollowing.



Checking the hole depth with a depth gauge.

Hollowing with a 1/4" spindle gouge.



Hollowing complete.
Note the rings of veneers. Sometimes several layers of veneer are used to make the band thicker.

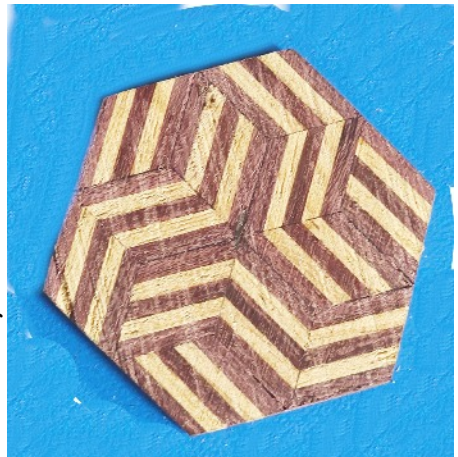
Andy James Miniature Turning - continued

Andy super glued a sheet of black Perspex on the top. He then drilled a hole in the centre.



Andy roughly shaped the Perspex lid, leaving enough to give a good gluing surface for the segmented top.

The segmented top to be glued on to the Perspex lid. It is made up of segmented diamonds that can be assembled in different patterns.



Andy James Miniature Turning - continued

Segmented top super glued to the vase body. Tail stock holds it in place while the glue dries.



Black acrylic for the neck of the vase. It is glued to a sacrificial block. Andy drilled a small hole down the centre. The hole is big enough to show the vase is hollow but not big enough to get a finger inside.

Neck glued into a hole in the segmented top. Andy curved the top but kept the octagonal shape. He then rounded over the inside and outside of the neck.



Andy James Miniature Turning - continued

After sanding & sealing the vase, Andy uses a 3-stage finishing process on a loose leaf mop. First Tripoli, a mild abrasive, followed by Lustre to remove the fine scratches and finally Carnuba Wax as the final finish.



The finished vase.



Andy James Miniature Turning - continued



Some of Andy's Miniature Segmented Pieces



Andy James Miniature Turning - continued



Another miniature vase and finally a full-sized segmented vase.



Paul Fryer's Work

The IT system has been down at work (JLR). Not wanting to get bored, I have been making a few things. Here is a picture of what I have been up to, to fill the time.

I must admit I've not been on the lathe recently, so it's nice to have time to get back to the craft.

I have also been playing with 3D printing to make some pen stands, as you can see at the back of the picture.



Cheers

Paul Fryer



Members' Work



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

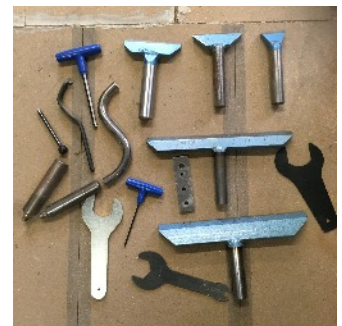
For Sale: Long version of the **Vicmarc VL 200** with 50cm extension and outboard turning attachment. Offers around £4,000.

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



Items For Sale - continued

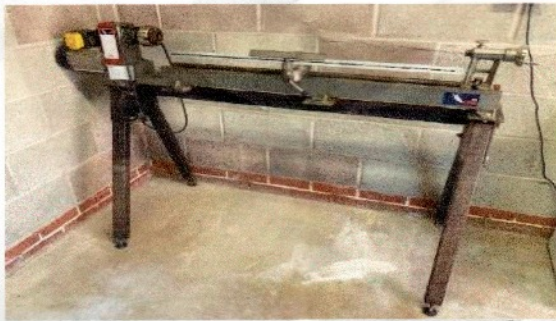
Lathe for Sale

I am selling my Nova 'Comet' lathe

Comes with a larger diameter gap bed extension, stand, various face plates, cole jaws, chuck etc as shown in the photographs

40 inches between centres

Will disassemble for transport



Asking £180 ono

Telephone John on 07860654322

Lathe located in Lutterworth

Workshop Teaching



David, a new club member.

Above, turning a practice piece and a bud vase with tutor Phil Steele.



Left, turning a seed pot maker with tutor Rob Sheehan.

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.

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 November 4 Demo Rick Dobney

Tuesday November 18 Demo Bill Bennett

Contact Rob Sheehan 07905185122

Tudor Rose Woodturners

Thursday 13 November Peter Carless

Thursday 27 November Mick Hanbury Demonstration

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

West Midlands Woodturners

Sunday 16th November Hands On & AGM – Gadgets & Gizmoss

Contact Chris Jones 07580 195561 crjones5691@gmail.com

West Northants Woodturners

Wednesday 5th November Adrian Finch

Wednesday 19th November Steve Gordon

Contact Tom Donnely 01327 349093

Trent Valley Woodturners

Wednesday TBD

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

Heart of England Woodturners

Friday November 14th Mike Luck Demo

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

Oct	17	Fri	S	Andy James
Nov	15	Sat	W	Demo, Phil Steele & John Evans
Dec	13	Sat	W	Christmas Party

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
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

Demonstration by Phil Steele & John Evans
Saturday 15th November, Walsgrave Baptist Church

Coming up

Christmas Party Saturday 12th December, Walsgrave Baptist Church