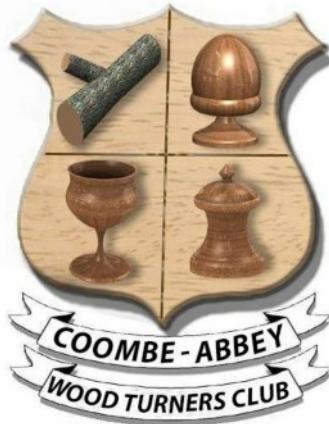


Coombe Abbey Woodturners NEWSLETTER

February

2026



This Month's Sponsor

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HEALTH & SAFETY NOTICE

Woodturning can be dangerous! Always follow the manufacturers' instructions and safety advice when operating power tools. Never try the techniques shown at our demonstrations or in our Newsletter if you are unsure or the procedure does not feel safe. Always use the guarding and other safety equipment.

The Club takes reasonable care to operate and instruct in a safe manner and strongly recommends all members to follow the Club's Health and Safety rules and the guidance notes that the AWGB issue in their Revolutions magazine from time to time.

Committee Members and Contacts

Chairman, Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Lee Cartwright
Vice Chairman	Giles Headley
Secretary & Library Custodian	Peter Orange
Events Secretary	Patrick Byrne
Newsletter & Web Site Editor	Rob Sheehan
Training Coordinator	Michael Archer
	Graham Ball
	Rod Young
	Phil Steele
	Graham Hudspith
	Gillian Henley-Clover

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

Copy Deadline for the March 2026 issue of the Newsletter is:-
Tuesday 24th February 2026

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

In this issue:
Competition presentations on page 8.
My Pen Turning Hands-On session at Coombe on page 12.
Giles constructs a very interesting Puffin Automaton on page 30.
Workshop teaching is on page 34.
Items for Sale on page 36.
A non-club member Gordon Phillips, has very kindly donated the contents of his workshop to the Coombe Woodturning Club. Some details can be found on page 36. His Record Power CL4 lathe & Tormek T7 can be seen at the Coombe Workshop. Prices for the other items will be decided at the next committee meeting on 1st February. Contact me if you want further details.

The Daventry Show (1st/2nd May) will be slightly different this year as, due to building work, it will be split over the main hall and the Saxon Suite (right hand side as you enter the building). More woodturning clubs and more traders will be there this year, so book the date now. Free parking and free entry make it a show not to be missed.

Regards
Bob



Chairman's Jottings

Hi everyone hope you are all well.

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year if I have not yet seen you in person.

We have had our first Demo/Hands on session at Coombe workshop Pen Turning which was taken by Rob Sheehan and was well attended by six members and 3 observers.

The workshop has been busy with members attending on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week.

We now need to start planning for Daventry woodworks 2026

The main competition piece is a Bowl of fruit, so if you are interested in turning pieces of fruit or a large bowl please approach one of the committee or drop of your pieces at the workshop with your name on them so pieces can be chosen for the final piece.

Also, if you are interested in taking part in one of the other competitions over the weekend of Daventry, please put your name forward to the committee. We don't have the list of items yet for these competitions.

We will also want volunteers to take equipment and help set up so again please let us know if you want to help.

Moving forward through 2026 we have been busy looking at what events and Demos are going to be in the calendar this year, Paddy will be busy looking at further Friday evening dates for Demos and also for willing demonstrators. We as a committee have been looking at possible new events to help with both raising charity funds and club funds during 2026. We will be discussing a possible further two new events at the committee meeting on the 1st February, so keep your eye on the next newsletter



We have produced a tri fold with all information confirmed as far as possible, but this will be added to through the next few months and will be available to print as part of the newsletters.

Club and AWGB memberships are now due (to be paid by end of January)

Membership fees 2026:

Club Membership £15, AWGB membership Single £24 - Family £36.

These can be paid using

Cash, Card or bank transfer

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REF YOUR NAME PLEASE

I look forward seeing as many of you as possible at Walsgrave Baptist church on Saturday 14th March, for the Chris Parker Demo.

I hope you all continue to enjoy turning throughout 2026 and join us at the upcoming events throughout the year.

That's all from me for now. I hope to see you all in the New Year.

