



# NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB

## Newsletter September 2025



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



Find us on 

[www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk](http://www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk)

## Notes From The Editor

In this issue, you will find my report from club member Malcolm Thorpe's Ornamental Turning (OT) demonstration.

It was an excellent demo, producing some amazing results. I was surprised how much was demonstrated considering the amount of indexing and equipment setting required.



I'll apologise now for getting any of the technical details wrong. OT involves a lots of specialised mechanics, gears, threads, cutters etc., and mathematics to calculate the offsets for different geometric patterns. I have tried to capture the important points and I'm sure Malcolm will be happy to fill in the gaps.

Our next demonstrator, on Tuesday 7th October, is club member Chris Grimshaw, who will be turning resin. His mix of deep pour resin and wood pieces produce some interesting results

The meeting after, on Tuesday 21st October is the AGM. Remember, it is your club and your opinion matters. Let the committee know what you want to see at meetings. If you don't like something or we could be doing something better, let us know. Tell us which demonstrations you like, which you didn't enjoy (& why) so that we can plan future events. If you want more Hands-On, let us know. And if you really want to make a difference, please join the committee!

Finally, we raised a magnificent £1060 towards the cost of a defibrillator. Other groups at Hatters also contributed more. Hatters Space & Warwickshire County Council will arrange the purchase and fitting. Well done to everyone who contributed time & money.

Rob Sheehan

Secretary, Newsletter Editor & Web Site Manager

# Ornamental Turning

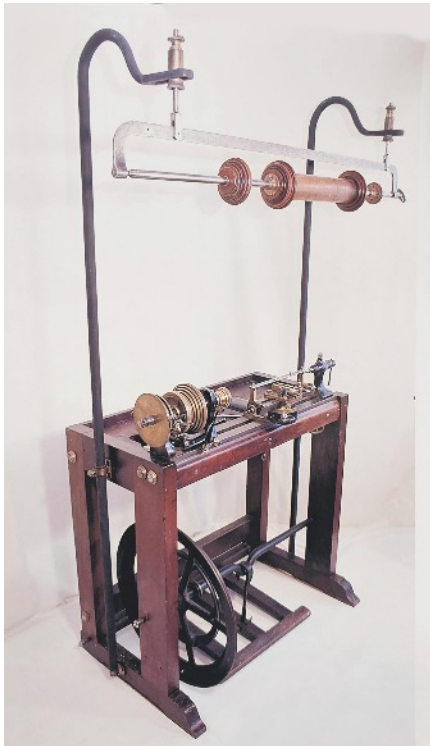
By Malcolm Thorpe 2/9/2025



What we normally do is called plain turning by the OT community. OT adds decoration to a plain turned piece by means of mechanical movement of the cutter, the piece being turned or both. Complex

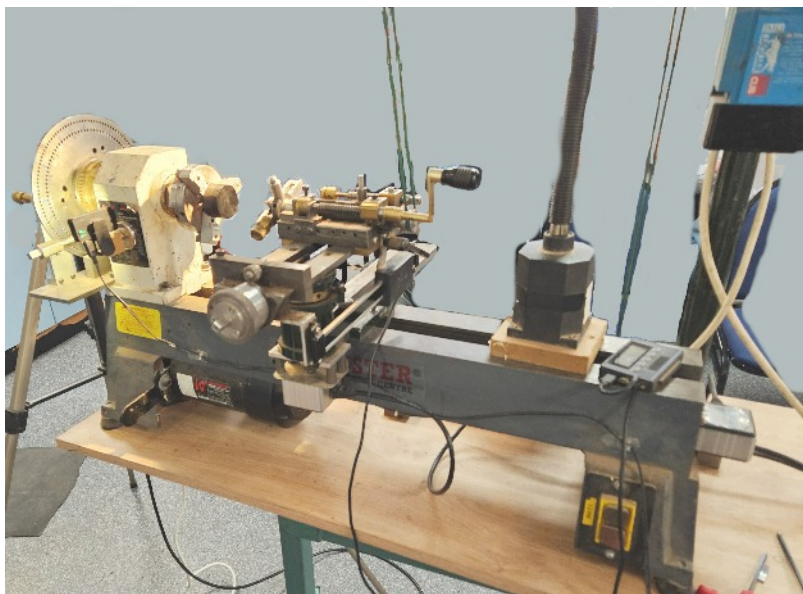
gearing, indexing, offsets and mathematical calculations, allow cutters to produce geometrical patterns. Malcolm demonstrated two aspects of OT. Ornamental or decorative work and Engine Turning. A third aspect of OT, not shown at the demo, is the Rose Engine. This physically rocks the headstock from side-to-side, adding another dimension to the turning. See the July newsletter for a basic Rose Engine.

