NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB

Newsletter
November 2025

LOTTERY FUNDED

Find us on

www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk

Notes From The Editor

In this issue, you will find my report from professional turner Rick Dobney. This was the first time Rick had demonstrated at the club. His coloured lidded pot was a good demo and the aluminium finial was something I hadn't seen before. Note - Rick's attachments are Copyright (c) Rick Dobney. For personal use only. Do not share further.

Our second demonstration of the month was by club member Bill Bennett. Bill showed us two methods of turning a sphere.

I have also included some pictures from our stall at the Hinckley Market Christmas lights switch-on. The Barwell Christmas lights switch-on will be included next time.

Thanks to all the club members who turned items for the charity stalls. At Hinckley, we took a magnificent £516.75 which will go to the local Air Ambulance.

Last month, I went to the Midlands Model Engineering show at the Warwickshire Event Centre. No Airfix kits on view, this was proper engineering, with scale models ranging from a few inches to big enough to ride on. They even demonstrated several working jet engines! A few pictures are included.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 2nd December is a demonstration by Ian Ethel. His last demo was a 9-axis honey dipper on stand. That will be a difficult demo to beat!

Our Christmas Party is on Tuesday 16th December. The main competition this year is a turned piece with the theme of "Birds". We will also have the two spinning top competitions and a raffle. Please bring raffle prizes and lots of money to buy raffle tickets.

Rob Sheehan
Secretary, Newsletter Editor & Web Site Manager

Rick Dobney 4/11/25

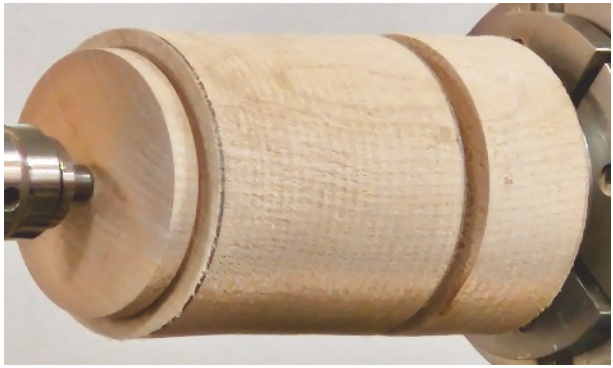
By Rob Sheehan

Rick retired last year from his “proper” job in IT although he has been turning, teaching and demonstrating for a few years. He started by giving us a lesson in the use of the skew chisel. Later he hollowed using a ring tool. Both tools require respect but Rick handled them with ease.

Starting with a block of Sycamore 3” x 7”, Rick mounted it between steb centres and turned it to round.He then turned a chucking tenon to fit his new Axminster “E” jaws.

Mounting it in the chuck, Rick trued up the end and drilled a short hole for the finial. He then marked the length of the lid, allowed a few mm to part off & marked the length of the pot.

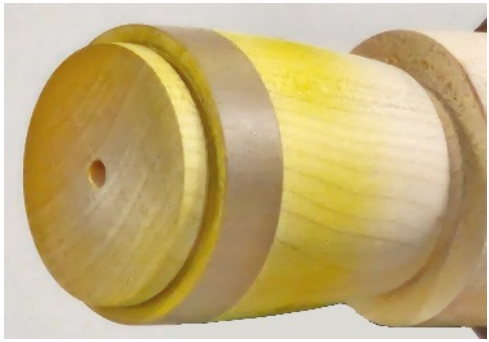
Rick parted down 20mm to define the lid and a similar amount to define the foot of the pot. Then Rick reduced the diameter of the lid by about 10mm.



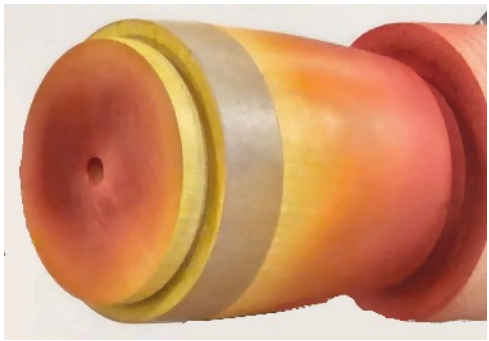
Using the skew chisel, Rick tapered the side of the pot down to the base.

