

Coombe Abbey Woodturners NEWSLETTER

August



2026

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

**Copy Deadline for the September 2026 issue of the Newsletter is:-
Monday 24th August 2026**

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

Editor's Jottings	3
Chairman's Jottings	4
One Line Philosopher	5
This month's Sponsor	6
Warwick Races	8
Cartwheel Hub	12
Paul Bellamy	20
Nick Adams	24
Phil Jones	28
Items For Sale	31
Notices	34
Activities of Other Clubs	35
Coombe branded items	36
Calendar of Events	38

Advertisers

CSM Abrasives Plus	7
Proops Brothers	9
TMS Volvo	11
Turners Retreat	13
Charnwood	15
Crown Hand Tools	17
Henry Taylor	19
Motor Control Warehouse	21
Chestnut Products	23
Hamlet	25
Yandles	27
Record Power	29

From the Editor



No demonstrations this month, so I've come up with several demos from the Hinckley club.

The club was at Stratford Racecourse. The hot and windy day was a welcome change to the freezing day at Warwick races last year. Pictures are on page 8.

I'm turning a cartwheel hub on page 12. The biggest and heaviest thing I've turned and I had to turn three more!

Paul Bellamy turns a Scottish whiskey flask on page 20.

Nick Adams makes period musical instruments and long bows. He can be found on page 24.

Phil Jones turns a pig-shaped salt/peper shaker on page 28.

Our next demo is on Friday 28th August at Shilton. The demonstrator will be club member Peter Wright.

The club will be at Town Thorns care home on Sunday 2nd August and demonstrating at Coombe over the bank holiday Sunday/Monday.

Regards

Rob

Editor's Jottings

Hi everyone,

Lee is busy with family matters again this month so I am filling in for him. The club had a successful day at Stratford Races selling approx £80 in raffle tickets and also selling a few charity items. Thanks to all who helped on the day or contributed pieces.



We will be attending Town Thorns care home CV23 0JE, on Sunday 2nd August. It is their summer fete and classic car show. Volunteers to help out would be very welcome.

Our demonstrator this month is club member Peter Wright. Please support him and the club by attending on Friday 28th August at Shilton Village Hall.

At the end of the month, we will be selling the final raffle tickets and making the draw over the Bank Holiday Sunday/Monday 30/31st August. Volunteers please, to help over the two days.

We should be getting a new fridge for the workshop soon. The current one is not keeping the milk fresh. It will be sited near the tea urn. Please return the milk back to the fridge after using it, rather than leaving it out to go off. It will be plugged into the socket next to the boiler socket. Please do not turn it off by mistake. It will be labeled.

Finally, some pictures from my visit to RHS Bridgewater (near Manchester) and the nearby Jodrell Bank radio telescope. This has been in the news recently as its funding is being withdrawn.



Kind Regards

Rob



To give scale to the photo, the yellow circle is around two men in a cherry picker.

One Line Philosopher:

“History repeats itself, first as tragedy than as farce.”

Karl Marx 1851

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Editor

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Stratford Racecourse 12/7/2026

The club was invited to have a stand at the family day at Stratford Racecourse. So we took our new gazebo, the charity items, raffle tickets and a powered lathe. It was a very hot day. Most people in our area were sitting under their gazebos having a picnic. We sold about £80 in raffle tickets and a few charity items.



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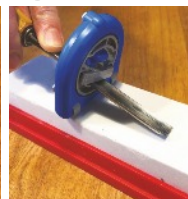
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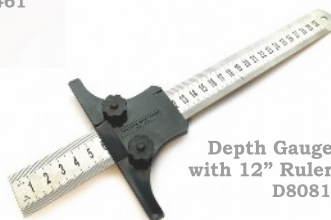
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Stratford Racecourse - continued



I know nothing about horses, so I didn't have a bet.

A velociraptor entertaining the kids.



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By Rob Sheehan



A large wooden barrel is being shaped on a lathe. The lathe is a white machine with a black 'JET' logo on the front. The barrel is mounted on the lathe's bed, and its surface is being turned. The background shows a workshop with wooden walls and various tools hanging on the wall.