OT turning started in the 15th century with mainly Rose Engine turning. Today, the best know OT machines were made in the beginning of the

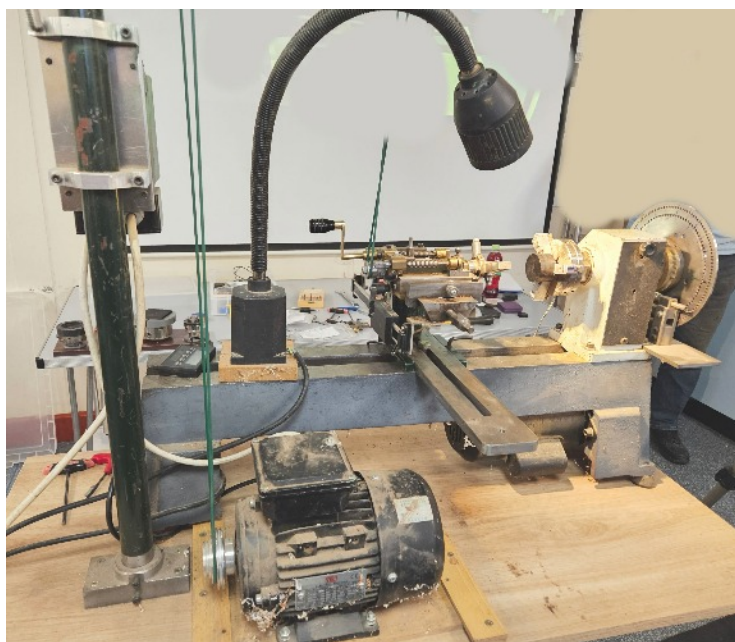


19th century by Charles & his son John Jacob Holtzapffel. Their book “The Principles & Practice of Ornamental or Complex Turning” is the go-to reference for machine design, mechanical attachments, cutters and mathematical tables needed to produce the fantastic illustrated patterns and shapes. Of the 2500+ OT lathes produced by Holtzapffel (& others), few survive. Modern reproductions are used around the world to keep the hobby of OT alive. The UK-based Society of Ornamental Turners represents enthusiasts of OT all around the world.

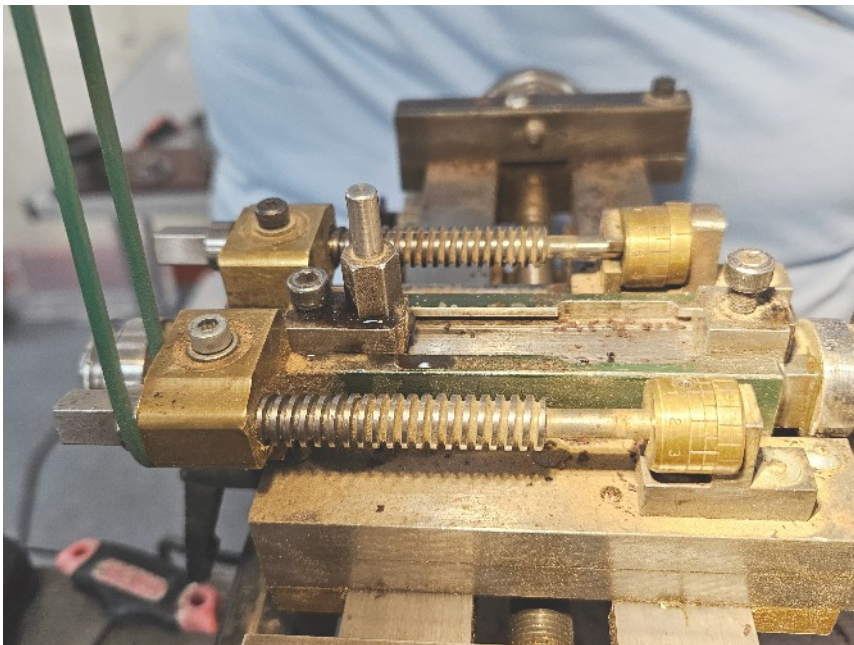
Left: An original OT lathe powered by a foot treadle.