Stay safe, keep turning. Remember YOUR Club needs your support.

Kind Regards

Lee

One Line Philosopher:

“Abstract art is a product of the untalented, sold by the unprincipled to the utterly bewildered.”

Al Capp 1961

This Month's Newsletter Sponsor

Henry Taylor Tools

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

Editor

Henry Taylor Tools (A Company Profile)

Henry Taylor have been manufacturing tools since 1834. The company has won many awards for the quality of its tools both at home and abroad. Using Sheffield's best steel and combining the traditional pride and skills of those far off days with the aids of modern technology ensures that the finest of cutting edges is not only achieved but also maintained.

Paul Wragg, the current managing director, bought the company in 2017. By maintaining the traditional values of service and quality, he is ensuring that Henry Taylor's legacy is maintained so that woodturners, woodcarvers and woodworkers world-wide, can enjoy the best tools available today.

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Competition Winner Presentations 2026



Rhodes Trophy Winner
Rod Young



Austins' Trophy Winner
Peter Orange



Jim Elliott Trophy Winner
Phil Steele



Motor Control Warehouse offers high-quality **inverters and motors** specifically designed for lathes, delivering performance, reliability, and flexibility for both hobbyists and industrial workshops.

Run 3-Phase Motors on a Single-Phase 230V Supply

With our inverters, you can easily run a **3-phase motor from a standard single-phase 230V supply**, provided the motor is rated for 230V 3-phase operation. This opens up the possibility of using powerful 3-phase motors in environments where only single-phase power is available, without compromising on performance.

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- Expert support in selecting the right motor and inverter combination
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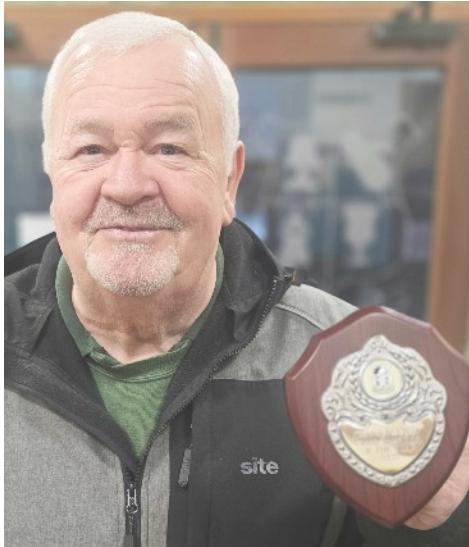
Competition Winner Presentations 2026 - continued



Roger Warren-Finding Shield
Winner &
Woodturner of the Year
Michael Archer



Roy Nichols Trophy Winner
Carole Nicholson



Coombe Member of the Year
Danny Rooney



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Pen Turning Hands-On

By Rob Sheehan

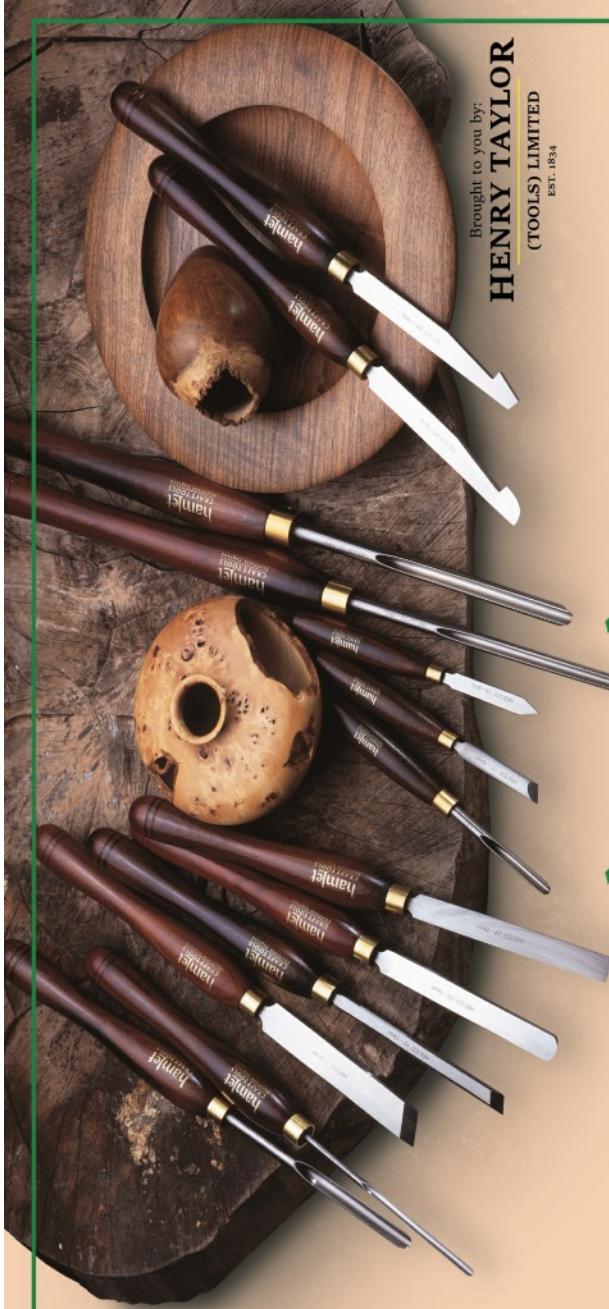
In my time with Axminster Tools, I gave several demos on Pen Turning. This time, I decided a hands-on approach would be better. Six people signed-up for the session at the Coombe workshop. Lee kindly dropped out to give others a chance. Roger & Phil shared a lathe and three members new to pen turning, had a lathe each. The results are shown below.