Hand-drawn technical drawing of a mechanical part, likely a bracket or support. The drawing includes the following dimensions and features:

- Top horizontal dimensions: $1\frac{1}{8}$, $9\frac{1}{2}$, and $3\frac{1}{2}$.
- Left vertical dimension: $4\frac{1}{2}$.
- Bottom left vertical dimension: 80mm .
- Right vertical dimension: 10 .
- Bottom right vertical dimension: 68mm .
- Bottom horizontal dimension: $1\frac{1}{2}$.
- Handwritten notes:
 - Top right: "Sketch Has No. 1"
 - Below sketch: "Dim's"
 - Bottom right: "12/5/14"
 - Bottom right: "J.B.B."
 - Center right: "2. 5/16"
 - Bottom right: "N. Don. M.C. 6422"

12

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Cartwheel Hub - continued



Mounted on lathe with support from tail stock.



First cuts. 300 rpm. I'm using a 1 1/2" bowl gouge.



Hollowing the outside end of the hub. 8" recess, 3 1/2" deep. I used a parting tool to start; a parting and beading tool when the overhang got larger and finished using a mix of gouges, hollowing tools and scrapers.



Hollowing complete. Centre drilled using a 65mm saw tooth bit in a Jacob's chuck. Drill would only reach 2/3 the way through, so I have to drill from the other end to complete the axle hole.

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- 19mm (3/4") Round Nose Scraper

Individual Chisels also available to Buy

Cartwheel Hub - continued



Inside end of the hub trued up and a 80mm x 1 1/4" recess cut. Drilling the axle hole on the inside of the hub. It exactly met the hole partially drilled from the other end!



Taper cut for the first iron band. Unlike the originals, these will be fitted cold.



Hub inner iron band loosely placed on the taper. It will be hammered home at a later date.



Longer taper cut on outer end of hub and both iron bands loosely fitted.

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Cartwheel Hub - continued



Hub turning complete. Index markings for the 12 spokes are just visible around the centre.



Hub outer end. Recess allows room to fit a nut onto the end of the threaded axle.



Hub inner end.



