

Coombe Abbey Woodturners NEWSLETTER

August



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.

Committee Members and Contacts

Chairman	Graham Ball
Vice Chairman	Giles Headley
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Lee Cartwright
Secretary	Rod Young
Events Secretary	Patrick Byrne
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 September issue of the Newsletter is:-
Friday 23rd August 2024**

**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



Welcome to the August newsletter. Inside you will find my report on

the demonstration by Gary Rance. Six items and a practise piece was impressive. See page 8.

Beginners, looking for a lathe, should check out the Items For Sale section starting on page 28.

Phil & Giles displayed pieces at Gary Rance's demo. They can be seen on page 32.

Four proud trainees display their efforts on page 33.

Details of the new Eric Taylor Memorial Trophy can be found on page 34.

Our next demonstration is Steve Heeley on Saturday 7th September at Walsgrave. He always gives a good demo so please come along and boost the numbers.

On Bank Holiday Sunday 25th August and Monday 26th, we will be opening the workshop and, weather permitting, having a gazebo to display our wares. Volunteers are needed to help out.

Regards

Rob

Vice-Chairman's Jottings

I write these jottings having learnt, on my return from holiday, that our chairman Graham recently lost his wife Marcia. A sympathy card was presented to Graham, but I'm sure that all members will join with those who were able to sign it, in sending our sincere condolences to Graham and his family at this sad time.



Following on from a low turnout for the Friday evening demo in June, we were disappointed that only twenty or so members came to Walsgrave earlier this month to see Gary Rance demonstrate for us. As usual we were treated to an entertaining and informative day, during which Gary produced a number of projects. Details can be found in this newsletter thanks to Rob's sterling efforts. We really do need more of you to attend these events as we currently invariably make a financial loss on the day. Rob would also appreciate it if members provided additional content for the newsletter. Just a photo or two and a few words would be welcome.

There have been some modifications to the workshop layout: the window display is now fully enclosed to make it dust proof, with sliding rear access doors. Small shelves have been installed beneath the lathes' tool cupboards, for storage of chucks and other tools, and a substantial work surface has been built to facilitate production/assembly of projects. Thanks go to all who helped to make these improvements.

I will take this opportunity to again request that as many members as are able donate a turned piece for our annual raffle, to supplement the named main prizes. Other desirable items, such as bottles of alcoholic beverages, boxes of chocolates or fancy biscuits will also be welcomed. Similarly, the club would appreciate the donation of small turned items that could be sold, via the display cabinet, to raise funds for Air Ambulance.

There have been reports of members not knowing of events that are taking place (or our involvement being cancelled, in the case of Godiva).

Whilst a couple have been late in their organisation, most are advertised in the newsletter and by email. It is incumbent on members to read such communications. Nevertheless, the committee have asked Peter Orange to set up a WhatsApp group to push notification of club activities to members. Graham has a list of member mobile numbers for Peter to use solely for that purpose. It will not become a chat group.

We will be opening the club on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th August, mainly as a final push for selling raffle tickets, prior to the draw being made on the Monday afternoon, but also to demonstrate turning and sell members' work for their benefit and to raise more funds for Air ambulance. The committee hope that you will support the club by coming along to help out, talk to the public, etc.

Until then, enjoy what summer weather we get and turn safely.

Giles

One Line Philosopher:

To be happy for an hour, get drunk. To be happy for a year, fall in love. To be happy for life, take up gardening.

Chinese Proverb

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Proops Brothers

I am very pleased to welcome Proops Brothers once again as a sponsor of this monthly Newsletter magazine. As suppliers and stockists of high quality turning equipment, tools and accessories, it is a great place to start for all your woodturning needs.

Editor

Proops Brothers (A Company Profile)

Proops Brothers Ltd is a family run business based in rural Leicestershire, supplying a vast range of tools for craft & hobby, DIY, model making, jewellery, metal & wood working. Our sister company, Linic Plastics Ltd, is based on the same site and manufactures many of the tools that we sell.

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Gary Rance 13/7/2024

By Rob Sheehan

Gary started off with a training piece, demonstrating how to cut a pommel, a bead, a cove and a v-cut using the spindle roughing gouge, a spindle gouge and a skew chisel. Having warmed up, he proceeded to turn six further items during the day.



Pepper Mill

Gary found a pepper mill in a charity shop. It looked like an oversized Queen chess piece. This is his version of that pepper mill, made with a Cole & Mason mechanism (metal for pepper, nylon for salt). He sells them for £90 a pair and it takes him approximately 5 minutes per mill from stock cut to length & the corners already cut off.