Above:
Sarah & Jacque.

Right:
Alan & Phil.





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Pen Turning Hands-On - continued

A typical 7mm twist pen kit as used by the students on the pen turning session. Cost around £3 for one or £2 each if bought in bulk. Maybe less if bought directly from China.



A more expensive pen kit from America (bought through Axminster). Typically £15 upwards. Better quality parts & Parker-style refil.



A selection of Pen Blanks

Kirinite. This size typically used for bottle stoppers.

Acrylic.

Laminated wood.

Acrylic.

Kirinite glitter.

Corian.

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Acrylic.

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Pen Turning Hands-On - continued

Pen Turning Stages

1. Choose pen kit and pen blank.
2. Mark length of brass tube on pen blank adding 1 to 2mm.
3. Mark across the centre to keep the blanks aligned.
4. Cut the blank to length including the extra mm for each tube.
5. Drill the blanks with a 7mm drill bit from the centre outwards.
6. Rough up the brass tube and glue it into the blank.
7. Use a barrel trimmer to cut the blank back to the brass tube.
8. Mount the blanks on the pen mandrel with a bushing either side of each pen blank.
9. Turn down to size & shape. The bushings give the diameter of the ends of the pen blanks.
10. Sand, polish & finish with a robust finish.
11. Assemble the pen kit using a pen press.
12. Present the pen in a velvet pen pouch or display box.



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Pen Turning Hands-On - continued



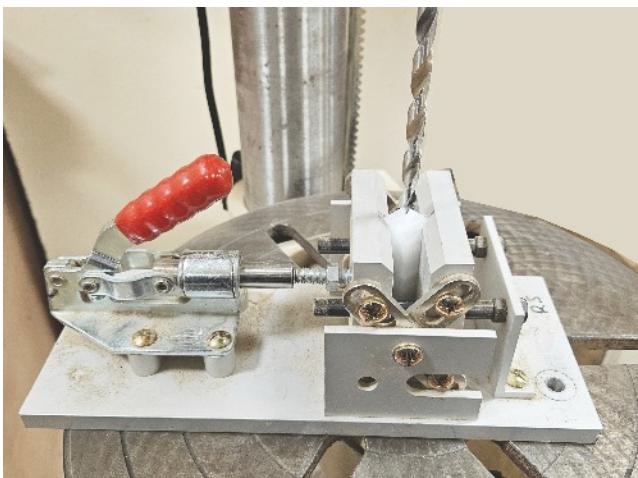
Above: Pen mandrel fitted with 7mm bushings.

Axminster pen jaws holding a pen blank ready for drilling on the lathe.

These are my choice for drilling pen blanks.



Pen blank drilling jig for use on a pillar drill. Once aligned and clamped, the jaws self-centre regardless of the pen blank size.