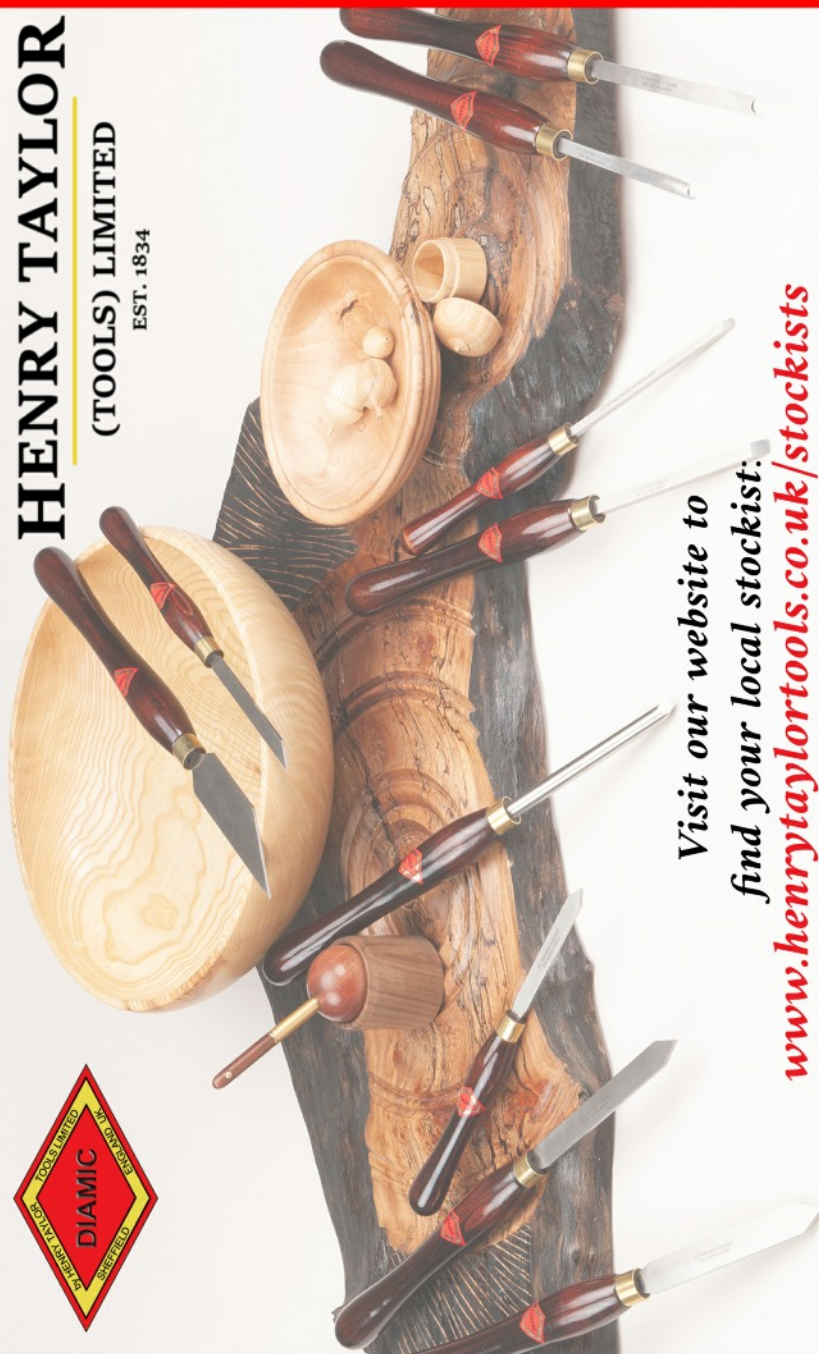
Newly turned hub with iron bands from the original cartwheel. Just three more to make!



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Paul Bellamy 20/3/2018

By Rob Sheehan



Paul's project for the evening was a Scottish water flask made from Beech and Black Walnut. The project is inspired by a similar flask made by Colin Fisher.

The flask is turned about two centres, so the clearance over the bed will limit the maximum size of this item. Using the approximate proportions $\frac{1}{3}$ neck to $\frac{2}{3}$ body, Paul marked out the basic shape and turning centres on a rectangular block of Beech about 8"x4"x2".

He also drilled an 8mm hole for a screw chuck in the centre of the body. As it is to contain a liquid, Paul suggested a close grained wood.

Mounting the piece lengthways between centres, Paul started on the basic shape. He always roughs out the whole shape before refining it later which allows him to see, and possibly alter, the shape as he goes along. At first, there is a lot of fresh air being turned compared to the amount of wood. Because of this, Paul uses a strong bowl gouge and turns at a high lathe speed to get a good finish. Paul cut a chucking



spigot on the bottom of the flask, to allow it to be hollowed. Due to the unusual shape, this will only be held on two jaws, but Paul is happy this will have sufficient grip to be safe. Paul tapered the neck and turned a bead and a cove, followed by a similar bead and cove at the base. After re-sharpening his bowl gouge, Paul made the last finishing cuts. He then burned two rings near the base before sanding from 120 grit to 400 grit. After parting off, Paul mounted the piece in the chuck jaws and drilled a hole down the centre. He used a box scraper to widen and taper the hole at the neck and finished the top with a chamfer. Paul then sanded the bottom on a lathe mounted arbor.