Using good quality, low tack masking tape, Rick masked off the top of the pot to prevent overspray.

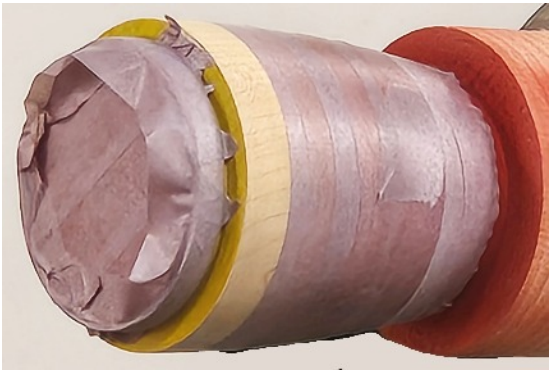
Using an air brush, Rick sprayed Chestnut yellow spirit stain about half way down the pot side and over the lid. He started with the light colour so he doesn't have to clean out the air brush when changing colours.



He next sprayed a band of orange and finally a band of red stain at the bottom of the pot and in the centre of the lid.

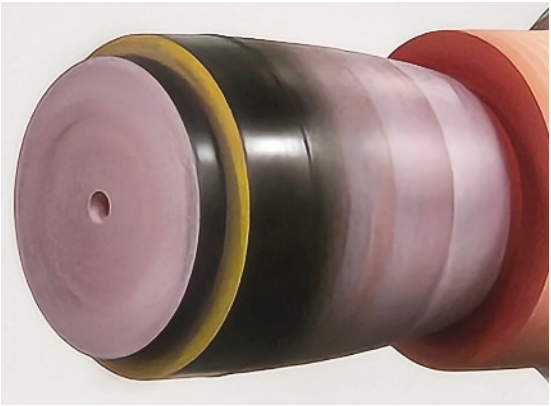


Rick removed the narrow band of masking tape & covered all of the sprayed areas with more masking tape.

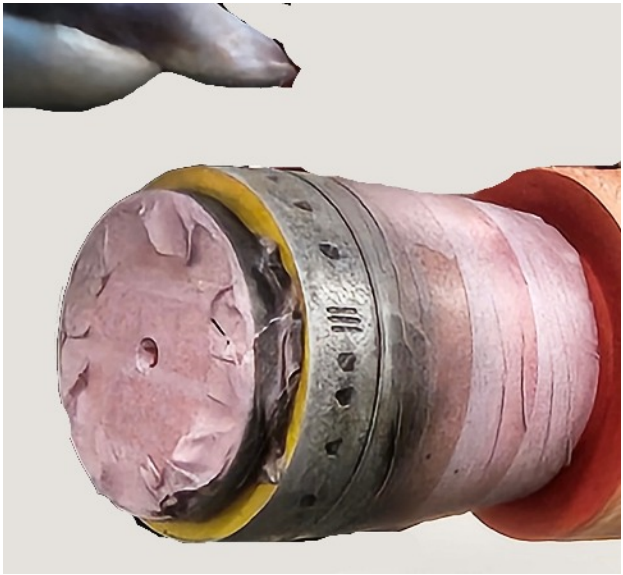


Using a set of home-made punches (shaped nails), Rick hammered a series of marks around the neck of the pot.