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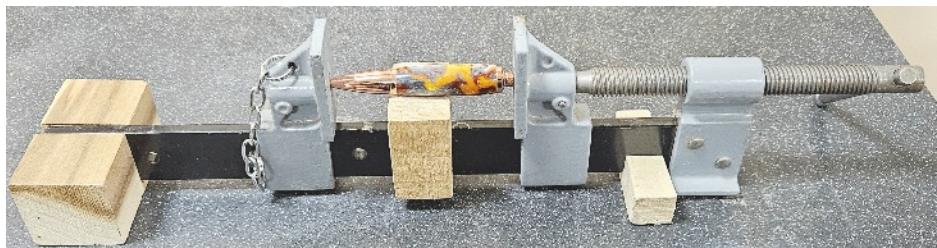
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Pen Turning Hands-On - continued

Once the pen blanks have been turned to size and shape, the metal pen kit fittings are pushed into the brass tubes using a pen press. Anything that can press, can be used e.g. bench vice, lathe tail stock or pillar drill. A commercial pen assembly/disassembly press can be used or a home-made pen press.

My home-made pen press, made from a shortened sash clamp. The fine thread give good control when pressing the pieces together.



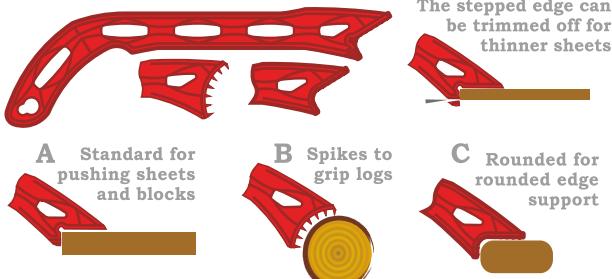
The Axminster pen assembly and disassembly jig. A soft nylon cup holds the fitting while the lever activated plunger pushes the pieces together. The rods shown back left, are used to disassemble a pen kit.



Push sticks



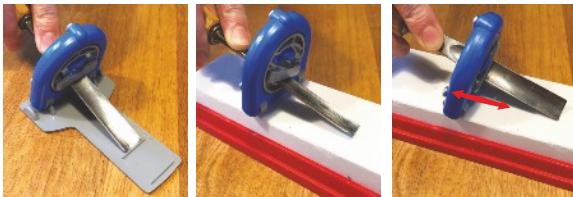
3 Types of Push-Sticks J8088



Sharpening jigs



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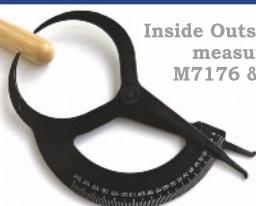
25mm File
Sander W3201

Handy Sander
W3293

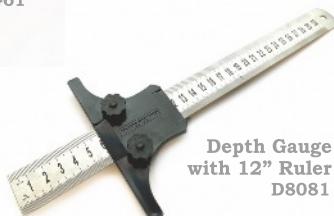


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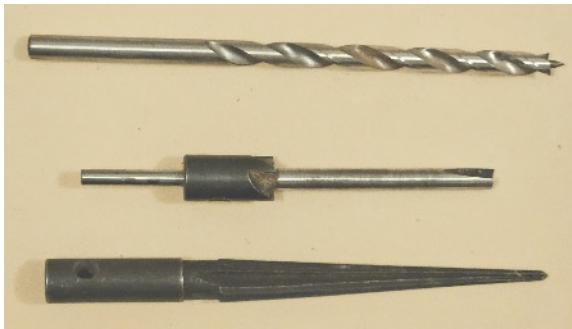
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Pen Turning Hands-On - continued

Medium thickness super glue used to glue the brass tube inside the pen blank.

The super glue activator ensures the glue has cured all along the brass tube.

If I am making several pen kits, I might use epoxy adhesive e.g. Araldite instead. It is messier but gives a better hold.



A 7mm drill bit and a 7mm barrel trimmer. If glue gets inside the brass tube, I use a tapered reamer to clean it out.

When moving away from the simple 7mm twist pen kits, the size of brass tube & hence the size of the drill bit varies considerably. The 7mm barrel trimmer can no longer be used and a “Universal” barrel trimmer has to be used. This caters for more but not all, tube sizes.