Malcolm's OT lathe based on an old Axminster lathe. Additions include a cross-slide and a 96 hole indexing plate. The motor at the back of the lathe drives the cutters via a series of overhead pulleys.



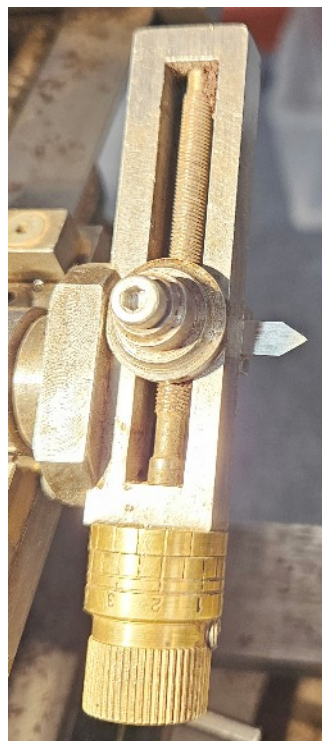




**Top:** The banjo has been replaced by a cross-slide. This allows fine positioning of the cutting frame on the horizontal axis of the lathe. Unlike the original OT lathes, all threads are now metric. Note the barrel shaped stops to allow for repeat cuts. The cutter drive belt can be seen on the left of the picture.

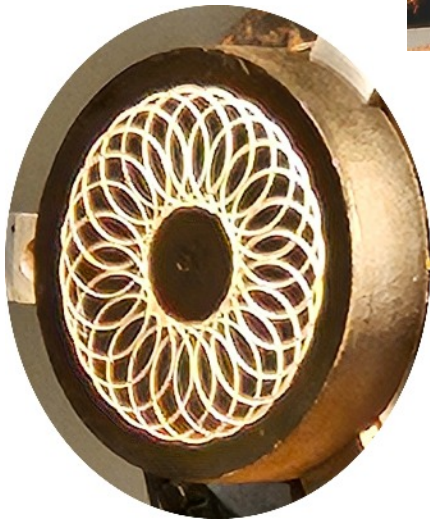
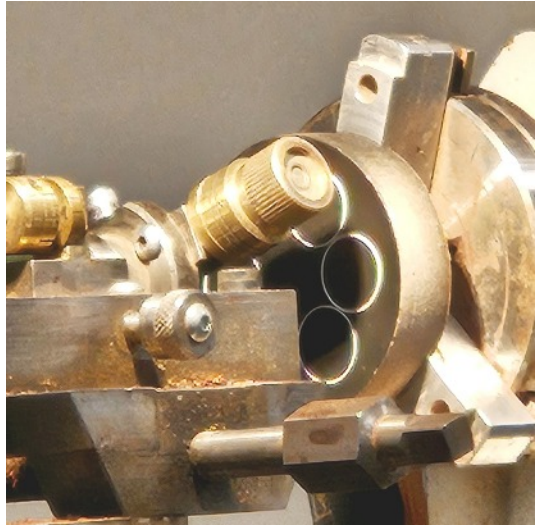
**Right:** An elliptical cutting frame. This allows the cutter to be positioned off-centre. The micrometer type adjusting handle at the bottom allows for very accurate positioning.

The micrometer positioning of the cross-slide & cutting frame allow patterns to be dialled-in. Tables of measurements define each of the required patterns.