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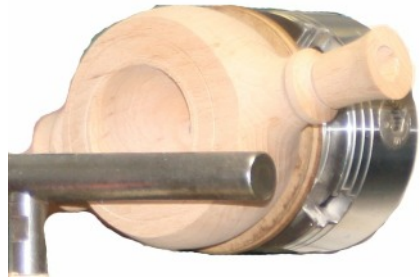
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Paul now mounted the piece sideways on a screw chuck, using a previously drilled hole in the centre of the body. He used a light push cut to tidy up the face before using a spindle gouge to hollow out the body. The hole size should match a set of chuck jaws as it will be held on the hole while the other side is hollowed. Paul uses the Robert Sorby RS200 toothpick hollowing tool. He uses the depth of the cutter as a guide, to leave the wall thickness about 1/4". The entrance hole needs to have a square shoulder to take the bung that will be turned later. After sanding, the piece is reversed onto the chuck jaws and the other side is hollowed. Paul uses Rustins Plastic Coating to seal the inside.



As a contrast, the two bungs are made from a different coloured wood. Holding the bung blank between a scrap of wood covered by router mat, and the live centre, Paul first cut a spigot to fit into the hole in the body. He then mounted the bung in the chuck and turned several beads to decorate the outside. Paul uses melamine lacquer and carnuba wax as a finish.

The flask top is now mounted in the chuck and a 6mm spigot cut. Paul mounts half a cork in the chuck and drills a corresponding 6mm hole with a lip and spur drill bit at a fast speed so as not to damage the cork. The cork is glued onto the spigot with PVA. Paul like to taper the top down to a bead, making it look like a thistle. The bottom of the cork is faced off and the cork's taper matched to the tapered neck of the flask. Sanding and another couple of burnt lines finish the top.





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Nick Adams 18/4/2017

By Rob Sheehan



Nick was a surprise guest. He didn't want a lathe (not a good start) but his knowledge and enthusiasm for making long bows and period musical instruments soon won us over. The lute in the picture was based on a 1580's instrument in the Vienna museum. Nick made his own plans from photos and the available historical research. As well as



the lute, Nick has made a Plucked Psaltery and woodwind instruments. He

likes to make his own tools. See below for examples.



Back to longbows. Many tens of thousands of bows were produced during the hundred years war but few survived, so knowledge was limited. The Mary Rose discovery with its huge range of well preserved artefacts, including longbows, greatly increased our knowledge of the period. Each longbow is tailored to the user. The length is approximately the person's height plus one hand (4"). The standard draw would be about 28" with a force of 120lbs. Modern bows are made from



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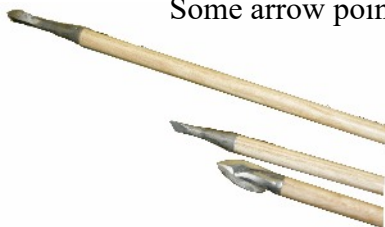
laminated timber. Traditional English longbows were made from Italian Alpine Yew, using both the sap and heart wood. The energy is stored in the compressed wood, and the whole of the bow bends, not just the thinner ends. Notched horn end caps would hold a hemp, flax or silk string. Arrows would be custom made. The length must match the archer's draw. The arrow's weight must take into account the draw strength and the expected weapon's range. Tips and flights also varied. The range of a longbow would be up to 350yds, with arrows fired at a rate of about six per minute. An archer would be supplied with 60 or 70 arrows, so they would have to be rationed during battle.



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Phil Jones 17/4/2018

By Rob Sheehan



Phil has been turning for 34 years. He started by showing us how to sharpen tools by hand, without the use of a jig. Then he demonstrated the use of the skew chisel to create a square pommel followed by a radiused pommel and, finally, he used a gouge to turn an ogee. Phil's first project for the evening was a pig-shaped salt & pepper shaker. This was based on an example he found in a charity shop. Made from Sapele, Phil turned the blank to round, cleaned up the end and turned a chucking spigot. After

mounting in a chuck, he faced off the end, marked the centre with a skew chisel and drilled the blank, leaving only about 1/4" at the other end. Phil turned the outside to about 50mm diameter and used a template to mark the position of the legs, ears and eyes. The legs and ears go in at an angle marked on the template. Phil drilled the holes now, so the later shaping removes any breakout. He rounded the rear of the pig, starting at the centre and ending at the hole diameter. The front was rounded a bit, but left oversize to provide strength when hollowing. Phil hollowed out the pig using a scraper. He then finished the out-



side to an egg shape,

leaving a spigot for the nose. After sanding, Phil parted off and sanded the last bit using a chuck-mounted sanding disc. Underneath the nose, Phil sanded a flat for the mouth and drilled five holes



in the nose. Larger holes for salt and smaller holes for pepper.

