



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY WOODTURNING CLUB

Newsletter September 2026



LOTTERY FUNDED



Find us on 

www.hinckleywoodturners.org.uk

Notes From The Editor

Two demonstrations this month. Tony Jones turned a vase which he then ebonised, textured and applied gold leaf. Club member Martin Randall turned a very thin mushroom on a bent stem.



As the winner of the Christmas competition last year, Martin chose the theme for this year's competition. He chose a fungus. So those of you at his demo will have been shown how to do one variety and Martin had other varieties also on display. So no excuse for not having a go.

The new club shirts have arrived. They look smart, in Royal Blue with the new 25th logo. Let John know if you want one. They will be subsidised by the club and cost just £10. Your name is not included.

Our next demonstrator is Wolfgang Shulze-Zachau on Tuesday 5th October. As well as coming third in Britain's Best Woodworker TV show, Wolfgang has demonstrated several times at the club.

The AWGB Festival of Woodturning takes place on Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th October. See their advert later in the newsletter.

On Tuesday 20th October, we will hold the AGM. If you want to raise any issues or just make suggestions, please email a member of the committee and we will get it put on the agenda. We also need new committee members. If you feel that you can contribute to the club, please come forward.

After the AGM, we will be celebrating 25 years as a woodturning club. If you have a new shirt, please wear it. I plan to take a club photo. Afterwards, we will be having pizza!

Finally, some pictures from the Chestnut Woodturning Weekender.

Rob Sheehan

Secretary, Newsletter Editor & Web Site Manager

Tony Jones 1/9/26

This was Tony's first visit to the club. He turned, hollowed, ebonised and decorated a vase.



4" x 4" x 9"
Sycamore spindle
blank mounted
between centres.



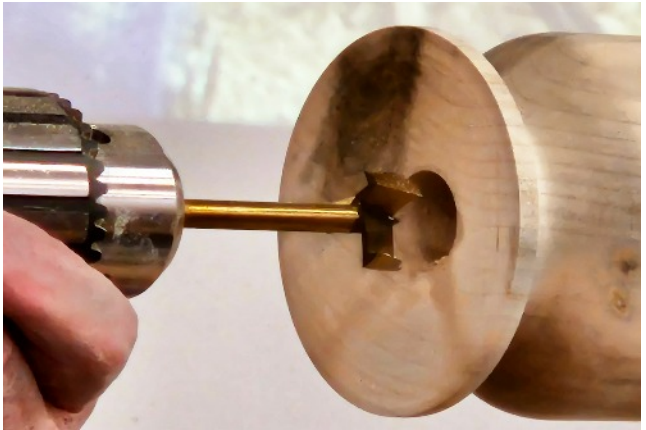
Using a Spindle
Roughing Gouge,
Tony turned it to
round and turned
a chucking spigot
to fit his gripper
jaws.



After mounting it
in a chuck, Tony
turned a basic
vase shape with a
narrow neck.



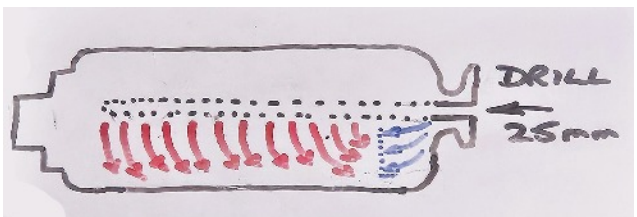
Using a Forstner bit, Tony drilled out the centre of the vase. It wasn't drilled to full depth to save time and avoid boring the audience.



Using a spindle gouge, Tony made the mouth of the vase concave.



Tony's diagram showing the steps in hollowing out a vase. Undercut the neck and then hollow out from the centre in stages.



Hollowing continued with a home-made hollower made from a pry-bar and continued with a swan necked hollowing tool.



Using a foam brush and wearing gloves, Tony painted on his home made tannin solution. 2 heaped teaspoons of tannin in 150 ml of ethanol. The tannin can be bought from shops that sell wine making equipment.