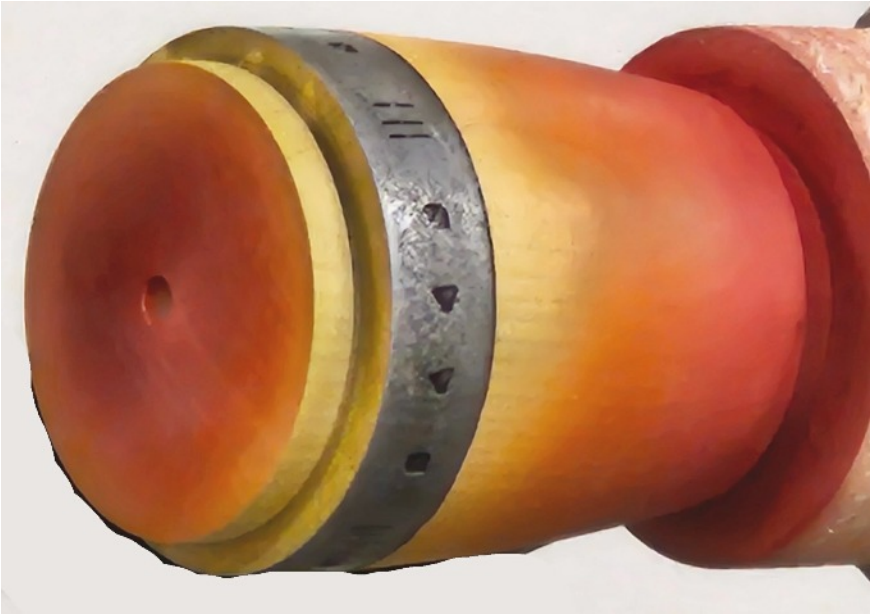
Rick then sprayed Chestnut Ebonising Lacquer all over the marked section.



After sealing the colous with spray lacquer, Rick applied Chestnut silver gilt cream to just the surface of the ebonised area. By careful application, none of the silver went into the hammered marks.

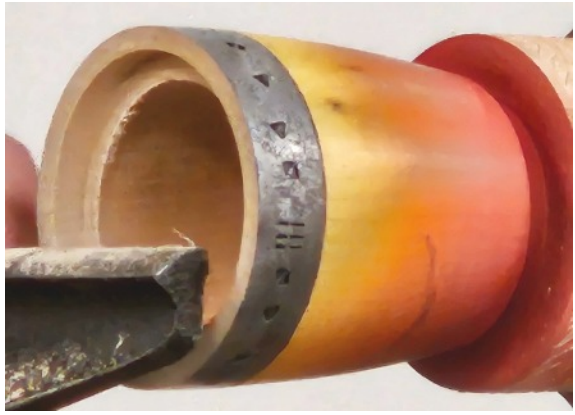


Rick then applied a coat of wax over the whole pot body.

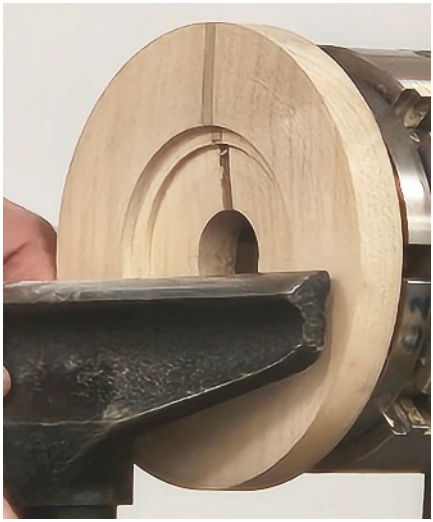


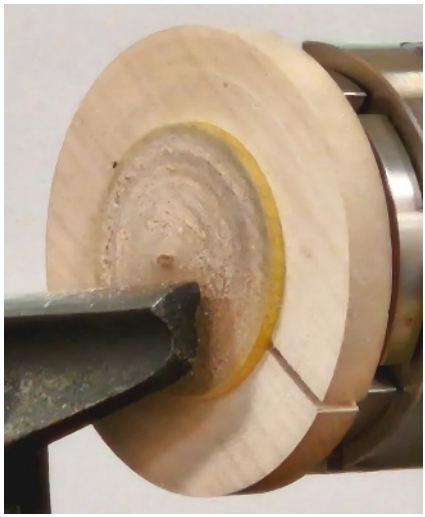
Using a Ring Tool, Rick hollowed out the pot. He explained how to use the two cutting edges and how he sharpens the tool.

The lid is going to sit inside the pot, so Rick cut a step in the side.