## The Barleycorn Pattern

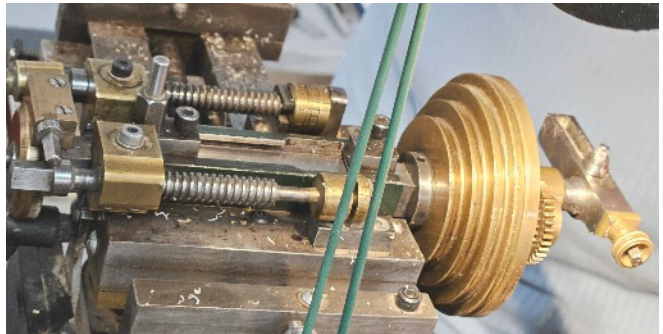
With very precise set-up, the traditional barleycorn pattern is produced from a series of intersecting circles. The first pass uses indexing to produce six circles that just overlap.



Using intermediate indexing positions, more overlapping circles are produced.

The final Barleycorn pattern. Being able to produce this pattern accurately, is the first step to being recognised as an ornamental turner.

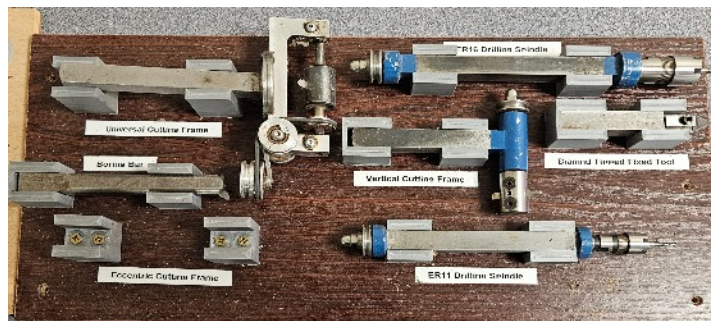




**Top:** Bill Jones' elliptical cutting frame. Bill was a famous turner, producing many fine pieces in ivory. He wrote books on his experiences as a turner.

**Middle:** Elliptical cutting frame fitted to the cross-slide.

**Bottom:** Various cutting frames, drilling jigs and boring bars that can be fitted to the cross-slide.





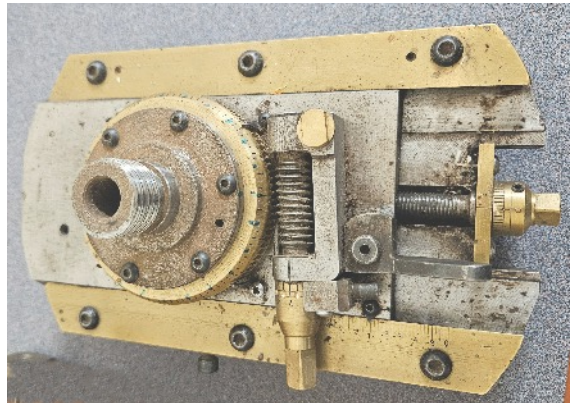
### **Various cutters:**

Straight cutters of different sizes. Beading cutters. V-Cutters with different tip angles. Cutters with different clearance angles for cutting different materials.

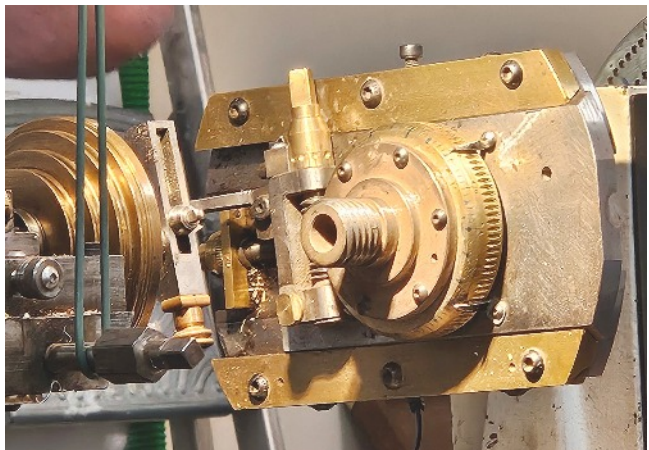


### **Elliptical Chuck:**

Fitted to the headstock, the piece being turned moves in an oval orbit.



The Elliptical chuck and Eccentric Cutting Frame being used together to produce complex patterns.





Turks Head and other patterns cut by Malcolm.