Tony then painted on his home made ebonising solution. 255 ml white vinegar and 3g of wire wool in a wide topped open jar, left for 3 weeks. It works on all woods, whether or not they contain tannin.



The vase with one coat of his home-made 2-part ebonising solution. The water-based vinegar will raise the grain. Several coats can be applied.



Tony finished the outside of the vase with a coat of Black Briwax.

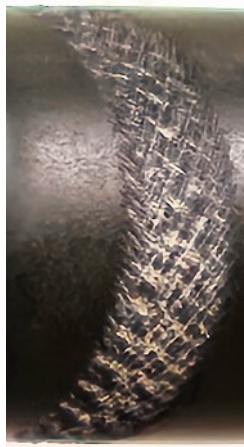
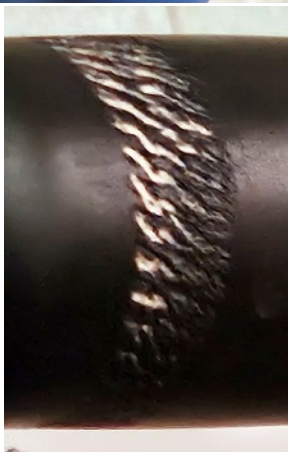


Crown texturing tool fitted with the mid-range 20 tooth texturing wheel. Used at 45° to the vertical and with the lathe running at 900 rpm. Other wheels and angles will produce different patterns.

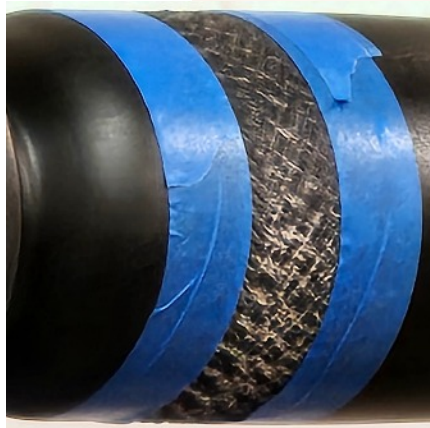


Left: Tool held at 45° and pressed hard into the timber while being swept across 2cm width.

Right: Tool held at 45° in the other direction, over the same area, produces a cross-hatch pattern.



Good quality masking tape was then tightly wrapped either side of the cross-hatch area.



Tony used Daler Rowney “Goldfinger” antique gold gilding wax on the textured area.



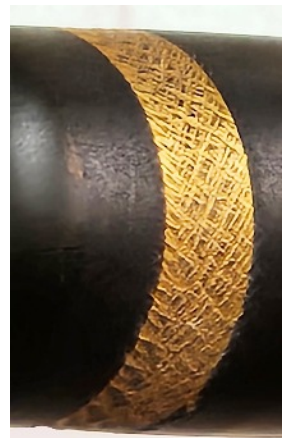
Using a gloved finger, Tony rubbed the wax into the textured area.



The texture after wiping off any excess wax.



The texture after removing the masking tape.



Some of the wax managed to get under the masking tape. Tony used a point tool to cut through the over spill and ebonising coat to produce a crisp white line to frame the texture. A second line on either side added more interest.



The finished vase.



Some of Tony's Work



Martin Randall 15/9/26

Club member Martin turned a crinkly mushroom on a bent stem, to show that not all turning has to be round. Fungus is also this year's Christmas challenge, so take note of the following...



This piece of Sycamore was felled the day before the demo. It is therefore very wet. Martin said very sharp tools are needed for wet timber.



Martin drilled out the centre using a 23mm morse taper drill bit.



Martin then hollowed out the centre using a 1/4" bowl gouge followed by a 1/2" bowl gouge and finished with a scraper. The wall thickness was less than 3mm. He used a 10mm Forstner bit to drill a 6mm deep hole at the bottom.



Martin then turned the outside so that the wall thickness was about 1mm thick.



Martin used calipers to get an even wall thickness.



Calipers set to the final wall thickness.
The point of my pen shows how thin was the wall.



The finished mushroom top.





Above: Using a former that looked like a 5-legged stool, Martin pushed the mushroom top between the “legs” causing it to bend inwards at each leg. This is only possible if the timber is very thin and very wet.