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Pen Turning Hands-On - continued

Bushings for a simple 7mm twist pen kit.

Bushings for a Sierra pen kit. Requires a 27/64" drill bit, hence the larger bushings with a step to hold the brass tube on a 7mm mandrel.

The largest bushings that I have for use with the Axminster "Eggoscope" pen kit. Requires a 13/16" drill bit.



My collection of bushings. All labelled with the matching pen kit. There is another layer of bushings below the visible layer.



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



Scan me!

Pen Turning Hands-On - continued

Sheet1

Kit Code	Description	Bushings	Drill(s) required
101638	Knight armour twist pen (pewter)	101665	9.5mm
101639	Bolt action pen kit (chrome)	101660	3/8"
101640	Mini bolt action pen kit (gunmetal)	101660	3/8"
101641	Celtic twist pen kit (brass)	101663	3/8"
101642	Celtic fountain pen kit (brass)	101664	10.5mm + 12.5mm
101643	Shock absorber pen kit (gunmetal)	101666	27/64"
101644	Broadwell art deco ball pen kit (gold+black)	101665	3/8"
101646	Gothica twist pen kit (pewter)	101668	3/8"
101647	Steampunk bolt action pen kit (brass)	101668	3/8"
101648	Faith hope and love twist pen kit (copper)	101669	8mm
101649	Magnum bolt action pen kit (copper)	101670	7mm
101650	Bolt action tec-pen kit (gold)	101671	8mm
101652	Victorian twist pen kit (gunmetal)	101677	3/8"
101653	Nautical pen kit (copper)	101665	3/8"
101657	Sculpted midnight pen kit (gold)	101675	8mm
101659	Victorian fountain pen kit (brass+gold)	101677	10.5mm + 12.5mm
101803	Gearshift pen kit (pewter)	101665	3/8"
200352	Comfort pen kit (satin silver plated)	611007	7mm
200353	Twist pen kit (satin gold)	611008	7mm
200354	Click pencil kit (gunmetal)	611008	7mm
200355	Comfort pen kit (chrome plated)	611007	7mm
202158	Ballpoint twist desktop pen kit (black+gold)	none	none
202159	Ballpoint ribbed twist pen kit	none	none
210097	European pen kit (gold plated)	310381	7mm
210136	Majestic Ballpoint pen kit (rhodium+black titanium)	210141	37/64" + 15/32"
210137	Majestic Fountain pen kit (rhodium+black titanium)	210141	37/64" + 15/32"
211329	Wine bottle stopper kit (gold)	none	none
300260	Pack of 5 candle cups	none	none
310404	Artisan European pen kit (gold plated)	310381	7mm
310432	Americana classic pen kit (gold)	310383	11/32"
310479	Artisan fountain pen kit (gold)	310387	10mm
310490	Artisan pen kit (gold)	drel bushings	7mm
310493	Artisan pencil kit (gold)	drel bushings	7mm
340075	Artisan twist pen kit (gold)	drel bushings	7mm
340077	Artisan pencil kit (gold)	drel bushings	7mm
340239	Artisan rollerball pen kit (gold)	310387	10mm
400316	Artisan click pen kit (gold)	310380	8mm
410298	Letter opener kit	951192	7mm
500171	Artisan fountain pen kit (gold)	310387	10mm
500416	Satin twist pen kit (gold)	drel bushings	7mm
502543	Light pull kit	none	7mm
502544	Kaleidoscope eggscope kit	none	13/16" forstner
502680	Sierra pen kit (chrome)	953310	27/64"
502689	Executive ballpoint pen kit	502691	37/64" + 15/32"
502690	Executive fountain pen kit	502691	37/64" + 15/32"
502692	Pazazz pen kit (gold)	502694	12.5mm + 13/32
502693	Pazazz pen kit (chrome)	502694	12.5mm + 13/32
502695	Elegance pen kit	953310	27/64"
502696	Premier pen kit (gold)	502726	3/8"
502697	Premier pen kit (chrome)	502726	3/8"
502698	European filigree pen kits (set of 3)	501194	7mm
503499	Stylus touchscreen twist pen kit	drel bushings	7mm

A selection of Axminster pen kits. The kit code, description, bushings required and drill size required. A good reason to stick to a few pen kits as bushings are rarely shared between pen kits and many unusual drill sizes are required. A "near enough" metric drill will not work.