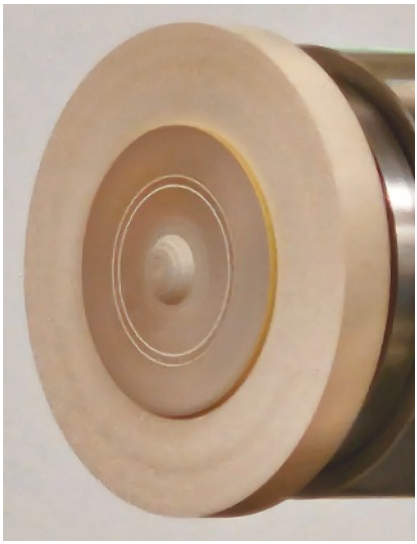


Testing the lid for a loose fit inside the pot, Rick adjusted the diameter and depth of the recess to give a loose fit with the top of the lid just below the rim.





Top Left: Home-made wooden gripping chuck to hold the lid while the underside is finished off.
Top Right: The chuck jaws compress the slot to give a tight grip on the lid.
Bottom Left: Underside of the lid finished with decorative lines and a button in the centre.
Bottom Right: Pot with lid sitting inside rim. Rim of pot has been chamfered.

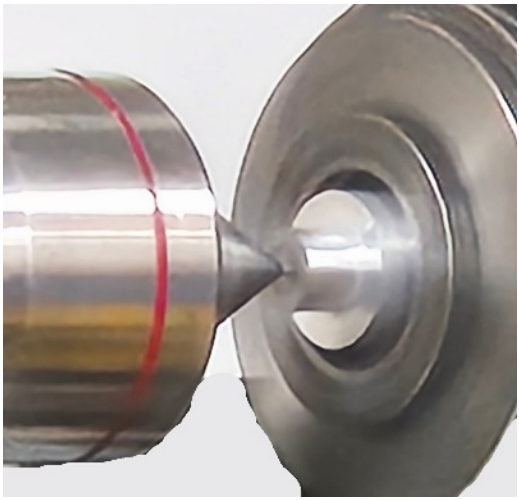


Top: Rick uses 6082 or 6083 T6 Aluminium for finials & goblet stems.

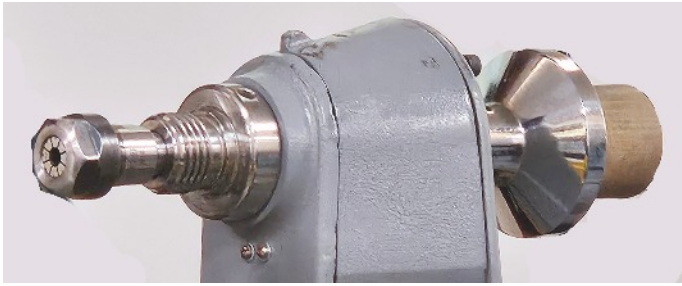
Right: Holding the bar in O'Donnell jaws, Rick cut a spigot.

Bottom Left: The spigot. Rick uses a separate set of normal turning tools to turn aluminium.

Bottom Right: Cutting compound,



Collet holder with drawbar. Drawbar is necessary to stop the morse taper coming loose.



Spigot held in a collet. Finial/knob being turned. Note the use of a tight-fitting cut resistant glove. Metal swarf is sharp!

The finished finial/knob. Sanded to 600 grit then polished with a metal polish. This quality if aluminium will retain its shine without the need to use a lacquer coat.

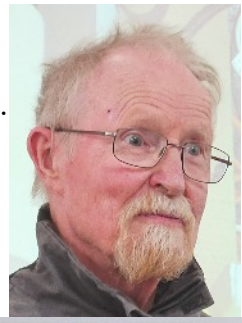
A selection of finials, knobs and goblet stems.

The finished sunset coloured pot with aluminium knob.

