



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE
& HINCKLEY
WOODTURNING CLUB

Newsletter
February 2026



LOTTERY FUNDED

Find us on 

www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk

Notes From The Editor

In this issue, you can find the bird house demo given by chairman John Evans. There was lots of good-hearted banter and I was pleased to see another good turnout of members for the demonstration. Hopefully, by the next demo, I will have both cameras up and running again.



John would like us to make bird houses for the meeting on 17th March. Do your own thing or copy John's log house or bird house made from scraps.

A change to the previously published programme. Nick Adams (bow maker and musical instrument maker) will be bringing in some bow staves at the next meeting on March 3rd. After a short explanation, he will have a few bow staves if anyone wants to make their own bow. This demo will run in parallel with the advertised hands-on event.

Well done to John, Tony & Fred, who gave a Tulip turning demo to the Salvation Army. The demo was well received and they raised £99.54 from the meeting fee and items sold.

We are taking two lathes to the Hinckley Scouts on Thursday March 12th. We will help the older scouts turn woggles (looks like a napkin ring). We will also take pyrography kit for the others to have a go while waiting. Volunteers please to take the kit over to Hinckley and help out on the night. Start 6:30 pm and finish around 9pm.

Update on Chris Grimshaw. "Getting there slowly. I still get very tired and out of breath when I do anything". Get well soon Chris.

Don't forget the Newark Woodworking show is on 6th & 7th March and Woodworks at Daventry is on 1st & 2nd May.

Rob Sheehan
Secretary, Newsletter Editor & Web Site Manager

Bird Boxes by John Evans 17/2/2026



Following on from Martin's bird theme over Christmas, chairman John showed us how to make two different bird boxes.

The first one was made from a log. John tried to leave it as natural as possible, with side branch stubs left in place. Some of the bark came off during turning.

John mounted the log (wood type unknown) between centres.



John rounded over the end of the log with a spindle roughing gouge. Pieces of the bark came off. John was wearing a full face mask for safety.



John continued rounding over the end to form the top of the bird house. He then parted in about 1/2" below the curved top, creating a spigot to fit inside the body.

At the chuck end, John cut a chucking spigot.



Before parting off the top, John marked a pencil line around the spigot as a guide to how wide the centre must be hollowed for the top to fit.



The parted off top. Note that no sanding is required and no finish either. Leave the wood natural.



Using a forstner bit, John started hollowing out the centre.



The forstner bit can only reach so far. John switched to a Parting Tool to widen the hole to the marked pencil line. When close, John tried to fit the lid and hollowed out more as necessary.



John using a Parting Tool to hollow out. He switched to a round nosed scraper to finish the bottom.



The base of the bird house hollowed out until the top fitted nicely. Again, no sanding as the rough surface allows the baby birds to climb up to the entrance hole.



John fitted the top and turned a flat on the rim of the top for two screws to fix the top to the body. He also trimmed the body to match the diameter of the top.



John then drilled an 28mm hole into the side. This needs to be near to the top, leaving a good space below for the birds to make their nest.



The 28mm hole is suitable for blue tits and wrens.
After parting off the base, John drilled a 10mm drainage hole in the bottom.



The finished bird house.

John said the birds prefer a hanging house, hence the hook.

The screwed on top allows the bird house to be cleaned.

John's second bird house was even easier. Using waste material - a bowl that had cracked and a scrap of plywood.



Simply place the upturned bowl on the plywood and mark round in pencil.



Using the pencil line as a guide, drill a pilot hole through the plywood into the rim of the bowl. Then countersink the holes on the back of the plywood. 4 screws will give a good hold. Also drill 2 or 4 mounting holes outside the rim of the bowl to fix the bird house to a fence or tree.





Above Left: The bowl screwed to the plywood backing plate.

Above Right: Drilling the entrance hole. 28mm for wrens.

Below: The finished bird box.