Best Seller - our Universal Dust Hood Holder for Lathes.

This bracket will fit onto most lathes with a cast iron bed.

Adjustable arm allows for the hood to be positioned in any position to suit the size of timber you are using.

Suitable to be used on all Charnwood lathes.

**£65.00****UDH001**

Universal Dust Holder Bracket

You can make your own hood to suit your needs or use one of our Dust Hoods with a 100mm diameter outlet

**£70.00****UDH002**

Universal Dust Holder Bracket & DH250 Dust hood

**£85.00****UDH003**

Universal Dust Holder Bracket & DH410 Dust Hood



Pen Turning Hands-On - continued

A case full of my pen kits. Since I discovered the variety of acrylic pen blanks, I rarely use wooden pen blanks any more. Along the centre you can see a Celtic Twist pen. There is also a light pull and pen made with Fimo (a polymer clay baked, then turned), and a home-made "battenberg" black and white pen blank.



INTRODUCING THE NEW REVOLUTION

The "revolution" is a completely new hollowing system from the world leaders in fine turning tools. From its beautifully weighted handle to its cryogenically treated cutting tips the "revolution" is designed to be the finest hollowing tool on the market.

The modular articulated design allows the woodturner the freedom and flexibility to configure the tool for any situation. From straight vases to heavily undercut hollow forms the "revolution" has it covered.

At the heart of the "revolution" is the new fully depth adjustable "super ring" the revolutionary design of the "super ring" ensures clean efficient wood removal at all times with 5 different cutting tips and modular articulation design the revolution is a must have tool for all woodturners.



- Supplied with 5 different cutting tips for unrivalled flexibility.
- Clever modular design allows for many different configurations.
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Giles Headley Puffin Automaton

This year, as a Secret Santa Christmas present for a family member, I decided to make a seemingly simple automaton, having three puffins sitting atop an open-fronted cabinet, with their heads made to move from side to side by turning an external wheel. The basic idea for the form and mechanics came from an Instagram account (@karakurikirarin).

The piece comprises



- (i) an open-fronted 220l x 120h x100d oak frame with a plywood back;
- (ii) a horizontal shaft extending through the cabinet, with 6 discs mounted inside the cabinet, each having a dowel pin extending from the edge. The shaft is retained externally by a decorative end stop and a wheel at the other end, with a knob added to operate the automaton;
- (iii) three vertical shafts (one per puffin), each having a disc fitted on one end (inside the cabinet), with two dowel pins at 120° to each other in the edge. The shafts pass through drilled clearance holes in the cabinet and puffin bodies and are glued into drilled holes in the heads;
- (iv) three puffins. The puffins were made by joining split turned bodies and heads to scrollsaw-cut flat sections (15mm thick for the body, 6mm thick for the heads). Once glued up, the assemblies were carved and sanded to shape the beak and tail, and blend the curves. They were then painted using acrylic paints.

The holes for the vertical shafts were drilled in the cabinet top at 80mm centres, those for the horizontal shaft at mid-height on the side pieces, all aligned 15mm forward of the longitudinal centre line.

The cabinet was assembled with corner lap joints between sides, top and bottom. The rear edges were recessed and the back fitted into the recess to finish flush.

An exploded view of the design is shown in Figure 1, without the back panel.

Giles Headley Puffin Automaton - continued

The frame was constructed and the back fitted, with all joints just glued. The vertical shafts had to be installed first before a disc with two dowels fitted was glued to the end of each (the shafts were longer than the height of the cabinet interior). Next, the horizontal shaft was slid into place, with the six discs being loosely positioned as the shaft passed through the box. A double thickness layer of paper was then placed against the outer faces of the sides, before affixing the operator's wheel and end stop to the shaft, thereby giving a small amount of longitudinal movement that would allow free rotation of the shaft. The design only works when the wheel is turned in a clockwise direction, at a modest rate of rotation, otherwise the heads spin so far that the dowel on the horizontal disc passes beyond the reach of the rotating dowels.