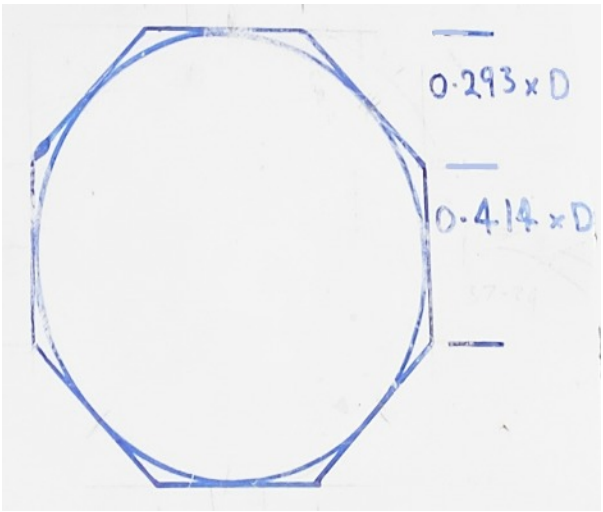
Some of Rick’s work

Bill Bennett 18/11/25

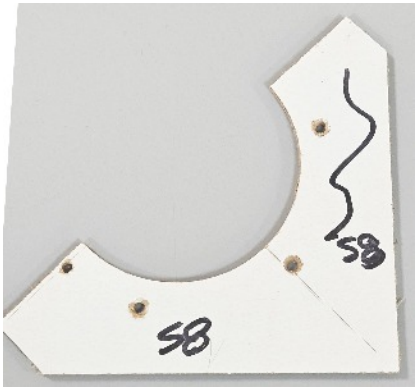
By Rob Sheehan

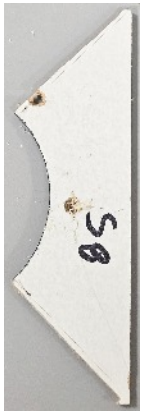


Bill demonstrated two methods to hand-turn a sphere. They are based on accurately turning an octogon that fits around the desired size of sphere. Bill has two sets of templates based on the most comon sizes of sphere that he turns. The templates enable him to accurately turn 85 mm and 58 mm spheres.



Top Left: The mathematics for sizing the octogon.
Top Right: Template for marking out the sphere blank.
Bottom Left: Accurately sized sphere template.
Bottom Middle & Right: Templates for checking turned spheres.





The starting sphere blank. Bill accurately trimmed this down to 86mm diameter, checking with calipers as he turned.

Using calipers, Bill turned a spigot at one end to 86 x 0.414 = 35.6mm. Using his template, he then marked the other end of the blank and lines at 86 x 0.293 = 25.2mm in from each end. He also marked the centre of the blank. Bill turned another 35.6mm spigot at the other end of the blank.

Bill tapered one end of the blank from the 25.2mm line down to the spigot.

The taper was then repeated at the other end of the blank. This leaves a perfect octagon. Calipers set to 86mm checked the diameter matched the distance across the tapers.

Blank turned to an octagon shape. Using his template, Bill then marked a line halfway down the chamfered sides.

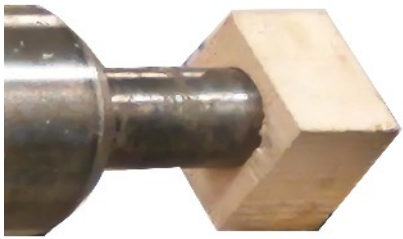
Using the halfway lines, Bill rounded over the top of the octagon from the centre line down to the halfway line, first on one side and then on the other.

Using one of the templates to check the curve at the top of the sphere down to the halfway lines. Keep refining the shape until the template fits.

The sphere with an accurate curve at the top down to the halfway lines. Bill then parted through the spigots at the ends of the sphere. The cut was finished using a Japanese pull saw.

Bill's cup drive. Tapered to provide a small contact area.

A flat block fitted over the tail stock. Bill says this allows him to accurately support the sphere even if the lathe alignment is slightly off.



The partly turned sphere between centres. The spigots should be at 90° to the lathe centre.
Note the line around the circumference of the sphere. This guides the next cut.

Bill trimmed off the spigots using a combination of the ghost image and feel of any unevenness. He also used the sphere template.

Above: The sphere trimmed to round. Ready for sanding.
Below: The finished sphere, sanded, sealed and waxed.

The second sphere was started exactly the same. This time, Bill was turning a 65mm sphere. The chamfers were cut from the outside lines down to the spigots and the top rounded over. The centre line was still visible.