Mounting the pepper mill body in a chuck, Gary drilled a 1 1/2" hole in the base for the mechanism. He then drilled a 7/8" hole all the way through the blank and, using a skew chisel, cleaned up the end. Using a jam chuck in the base hole, Gary brought up the tail stock and used a spindle roughing gouge to turn the blank to round. Gary used a scratch-stock, containing all of the key diameters, to mark the key points before using callipers to take those points down to the required diameter. After cleaning up the top with a skew, Gary turned a bead at the top of the neck, another at the bottom of the neck, a bird's mouth at the base and filets and curves to join up the shapes. He sanded 180 grit to 600 grit. No finish was applied as he said



he uses a spray lacquer which would take too long to dry.

The top was then drilled to take the mechanism shaft and then held on a home-made screw chuck to shape. Again, the scratch-stock gave all the key di-

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Gary Rance demo - continued

ameters and transition points. Gary first turned a spigot to fit into the pepper mill body. A filet, bead and curve led up to the rim. The top was domed. Gary marked the rim with 16 equal divisions and used the corner of a square rasp to create indentations at each of the 16 points. He then used a round rasp to cut half-round indentations all round the rim. The top was sanded 180 grit to 600 grit. Again, he would have sprayed it with lacquer. Finally, Gary used a reamer to widen the drilled hole to take a plastic insert that drives the pepper mill shaft.



Left -
Charity shop pepper
mill.

Right -
Gary's version.



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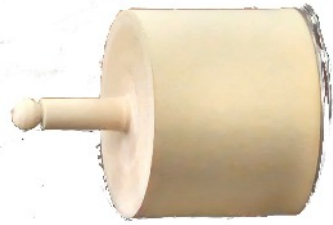


Works submitted must be your own and must be made using at least one product purchased from Turners Retreat.

Gary Rance demo - continued

Humming Top

Gary's second project was a humming spinning top made from Tulipwood (Beech or Maple would be better). Holding the 2" square by 2 1/2" long blank between a steb drive and live centre, he turned it to round and cut a chuck spigot on the end.



Holding it in a chuck, Gary turned the handle approx 7mm diameter with a ball on the end. He then turned a 6mm bead on the rim before colouring it with felt pens. Gary cut a step behind the bead and parted off, leaving part of the step as a witness mark on the body.



Gary turned another bead 20mm down from the top. He then drilled a (6mm?) hole halfway down the body but not all the way through. He then hollowed the body down to the bead. Mounting it on a jam chuck, Gary shaped the bottom to a point.



After colouring the body and base, Gary glued the top to the base with super glue. He then used a square file to make the hole in the side square rather than round and the two horizontal sides of the square hole were tapered at 45° by angling the file and removing material from inside the body, leaving the outside of the hole square.

Unfortunately, when he tried it, it became a tippy-top and turned upside down and spun on its handle. There was a bit of a hum.



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Gary Rance demo - continued

Humming Top Handle

Continuing with the spinning top, Gary turned a handle to hold the top while you wound string and pulled to set it spinning.

He drilled a 7mm hole at the end of the handle blank. It's easier to do this when the blank is still square.



Using another scratch-stock, he marked the positions of each transition and, using callipers, turned them down to the required diameter.



Gary then turned the beads, coves and balls before colouring it with felt pens.



The completed Humming Top and Handle (that behaved like a tippy top).



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Gary Rance demo - continued

Gary's third project, just before lunch was an **Egg in Laburnum**. He has a customer who collects wooden eggs, so any time he gets an interesting timber, he turns an egg for him.

For this project, Gary used a continental spindle gouge. Continental gouges are forged from flat stock, originally by a blacksmith, whereas "modern" spindle gouges are milled from round bar.



Starting with a log of Laburnum 3" long and 2" diameter, Gary mounted it between a steb drive and a live centre. He removed the bark and turned it to round before turning the ends down to about 10mm. Gary marked the high point just off centre and curved down each end. Switching to a skew, he turned the ends down further. He then sanded 180 grit to 600 grit and applied two coats of friction polish. Then a coat of carnauba wax was buffed to a high shine. After reducing the tail stock end even more, he parted through at the drive end.





