Woody's World

4th December 2025



We had some lovely pieces entered into the Christmas Decorations Competition. They were all really great and worthy of any Christmas display so thank you to all for your efforts, hope it was fun. Our head judge pondered and cogitated and eventually chose this piece by Ray as the winner.
All winners in my book!



Christmas Trees

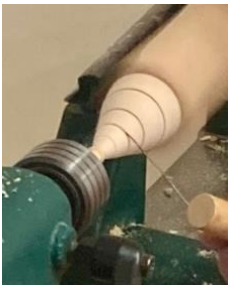
Thanks to Mick for demonstrating how to make four different designs of Christmas tree. Mick described them as 'simple'…easy for him to say…and then he slipped in a fifth which certainly took the shortbread.

Mick used a Lime spindle long enough to make 4 trees. Mounted between centres, he used a Spindle Roughing Gouge to turn to round and then set out the piece, marking up the separate trees and then the branches. The approach to each of the trees was broadly similar but with variations as shown to end up with different designs. Here are three Mick made on the night with their decorated counterparts.



For the first tree Mick turned the section on the spindle to a simple taper & then used his skew, pushed into the wood, then raised the handle. Light sand, no need to go ultra-fine. Burn in the separations, sand & part off. Remove the nib.





Tree two. Mick marked the base of the tree towards the head stock end and used a parting tool to create a division. Shaped to a taper with a Spindle Roughing Gouge and marked lines for the branches. He then used a small Skew to slightly undercut the underside of each branch. Once happy with the design, sand and part and remove nib as per tree one.




Trees three and four were approached in the same way but Mick used a Spindle Gouge to shape the branches differently as shown.






More of Mick’s designs & creations for Christmas trees, even a square one!



For his encore Mick took a piece of fresh, wet holly mounted between centres. He used a Spindle Roughing Gouge to remove the bark, made round and then to a simple taper as with the previous trees. You can see the long shavings produced with wet wood. Mick made a parting cut at the base and then (raising the tool rest) used the heel (short end) of a Skew to insert and pull towards the head stock bringing up thin layers…keep going to build layers as shown.











The ‘foliage’ can be coloured and also dipped in sanding sealer to make more resilient. Mick cautioned that you must always clean and dry your tools and lathe bed after turning wet wood to remove the moisture and prevent corrosion.

Other

Christmas Social: Sat 10th Jan @ 7pm

Just a reminder that the club Christmas Social will be held on Saturday 10th January 2026 at 7pm in Offchurch Village Hall. The price is being held at £8.50 per person.

If you haven't yet been able to book a ticket, you are still welcome to come and pay on the evening BUT please email Mike asap to let us know…email on m.widmer@btinternet.com

It is a fun and enjoyable evening, the event will include food, a quiz, a raffle, a hotly contested competition for members' woodturnings and a separate competition for partner/spouses' crafts.

Members can enter one woodturned piece made this year.

The partner/spouse competition is open to any craft.

PLEASE BRING A RAFFLE PRIZE

Forthcoming Club Meetings

Meetings are normally on the first Thursday in the month except when there are elections. Meetings start at **7pm** in Offchurch Village Hall, CV33 9AL unless stated otherwise

2026		
Sat 10th January	7pm	Club Social
Thu 5th February	7pm	Captive rings - Nick
Thu 5th March	7pm	Short AGM PLUS…. "Big For-Sale Tables"
Thu 2nd April	7pm	Making Finials
Thu 7th May	7pm	External Demonstration – Thread Chasing
Thu 4th June	7pm	Hollow Forms
Thu 2nd July	7pm	Focus on Sharpening

Committee 2025/26

Chairman	Mick Jones	cmike.jones@btinternet.com
Secretary (joint)	Alan Begg	alanrbegg@hotmail.com
Secretary (joint)	Ray Burden	rayburden1@btinternet.com
Membership Sec.	Paul Liggins	pliggins445@gmail.com
Treasurer	Andy Smith	01789 612649 / 07865 938850 Andrewrewsmith1125@outlook.com
Media Secretary	Mike Widmer	07484 270479 m.widmer@btinternet.com