This time, Bill used a jam chuck to hold the sphere. The recess is very slightly tapered to hold the sphere.

The sphere is placed in the jam chuck which holds it with just over half the sphere sticking out. This means the centre line is still visible. Once aligned, the spigot was cut off. Bill then used a narow parting tool to cut a shallow recess on the centre line no more than 1mm deep.

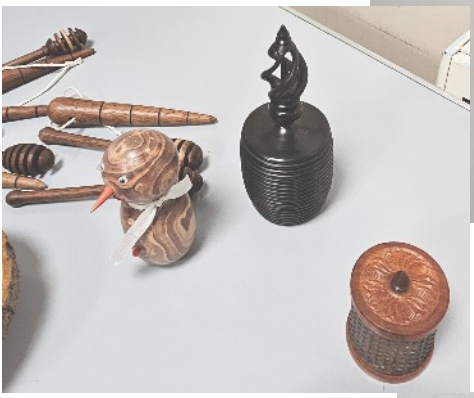
Rotating the sphere through 90°, the shallow-cut centre line is now at 90° to the direction of rotation. The bottom of this line is a perfect circle, so cutting down till this line just disappears, will produce a perfect half-sphere.

The shallow recess is just visible at the top of the sphere, so a little more trimming is needed in this area.

The recess has disappered so the sphere is round. Sanding, sealing and waxing are done, rotating the sphere in many directions to cover the whole surface.

The finished sphere.

Members' Work



Hinckley Market Stall

Thanks to all who produced items for sale and to those who helped on the day. Thanks also, to the Hinckley people who bought our items and donated a magnificent £516.75 to the local Air Ambulance.

Above: Club members wrapped up warm on a cold evening.

Below: VIP visitors to our stall (& I don't mean Oscar!)

Midlands Model Engineering Show 2025

Held at the Warwickshire Events Centre, 3 miles east of Leamington.

Coventry Model Engineering Society

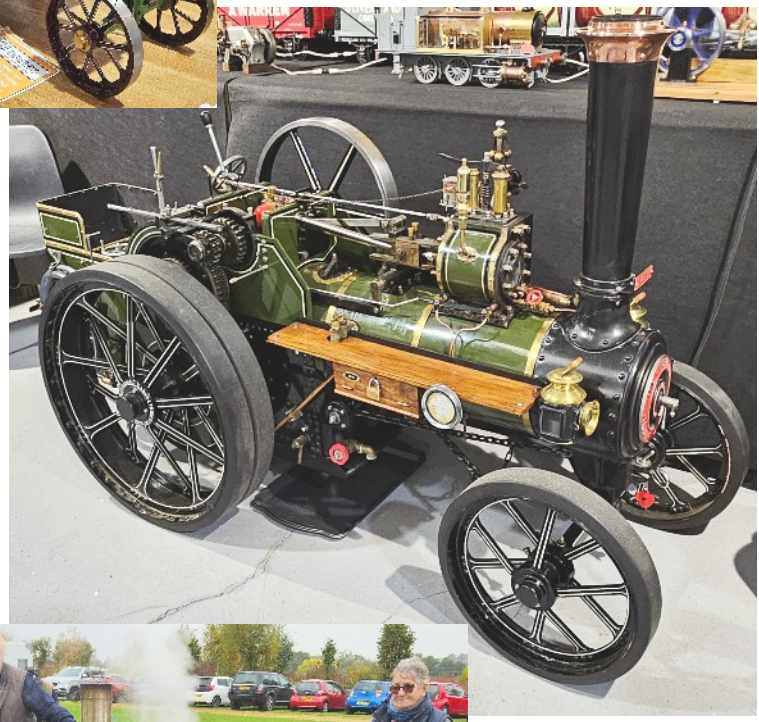
Model Electric Train.
Some models are bigger than others!

