

# WSWC NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

Hello everyone and welcome to the New Year. I am Mel and, along with Jen, we are compiling this first newsletter of 2026. Both of us are new to this, so please bear with us while we find our feet.

## Club meeting 19th January 2026.

As is customary, the meeting started with notices from our chairman Stuart. He started by talking about a very important event for our club annually, namely Weird and Wonderful Wood. This is a fantastic local event, and is a large source of income for our club. Last year was very successful, and we raised a lot of money for our coffers. This does mean that we have virtually cleared all of the items we offer on our Tombola, and desperately need your help in making more items for us to put on the table. As the weather improves, please get into your workshops and start making items for our stand. If we cannot offer prizes, there is no point in having the stand, so come on troops - we've got this. We also need offers of help in setting the stand up on the Friday, and manning the stand on Saturday and Sunday. There is now a rota, and we are looking for staff to set up on the Friday and four sessions over the weekend. Saturday Am and Pm and Sunday Am and Pm. Please make contact with Stuart if you are able to help (a maximum of 6 members for each session only). The dates of the show are 9th and 10th May, with setting up on Friday 8th May

A reminder about the club subscription fees. These were due at the end of 2025 and are now due, along with the subscriptions for AWGB. If you have already paid, then 'Thank you'. If it has slipped your memory, could you please contact Martin Taylor to make payment.

The first trade show of the year is in Newark on 6th and 7th March and is a great show for treating yourself to new tools and equipment as well as finishes and sundry items. All the traders you would expect to see will be there and is well worth taking a day to experience.

Stuart still has a small Lumberjack Bandsaw for sale at just £60.00. If you are interested, please contact Stuart. He needs to move this on, so if he doesn't hear he will be selling elsewhere.

Finally, your demonstrator for the evening is Simon Hope from Hope Woodturning in Colchester.



## **The Demo**

Tools and equipment used: usual turning tools, Threading Jig, Sphere Jig and Vacuum Jig

Simon's demonstration tonight was of a sphere box with a threaded join and resin collar. He started with a piece of ash approx 100mm, and this piece needs a block of material at least 200mm in length. The finished item is approx 95mm in diameter (although the demo piece was 96mm!).

The piece of ash was mounted on the lathe using a step centre on the head stock and a ring centre on the tailstock. Setting the speed to 1300 rpm, the ash was turned into a cylinder 96mm in diameter. A tenon was turned on the tail stock end and then the ash was marked at 30mm, diameter of the sphere (96mm from first mark), and a further 30mm beyond that. The timber was also then marked at the mid point. A tenon was then turned on the other end. The ash was then turned round on the lathe

and mounted in the chuck, and waste beyond the tenon removed. Using a parting tool, cut either side of the centre line approx 5mm deep. Returning to the centre cut, cut through the cylinder to create two pieces. Mark where no 1 jaw is on the base of the piece still mounted. Using a small spindle gouge, drill down in the end of the piece to a depth equivalent to the diameter of the box minus the thickness of the wall. Now set the thickness of the threaded part of the box. Allow 5mm for wall thickness + 1,1mm for the depth of the thread. Cut down to a depth of app 10mm and tidy up. A 6mm carbide tipped tool was used to create an undercut, which will create the depth for the thread when using the threading jig. Coat the area to be threaded with some CA glue which will harden the surface prior to threading. Remove the chuck from the lathe and put the thread cutter into the head stock. Mount the threading Jig onto the lathe bed and line up square, using the lathe bed as a guide. Mount the chuck with the female side (still attached) into the threading Jig. Line up the cutter on the inside face of the piece and do a 'kiss' touch to make sure everything is aligned. With the lathe running, slowly wind the handle out for the cutter to cut the thread. You can tell when to stop because the pitch of the cutter will change when it reaches the depth groove previously cut. move the piece from the chuck and dismount the threading jig. Now mount the other half of the cylinder on the lathe, and true up face. Mark on the base where no 1 jaw is so it can be remounted as necessary. Using verniers or other forms of measurement now measure

the internal diameter of the female side of the box. To this measurement, add 2.2mm and this will give you the diameter of the male thread. Clean the face of the second half up and transfer the measurement to the face. Cut to this mark using a parting tool and tidy up. Now apply masking tape (or frog tape) to the cylinder to create a reservoir around what will become the male thread and fill with resin. (When mixing resin, do not whisk but stir gently -whisking will introduce air bubbles). Set piece on the lathe bed and offset a piece of timber on the lathe. Turn the lathe on which will cause a vibration - this vibration will help disperse any air bubbles in the resin. It will also potentially create interesting patterns if pigment or mica powders are used in the resin. Once you are happy that the air bubbles have dispersers set the piece to one side and allow the resin to cure.

(Could mention about over estimating the amount of resin you make as if under estimated, would be difficult to re-mix the same shade. Also that any left over resin in the espresso cup/bowl allows you to see how cured the resin is without having to touch the piece and risking damaging it).



Once the resin has set, mount the piece in the chuck jaws and, again, mark where jaw 1 is. Taking the small spindle gouge now drill through the end of the piece to a depth similar to the diameter of the box minus an amount for the thickness of the wall, and hollow out and sand. Using your parting tool, now cut through the resin to the timber, leaving a small collar at the base of the soon to be threaded spigot. Again, coat this spigot with CA glue and allow to set. Make an undercut for the threading cutter to 'drop' into. Mount the thread cutter and thread cutter jig, and this time cut the thread on the outside of the spigot - after doing a 'kiss' touch to check alignment. Now it is time to screw the two sides of the box together. If the thread is too tight, then lightly sand the male thread and re-cut with the threading jig until the two ends screw together. It is always great when you can align the grain once the box is together. If it is out, sand the female side of the box using some abrasive on a flat surface. Go gently - it is very easy to sand too much. Check and repeat until the grain is aligned. With both sides of the box screwed together, now mount into the chuck (aligning the piece on jaw number 1). Turn the tail stock end roughly into a semi circle being careful not to take too much material from the piece. Turn the head stock end the same but leaving enough of the spigot to hold the box. Mount the sphere cutting jig, and take care to align with the centre of the box. (Make some gentle test cuts to check alignment and adjust as necessary (you should be removing the same amount of material either side of the resin collar)). Now cut the tail stock end of the box and cut into as much of the spigot on the head stock end as is possible while maintaining stability. Sand the tail stock end of the box. To remove the mounting spigot, use a fine parting tool or fine toothed saw. (Take care at this point NOT to drop your spherical box!!). Remove the chuck and mount the vacuum chuck (Or a doughnut chuck). When mounting your box into the vacuum chuck, mount it off centre. Gently sand the sphere, turning it numerous times in the vacuum chuck to keep as spherical as possible. Job done!



Hope Woodturning can be found at Unit 1, Primrose Farm, Hall Road CO7 7TR. Tel:01206 233334. Web: [hopewoodturning.co.uk](http://hopewoodturning.co.uk). Please telephone before visiting to check opening times.

Your demonstration in February will be by Mike Favager, and we look forward to that.