Below: The irregularly shaped mushroom top. Having been left to dry in the former, it will retain its shape.



Using a piece of straight grained Ash that had been split not cut to size, Martin marked the centres and mounted it between centres.



Martin started to thin it down.



Once the timber gets thin, it can bow if too much tail stock pressure is applied. So Martin uses a collet holder at the tail stock end. Different sized collets can be used. This one is 10mm, and it rotates inside the outer casing.



A 10mm spigot held inside the collet allows the piece to be made quite thin.



Martin turned a 10mm spigot at the tail stock end to fit inside the 10mm hole drilled inside the mushroom top.



Stem turned down to 5mm thick. He would have made it thinner without the pressure of a demo.



Martin turned a bulb at the head stock end and parted off.



Martin made a former for the required shape of the stem.



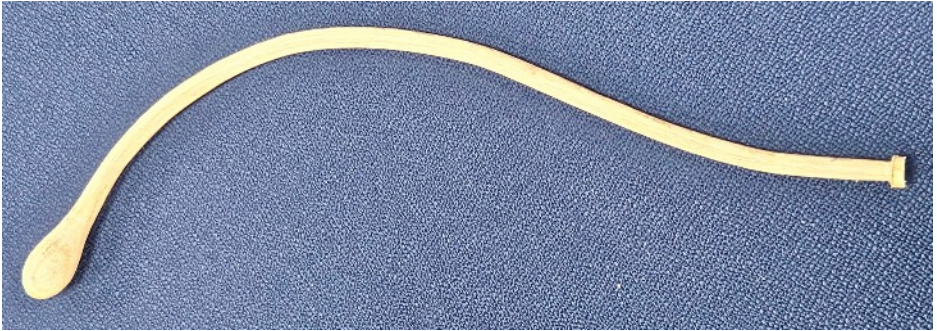
Using strips of car inner tube, Martin securely strapped the start of the stem to the former and gradually wrapped more of the stem to the former.



The whole stem wrapped securely to the former and left to dry.



Once dry (may take 24 hours), the stem is removed from the former. It will retain its shape.



Martin drilled the bulb end of the stem and inserted a pointed dowel. This will secure it to the base.



The base. A rough piece of branch from the forest floor that looks damp enough to have fungus growing out of it.





The stem attached to the base using the pointed dowel glued into a hole.

The final piece. A wonky mushroom top on a bent stem.



Some of Martin's ideas for a fungus.



Members' Work



New Club Shirt

I must remeber to iron it before the AGM & 25th anniversary!



Donation to Air Ambulance

Here is the thank you letter from the Air Ambulance for the money raised at the Barwell carnival. Pictures appeared in last month's newsletter. Don't forget, we will be having a stall at the Hinckley Christmas lights switch-on event on Friday 20th November. Please get turning charity items so that we can raise even more money!



**YOUR LOCAL
AIR AMBULANCE**

Blue Skies House
Butlers Leap
Rugby
Warwickshire
CV21 3RQ
0300 3045 999

North Warwickshire & Hinckley Woodturning Club
50 Byron Street
Barwell
LEICESTER
Leicestershire
LE9 8PD

03 September 2026

Your ref 15851

Thank you for your support

Dear all at North Warwickshire & Hinckley Woodturning Club,

Your local air ambulance is always ready to take to the skies and fly to those who need them. This is only possible thanks to the kindness and support of people like you.

That's why we'd like to say a massive thank you for your donation of £315.81. Your generosity will truly help us to keep flying our lifesaving missions, providing pre-hospital emergency care across our local communities.

In recent months, our helicopters have been on scene an average of 14 minutes after being tasked – bringing specialist equipment, expertise and medicines to patients for whom every second counts. We truly couldn't continue our vital service without your help.

On behalf of all of us at your local air ambulance, as well as our patients and their families,

THANK YOU!