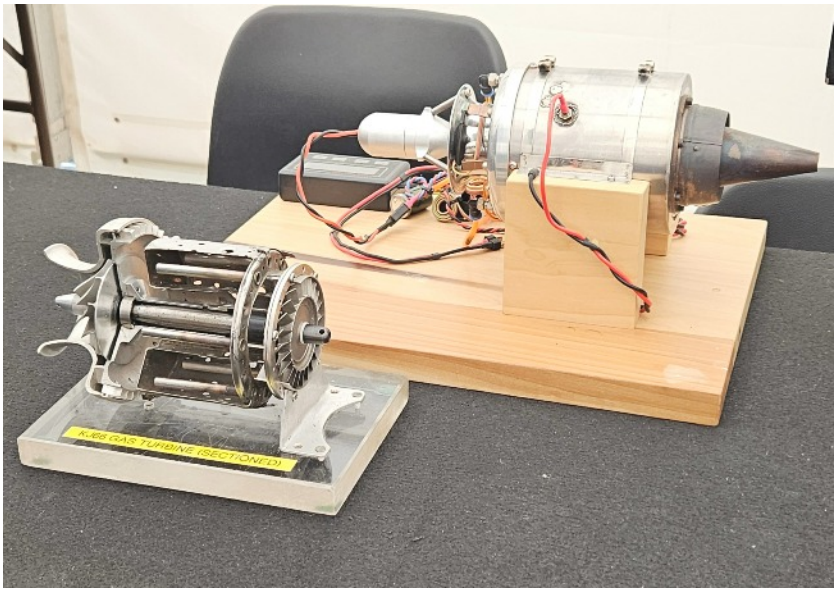
Model Boats

Traction Engines

Left: Table-top (just)

Below & Bottom: Ride-on.



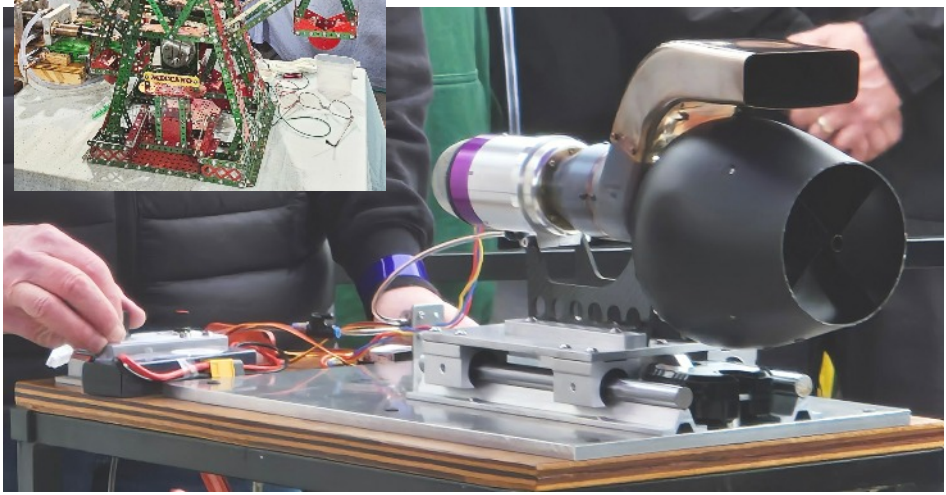


Jet Engines & Meccano

Top: Jet engine & cut-out.

Left: Meccano ferris wheel.

Bottom: Turbofan jet engine.



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.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY
CLUB EVENTS 2025

December	2nd	Demo	Ian Ethel
	16th	Christmas Party	

CLUB EVENTS 2026

Jan	6th	Hands-On	
	20th	Demo - Rob Sheehan Off-Centre Candlestick	
Feb	3rd	Hands-On	
	17th	Demo	John Evans
March	3rd	Hands-On	
	17th	Demo	Terry Bray
April	7th	Hands-On	Preparation for Daventry
	21st	Hands-On	Preparation for Daventry
May	1st-2nd	Woodworks at Daventry	
	5th	Demo	Emma Cook
	19th	Hands-On	
September	1st	Demo	Tony Jones
	15th	Hands-On	
October	6th	Demo	Wolfgang Shulze-Zachau

Events at Coombe Abbey
Sat December 13th, Christmas Party
Walsgrave Baptist Church