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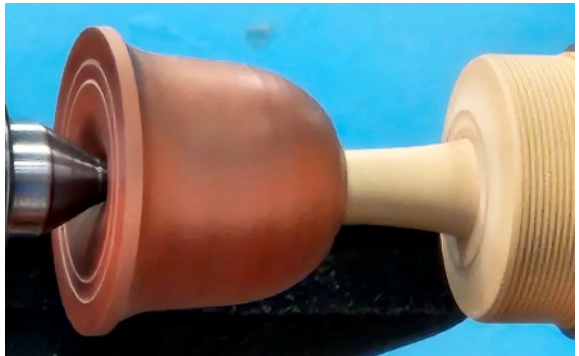
Gary Rance demo - continued

Bell Salt Shaker with Threaded Handle

Starting with a very dry Bubinga blank 3" long and 1 3/4" square, Gary used 1 1/2" of it to make the funnel and the rest to make the bell. Reducing the funnel diameter to 40mm, Gary left a 3mm flat to glue into the bell and curved the rest down to the tail stock, leaving the end about 10mm diameter. After mounting it in a chuck, he drilled a 3mm hole down the centre of the funnel and parted off the funnel.



Gary then drilled a 12mm hole all the way through the bell, before hollowing out the bell using a spindle gouge, and leaving a flat on the end to match the flat on the funnel. What he should have done next, was to tap the hole. Instead, he glued in the funnel. Holding the piece onto a jam chuck through the hole, Gary shaped the outside of the bell. He then tapped the hole, off the lathe, with a 19 tpi tap. The difficulty was the funnel at the bottom of the hole that prevented the tap from going all the way (hence do it when the blank is still held in the chuck) but the threads went deep enough so it wasn't a problem.



The handle was turned from a piece of Ebony held between centres. Another scratch-stock template gave the positions and measurements. With the lathe running at 350 rpm, Gary used a hand chaser to thread the handle. The thread was too big, so he



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CHRIS PARKER MARY ASHTON ANDREW HALL GARY RANCE



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Gary Rance demo - continued

took the tops off the threads and cut it deeper. This was repeated until the handle was a good fit for the bell. The shaker is filled by tipping it upside down and pouring the salt through the funnel. Shaking it up and down lets the salt come out. Gary finished it off with a coat of gloss lacquer.



Gary's tip: For this project, the timber to make the bell must be bone dry as any moisture will be absorbed by the salt and it will clog up.



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Gary Rance demo - continued

Gary's next project was a **Finial Box** in Laburnum based on a Chris Stott design.

Starting with a branch 4" long and 2" diameter, he turned it to round, added a chuck spigot and marked a line 1 1/2" from the tail stock end for the body of the box.



Mounting it in a chuck, Gary turned a bead and bird's mouth at the base of the lid/finial and turned the same shapes but smaller, about halfway up. The top of the finial consists of a bead and a teardrop. This was sanded and finished with friction polish followed by carnauba wax.



After parting off the finial, Gary hollowed out the body, leaving a step for the top. It took a few tweaks to get the size right. He used friction polish on the inside but left it matt by rubbing with fine wire wool.

Mounting the box on a jam chuck, Gary turned the chucking spigot into the foot of the box and shaped the outside to a continuous curve. A few woodworm holes were filled with super glue and sanded to fill the holes with sawdust. He sanded the outside, applied friction polish and a final coat of wax for a glossy shine.



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Gary Rance demo - continued

Gary's next project was a **letter opener** in Sapele. Using a 5" long by 1" square blank, he drilled a 4mm hole in the end by holding the drill bit in a drill chuck held by chuck jaws. 4mm is the size of the letter opener tang.



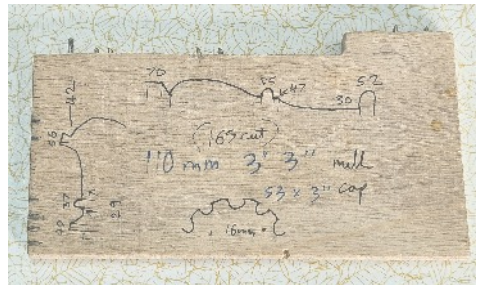
With the live centre in the 4mm hole and a step drive at the other end, Gary started to shape the handle using a scratch-stock template.



Beads, coves and filets were turned followed by sanding and a coat of spray lacquer as a hard finish is required for something that will be handled a lot.



Scratch-stock for letter opener with nail points at key transitions and key measurements.



The final letter opener.



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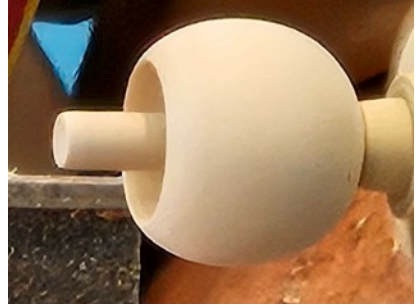
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Gary Rance demo - continued

Since his earlier attempt to create a humming top failed (it acted as a **tippy-top**), Gary demonstrated how to make a real tippy-top. Starting with Sycamore 35mm square and 3 1/2" long, Gary turned it to round and shaped a peg 10mm long and 7mm diameter. He then hollowed the body down to a depth of 14mm.