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Phil Jones - continued

Phil said that a larger version could be used as a money box. He then turned the legs and ears from a dowel of the same wood. The ears have a curved shape that Phil made by sanding one side on a chuck-mounted sanding drum. He then turned the tail, which acts as the filling point. A cork bung is glued onto the tail spigot and sanded until it is a tight fit. Phil was asked if he sealed the inside of the shakers. He said that as he never uses dangerous timbers (Yew, Laburnum, etc.) for his food projects, he doesn't seal them.



Phil then turned a shallow Sapele dish to hold the salt & pepper shakers. This needs to be flat inside, as a base for the shakers. It also had a shallow lip and was slightly curved on the bottom.

Phil then gave a demonstration of screw cutting, using an African Blackwood off-cut. Turning the female thread first, he hollowed out the blank and cut a recess at the end of the thread. Phil then used hand chasers to cut an 18 tpi thread at about 400 rpm.

Measuring the female thread diameter, Phil turned a male spigot slightly larger. After cutting another recess at the end of the thread, Phil cut the male thread. As it was too large, Phil cut the tops off the threads using a gouge and re-cut the thread.



Phil's final project for the evening was a mushroom in Laburnum.



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.

Workzone Lathe For Sale



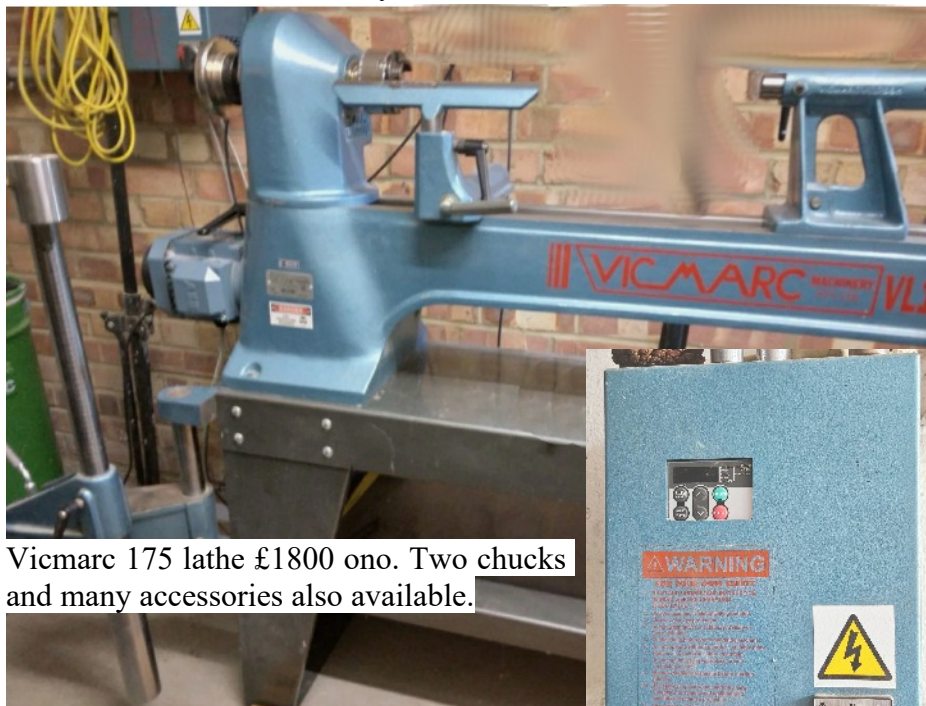
Offers in the region of £170.00.

See Mike Smith at Coombe Abbey Wood Turners

Or ring 07866192621.