**Right:**  
Barleycorn pattern on the side  
of a box.

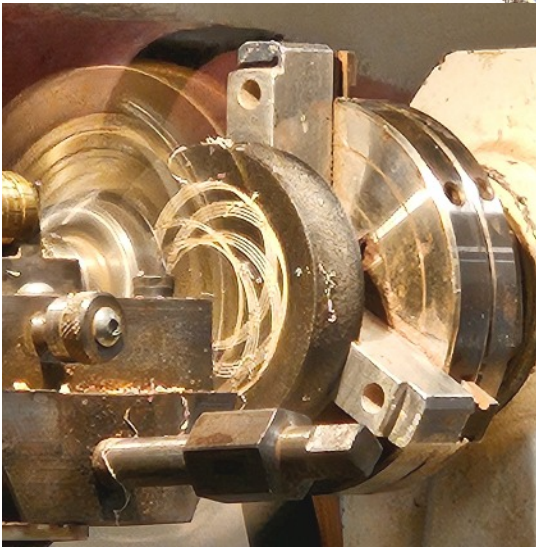


**Above & Right:**  
Cutting a pattern into wood e.g. The top  
of a box.



**Test Pattern:**

Circles just overlap. Setup is correct for the Barleycorn pattern.



Cutting the Tartan pattern.

**The Tartan pattern.**





Elliptical chuck patterns.



Elliptical chuck plus eccentric cutting frame.



Oval box top with  
“Thick and Thin”  
pattern.

## Examples of Patterns





# Pattern Reference

Holtz V Plate IX Eccentric Cutting Frame (ECF)

216



217



218



(a) Radius equal to eccentricity

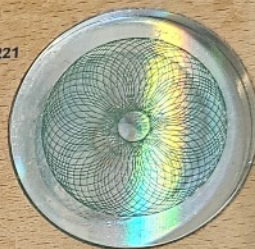
219



220



221



(b) Eccentricity greater than radius

222



223

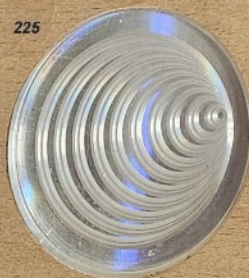


224



(c) Radius exceeds eccentricity

225



226



227



(d) Equal increase or decrease in radius and eccentricity





**Some of Malcolm's Work**



**Right:**

Malcolm's award  
winning box.

**Below:**

Malcolm's gold &  
silver medals from  
Society of Ornamental  
Turners' competitions





Some of Malcolm’s work





## Members' Work



# North Warwickshire & Hinckley Woodturning Club

## AGM Agenda 21st October 2025

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of the 2024 AGM & matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Secretary's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Election of officers.

All current officers are prepared to stand again.

8. Hinckley Charity Stall, Friday Nov 21st.
9. Christmas Party December 16th.
10. Christmas Challenge - Birds
- 11 Any Other Business.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st September at Hatters Space,  
Upper Abbey Street, Nuneaton. CV11 5DN Starting at 6:30 pm.  
The AGM will be followed by a Hands-On session.

## 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.





## Lathe for Sale

I am selling my Nova 'Comet' lathe

Comes with a larger diameter gap bed extension, stand, various face plates, cole jaws, chuck etc as shown in the photographs

40 inches between centres

Will disassemble for transport



Asking £180 ono

Telephone John on 07860654322

Lathe located in Lutterworth

# NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY

## CLUB EVENTS 2025

October	7th	Demo	Chris Grimshaw - Resin
	21st	AGM	
November	4th	Demo	Rick Dobney
	18th	Demo	Bill Bennett
	21st	Hinckley Christmas Lights Stall	
December	2nd	Demo	Ian Ethel
	16th	Christmas Party	

## CLUB EVENTS 2026

Jan	6th		
	20th		
Feb	3rd		
	17th		
March	3rd	TBD	
	17th	Demo	Terry Bray
May	1st-2nd	Woodworks at Daventry	
	5th	Demo	Emma Cook
	19th	TBD	
September	1st	Demo	Tony Jones
	15th	TBD	
October	6th	Demo	Wolfgang Shulze-Zachau

### Events at Coombe Abbey

Sat Oct 4th, Segmented Turning by Graham Ball, Coombe Workshop  
 Friday October 17th, Demo by Andy James, Shilton Village Hall