Members' Work



Members' Work



Laser Cutter/Engraver

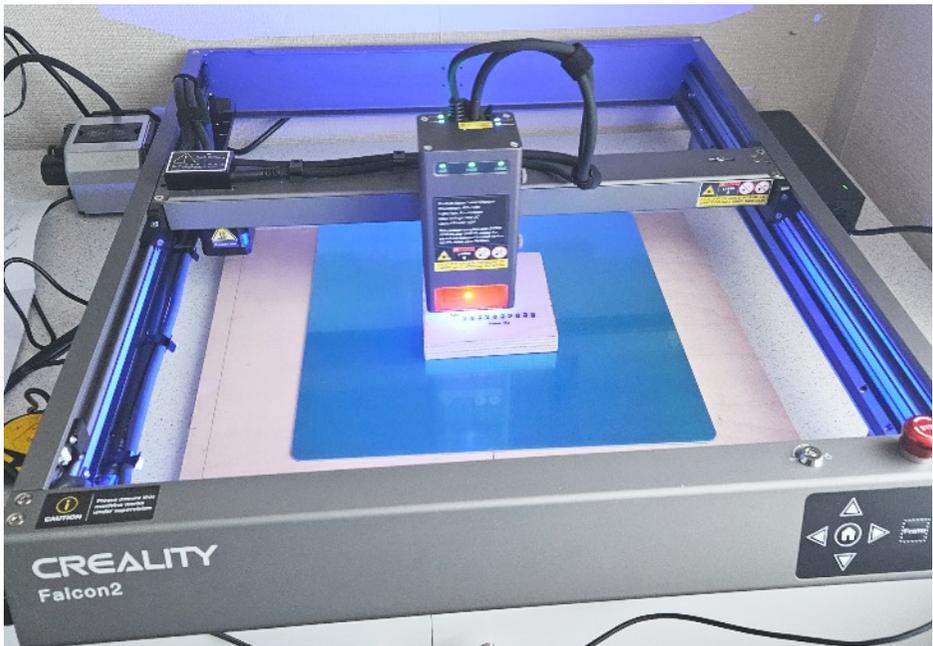
By Rob Sheehan



My latest “toy”. A 40W computer controlled laser cutter and engraver. My old one broke and technology has moved on, so it wasn’t worth repairing. This one uses 8 x 5W diode lasers firing through the same lens to give it a powerful cutting or etching beam. I discovered just how powerful it is when a test managed to cut through 6mm plywood into the metal base board.

I have bought LightBurn software to design my projects and control the laser. I’ll share some designs in a future newsletter.

Warning - class 4 lasers are very dangerous. The laser module has a built-in enclosure and safety glasses were provided. I have also bought a laser safety enclosure for the entire machine.



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.

No items currently for sale.

Woodworks at Daventry

1st & 2nd May

The club competition is a bowl of fruit. We would like as many members as possible to contribute an item to this challenge.

Friday challenge. A goblet with a captive ring.

Saturday challenge. A decorated platter.

Two day challenge. A 3-legged stool.

Any volunteers for any of the items, please speak to John.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY

CLUB EVENTS 2026

Jan	6th	Hands-On	
	20th	Demo - Rob Sheehan	Off-Centre Candlestick
Feb	3rd	Hands-On	
	17th	Demo	John Evans
March	3rd	Demo by Nick Adams	and Hands-On
	17th	Demo	Terry Bray
April	7th	Hands-On	Preparation for Daventry
	21st	Hands-On	Preparation for Daventry
	26th	AWGB AGM	
May	1st-2nd	Woodworks at Daventry	
	5th	Demo	Emma Cook
	19th	Demo	Martin Randall
August	29/30	Chestnut Woodturning Weekender	
September	1st	Demo	Tony Jones
	15th	Hands-On	
October	6th	Demo	Wolfgang Shulze-Zachau
	10/11	AWGB Festival of Woodturning	

Events at Coombe Abbey
Saturday March 14th, Chris Parker
Walsgrave Baptist Church