From the centre line, Gary rounded over the front half down to the recess. He also rounded over the back half and parted off.



Using a jam chuck to fit over the peg, he finished rounding over the back. This must be round. It must not come to a point. Gary then used felt pens to colour it.



The final tippy-top.

Spin with the peg upright (as shown), it flips over and continues to spin on the peg.



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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.

Peter Smith - Items For Sale

For sale: an Axminster Awwsl100 lathe with two chucks and various other things. A set of Henry Taylor chisels and an Axminster Dust extractor Awede2. I'm looking for £750 Ono. I'm in Nuneaton.
Contact: petersmith11353@gmail.com



Equipment for sale - continued

Trent Valley Woodturners - Six Lathes For Sale

Trent Valley Woodturners have six identical lathes for sale for **£850** each. The lathes will be available around mid August.

The lathes are not badged but are almost equivalent to the Sturmer Holzstar DB 1202 lathe. These are on sale in this country by at least 3 dealers priced new between £2700 and £3000+. Manuals for the lathes are also available free on the Internet.

Our lathes are about 10 years old, the only differences I can see are the new DB1202 have a turning wheel on the left of the head stock and an emergency stop on the top of the head stock.

Our workshop is in Kegworth on the village hall site. If you wish to inspect the lathes, please get in touch and I will arrange a suitable time. The lathes will come with a chuck, faceplate, tool rest and rotating centre. The Camvac and the castor system are not included in the sale.

Keith Hicklin. Secretary. trentvalleywoodturners@outlook.com



Equipment for sale - continued

FOR SALE (Due to upgrading to a Herald)

Record Power CL1 lathe (bought 2020) £350

Fitted with Speed Genie variable speed unit (2023).

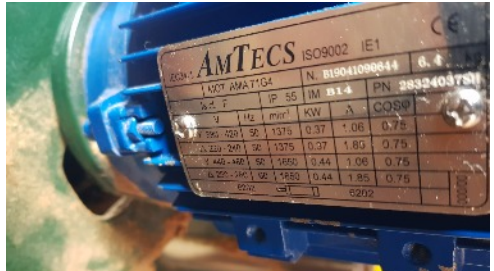
Also has new quick release banjo.

Bench mounting

To include some MT1 centres with a 2MT adaptor and 2 gouges.

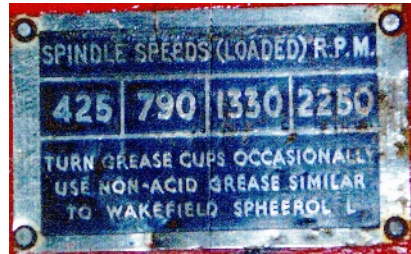
Collection only, from Narborough, Leicestershire

Contact Giles Headley in first instance.



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.



Members' Work



Phil Steele

Bowl turned on a Pole lathe and his hand-made hook tool (made on a blacksmithing course) used to turn it.

Giles Headley Miniature chair



Workshop Training



Club member Dexter.
Bowl with burnt line decoration.
Taught by Rob Sheehan.

Club member Georgina.
Square Bowl.
Taught by Rob Sheehan.



First lesson Father and Son.
Father. Bud vase.
Taught by Rob Sheehan.
Son. Goblet.
Taught by Lee Cartwright.

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.

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.

Eric Taylor Memorial Trophy

The club has a new cut-glass trophy to be awarded to the best piece displayed at a demonstration.

In future, we may specify what item should be turned to win the trophy.



WhatsApp Group

The committee are proposing to set up a WhatsApp group to keep members better informed. It will be read-only (no posting). Keep watching for further updates.

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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 August 6th Demo by Paul Hannaby

Contact Steve Obrien 01788-521527

Tudor Rose Woodturners

Thursday 8 August Hands On

Thursday 22 August Bryan Brumfield Demonstration

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

West Midlands Woodturners

Sunday 18th August Demonstration – Jason Breach

Contact John Hooper 0121 354 8464

West Northants Woodturners

Wednesday 7th August Ian Ethell

Wednesday 21st August Chuckle Brothers – Roger Gilbert and Dave Simms

Contact Tom Donnely 01327 349093

Trent Valley Woodturners

Wednesday 14th August 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
Bank Holiday Sunday/Monday 25/26 August	Coombe Workshop	
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 September 7th
Steve Heeley
Walsgrave Baptist Church
10 am start**

Coming up

Friday October 18th Lee Cartwright