Items for Sale - continued

Former club member Peter Doonan is downsizing. Contact Pete on petedoonan72@gmail.com if you are interested in any item. Collection only from CV6 1PR.



Vicmarc 175 lathe £1800 ono. Two chucks and many accessories also available.

Wood - £5 per spindle or bowl blank.



Items for Sale - continued

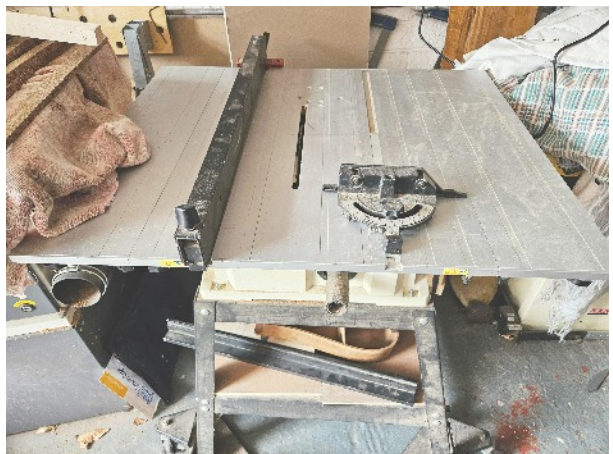


Wood - £5 per spindle or bowl blank.

Axminster planer thicknesser.
Refurbished by Axminster. £100.



Table saw. Rip fence
+ mitre fence. £50.



Notices

Workshop Behaviour

It has been brought to the attention of the committee that, on occasion, banter in the workshop has got a bit heated. May we remind you that it is a public place and what one person regards as banter, another may find as offensive. Please balance individual expression with maintaining a productive, inclusive workplace.

Your Committee

Town Thorns Care Home Summer Fete

We will be attending the Town Thorns summer fete and classic car show again this year on Sunday August 2nd. Volunteers please, to help on the day.

Address: Brinklow Rd, Easenhall, Rugby CV23 0JE

Wanted - Raffle Prize Donations

Donations please for the August Bank Holiday raffle prize draw. We would like more raffle prizes. Wine, chocolates, biscuits, good turned items etc.

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 4 PAT Testing + Hands-On

Tuesday August 18 Hands-On

Contact Rob Sheehan 07905185122

Tudor Rose Woodturners

Thursday 13 August Stan Bird / Peter Briggs Demonstration

Thursday 27 August Steve Kearvel Demonstration

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

West Midlands Woodturners

Sunday 16th August Demonstration – Emma Cook

Contact Chris Jones 07580 195561 crjones5691@gmail.com

West Northants Woodturners

Wednesday 5th August Geoff Ware

Wednesday 19th August Ian George

Contact Tom Donnely 01327 349093

Heart of England Woodturners

Friday 14th August - Steve Gordon

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 2026

May	1/2	Fri/Sat		Woodworks at Daventry
	4	Mon	C	Early May Bank Holiday
	9	Sat		Town Thorns Care Home
	22	Fri	S	Rob Sheehan
	25	Mon	C	Spring Bank Holiday
Jun	13	Sat		Broughton Astley Carnival
	26	Fri	S	Paddy Byrne
Jul	12	Sun		Stratford Race Course
Aug	2	Sun		Town Thorns Care Home
	28	Fri	S	Peter Wright
	29/30	Sat/Sun		Chestnut Woodturning Weekender
	30/31	Sun/Mon	C	August Bank Holiday
Sept	5	Sat	W	Pottery - Giles Headley
	25	Fri	S	Phil Steele & Paddy Byrne
Oct	10/11	Sat/Sun		AWGB Festival, Stratford on Avon
	23	Fri	S	Ian Ethel
Nov	14	Sat	W	Robert Till
Dec	12	Sat	W	Christmas Party

Meeting Locations:

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

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

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

Next Meeting

Friday 28th August. Demo by Peter Wright. Shilton

Coming up

Saturday 5th September, Pottery demo by Giles Headley