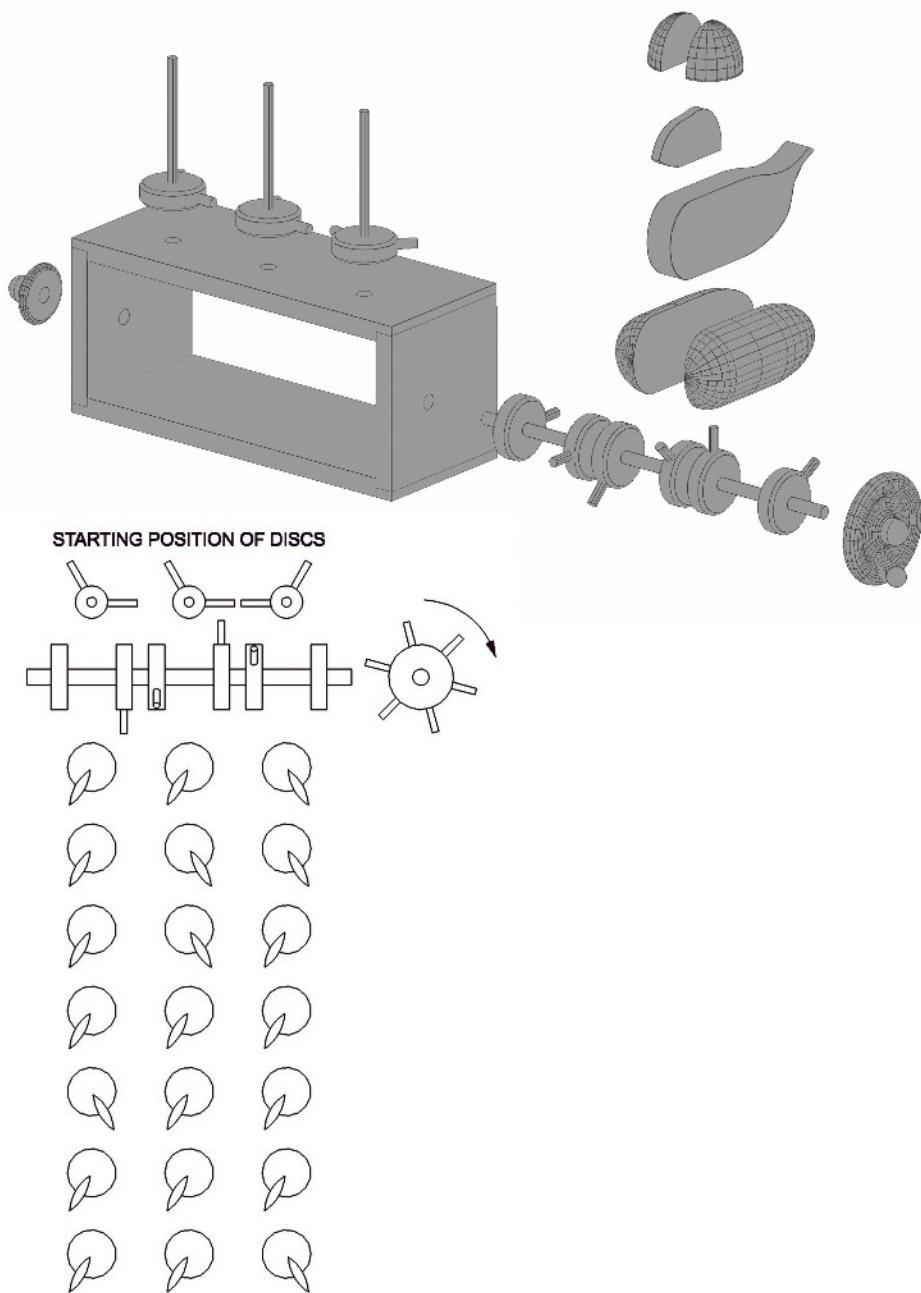
The desired order of movement in the puffins' heads had to be worked out, along with the starting position and relative dowel angles of all the discs. A small amount of glue was run onto the shaft in the correct position and the disc slid into place while spinning the shaft to distribute the glue. Care was required to ensure that each disc was correctly orientated before the glue set. The full sequence of movement was to take place within one revolution of the wheel. Figure 2 shows the starting positions and sequence of movement. The first dowel was fixed at 15° from vertical when the knob on the operating wheel was positioned at 12 o'clock. The heads have 60° rotation (180° - 120° , not 120°), so they should have been set at 30° from facing front. I only realised that after glueing the left hand one, so it doesn't turn as far to its left as intended.