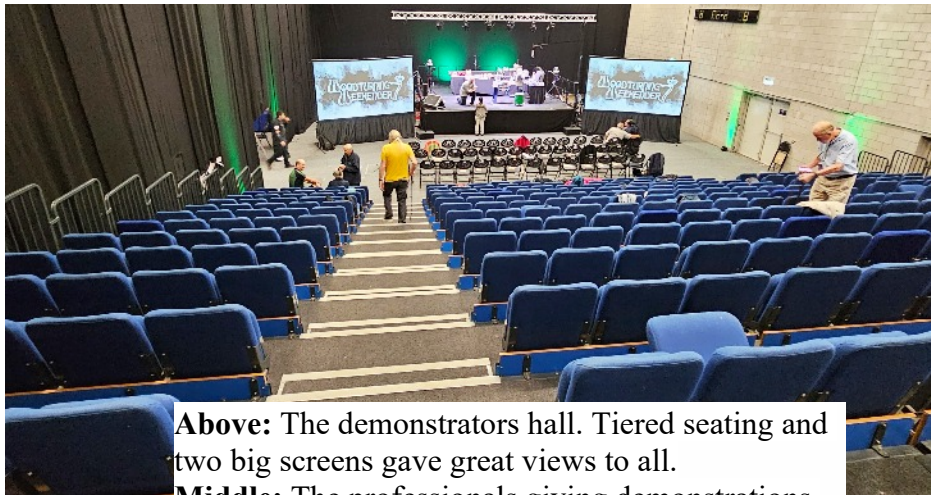
All the best,
Your Local Air Ambulance



theairambulanceservice.org.uk

Part of The Air Ambulance Service Registered in England and Wales as a limited company by guarantee. Registered Company No. 4845904. Registered Charity No. 1098574.

Chestnut Woodturning Weekender 2026



Above: The demonstrators hall. Tiered seating and two big screens gave great views to all.

Middle: The professionals giving demonstrations and advice between demonstrations.

Below: The traders' hall.



Nathanael Griffiths

Winner of Britain's Best Woodworker TV series.



Nathanael turned one of David Springett's "Woodturning Wizardry" pieces. A box so accurately turned, that it fits together normally and also with one half turned through 90°, making the interesting shape seen bottom right.



Mario Nagel



Mario is the Product Manager for the Stratos lathes sold by Simon Hope in the UK. He is a qualified German Master Turner.

His first piece was a bowl with a deep undercut rim.

His second piece was a shallow bowl with textured and coloured rim.



Les Thorne



Les has demonstrated several times at the club.

He turned a lidded box made up of six pieces.

He also kept up an amusing banter about his training and work experiences, sometimes at the expense of Gary Rance who was in the audience.





Margaret Garrard routed slots in an Ash bowl and glued in a contrasting timber. When the outside was re-turned, and the centre hollowed out, the inserts appeared as losenges.

The second piece was an involuted or inside-out Christmas decoration.



Some pieces that caught my eye from the Woodturning Weekender.



Fantastic designs, scroll saw, basket weave illusion, ornamental turning and a 4' high "trembler".



André Rieu concert at the NEC Birmingham

André Rieu (Dutch violinist and conductor) with his waltz-playing Johann Strauss Orchestra.





Much Ado About Lathing

AWGB Festival of Woodturning
Stratford-Upon-Avon
10th - 11th October 2026

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & HINCKLEY CLUB EVENTS 2026

July	7	Demo	Bob Smith
	21	Hands-On	
August	4	Hands-On	PAT Testing
	18	Hands-On	
	22	Barwell Carnival	
	29/30	Chestnut Woodturning Weekender	
September	1st	Demo	Tony Jones
	15th	Demo	Martin Randall
October	6th	Demo	Wolfgang Shulze-Zachau
	10/11	AWGB Festival of Woodturning	
	20	AGM followed by 25th Anniversary	
November	3	Hands-On	Christmas Theme
	17	Demo	Bill Bennett
	20	Hinckley Christmas Lights Switch-On	
December	1	Oval Box	Paddy Byrne
	15	Christmas Social	

CLUB EVENTS 2027

January	5	Hands-On	
April	?	Stand at Chris Parker's Northern Show	
November	2	Demo	Richard Findley