Prior to that, another unforeseen and undesirable issue, vertical movement of the shafts (and consequently the heads), became apparent. I cut a 30w x 10 thick oak restraining strip, which was then drilled, split and reassembled inside the cabinet top, such that the top faces of the discs were in contact with it when the heads were glued on the puffins. Reduction of the overall cabinet height or raising the vertical position of the horizontal shaft would remove the need for this part (Strip not shown in Figure 1).

Figures 3 and 4 show the finished automaton.

All the round items were turned, except for the dowels. The puffins are Beech; the discs and vertical shafts are Sapele; the end stop caps and turning knob are African Blackwood.

Giles Headley Puffin Automaton - continued



Giles Headley Puffin Automaton - continued



Workshop Teaching



Above: David started on a set of salt & pepper shakers. Tutor was Lee.



Below: Dexter turned a Beech bowl. Tutor was Rob.



Workshop Teaching

A student on her second lesson, turned a nice Sapele bowl. Tutor was Don.



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.

Gordon Phillips has very kindly donated a lot of his workshop equipment to the Coombe Abbey Woodturning Club. All are in good working order.

Record Power CL4 variable speed lathe, stand, bowl turning extension and Nova chuck, £250. (3/4" 16 tpi thread, 1MT).

Tormek T7 grinder with Woodturning accessory kit. £100.

The following are also available. Prices to be negotiated.
Contact Rob Sheehan if interested.

Proxxon BFW 40/E milling machine, stand & compound table.

Record Power RDX1500 dust extractor.,

Robert Sorby RS60 eccentric chuck. (3/4" 16 tpi thread).

Robert Sorby Indexing system.

Miscellaneous turning tools.

Deep hollowing tools.

Pay Lee or ask Rob Sheehan for further details.

All sale money will go to the club's equipment fund.

Prices are correct at time of publication but items may be withdrawn from sale if the committee decide they are better used in the workshop. Prices may also be adjusted after the committee meeting on Sunday 1st February.

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 February 3 Hands-On

Tuesday February 17 Demo John Evans

Contact Rob Sheehan 07905185122

Tudor Rose Woodturners

Thursday 12 February AGM +Short Demonstration

Thursday 26 February Katie Armstrong Demonstration

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

West Midlands Woodturners

Sunday 15th February Demonstration – Steve Gordon

Contact Chris Jones 07580 195561 crjones5691@gmail.com

West Northants Woodturners

Wednesday 4th February TBD

Wednesday 18th February Chris Harkin

Contact Tom Donnelly 01327 349093

Trent Valley Woodturners

Wednesday TBD

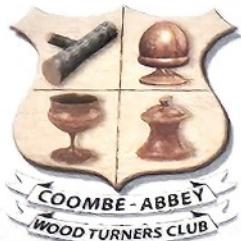
Contact Ian Ethell <https://www.trentvalleywoodturners.co.uk/contact/>

Heart of England Woodturners

Friday February TBD

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

Jan	10	Sat	W	AGM
Jan	17	Sat	C	Hands-On Pen Turning
Mar	6/7	Fri/Sat		Newark Show
Mar	14	Sat	W	Chris Parker
April	5/6	Sun/Mon	C	Easter Bank Holiday
April	12	Sun		Daffodil Festival, Monks Kirby
April	26	Sun		AWGB AGM, Stratford-on-Avon
May	1/2	Fri/Sat		Woodworks at Daventry
May	4	Mon	C	Early May Bank Holiday
May	25	Mon	C	Spring Bank Holiday
Aug	30/31	Sun/Mon	C	August Bank Holiday
Sept	5	Sat	W	TBD
Oct	10/11	Sat/Sun	S	AWGB Festival, Stratford
Oct	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

Saturday 14th March, demo by Chris Parker
Walsgrave Baptist Church

Coming up

Daffodil Festival, 12th April, Monks Kirby