Woody's World

5th February 2026

Captive Rings

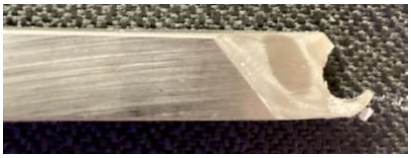
Many thanks to Roger for delivering our first masterclass of 2026. A beautiful demonstration of how to create captive rings and then some very successful hands on efforts by members - great stuff, no doubt we'll have captive rings on everything from now on!

A captive ring in woodturning terms is a decorative ring carved directly from a solid piece of wood on a spindle, remaining "trapped" around it and free to slide up and down, but cannot be removed. Created using specialised tools that cut underneath the ring, they are commonly found on goblets, baby rattles, and candlesticks.



It was really interesting to hear from Roger that his dad had seen captive rings being made using the traditional approach, pondered the issue and went away to develop a tool in his workshop that pretty much resembles the tools that we see on sale today. Sadly, corporate eyes observed his tool being used and went on the market & copywrite the design – another output of the English 'shed'…the jet engine, the bouncing bomb and the captive ring tool!





Roger mainly used the two tools shown here. The first picture showing a 'beading tool' that cuts the top of the ring with the second one showing the hook/under-cut 'captive ring tool' that clears wood from under the ring…as discussed below.

Roger used a piece of Holly log between centres, turned to round, created a tenon and mounted in the chuck and used tailstock to support the spindle.



He then used a parting tool to create the outline form for the ring.

The beading tool was then used to shape the top/outer surface of the ring. As you can see, Roger used his finger to apply pressure near the end of the tool to prevent it vibrating on the tool rest and keep it in contact with the wood.



Satisfied with the outer surface, Roger then used a gouge to clear wood from either side of the ring in preparation to give him enough space to rotate the captive ring tool under the forming ring.



To make using this tool slightly easier, Roger also used a thin parting tool to clear some of the wood under the ring so as to get a clearer cut with the specialist tool.

When all set, the captive ring tool is used to under-cut the ring. Once satisfied that one side is complete, rotate the tool back to the starting position and carefully remove to avoid any catches and then the process repeated on the other side until the ring forms



Regarding sanding. You can sand the outer surface of the ring before you under cut and whilst the ring is still essentially fixed to the spindle. Once the ring is free, you can sand the under surface by applying abrasive to the spindle/stem and holding the ring against it whilst the lathe is in motion. Clearly you need to be gentle on both sides so as not to compromise the shape of the ring.



Having finished the ring, Roger went on to show how the main element of the object – a goblet in this case but could be a rattle or something else – is finished.

Mick challenged Roger to produce rings of diminishing size on the same piece. Essentially, he used the same approach but made the biggest ring first before

reducing the diameter of the spindle and then making the smaller ring ie smaller diameter spindle = smaller diameter ring….and so on.

During the session Roger also explained that you can use a small/1/4” Skew to do the job and that he has also created tiny tools for the same purpose using masonry nails mounted in handles and sharpened to skew and triangular tip as shown here.



The specialist captive ring tools can be sharpened by hand using a diamond card as shown.



It was also great that a number of members went up to have a go at making captive rings and all were successful – the mystery of ‘how did you get that on there?’ is a mystery no more…and all brought to you by the son of the man with the vision to create the captive ring tool.



Other news:

March Meeting - Bud Vase Competition
As announced, the Bud Vase competition will be judged at our March meeting with prizes for “best” and also “most innovative/creative” bud vase.

March Meeting - AGM
The intention is for our forthcoming AGM in March to be relatively short…but it is your club so please do come along with ideas of what you want to see and do at our meetings. We do need a balance for all levels so please do feel free to ask for sessions that you need to help you develop - whether basics on how best to use particular tools, wood choice or sharpening etc, if it’s feasible then we can try and put it on. You can guarantee that if you could do with a refresher on something, then somebody else would benefit from it as well….so please ask.

The club has had a good year but the ongoing success of the club does depend on momentum so if you’d like to add value by helping the committee in any way at all then please let us know. Any help would be appreciated.

March Meeting – For Sale Table
There will also be a bigger ‘for sale’ area at the meeting so please bring along anything relevant that you think could do with a new home. The usual 10% of sales price to the club as a donation still stands.

April 16th Open Evening
We had a really successful open evening last September and were very pleased to welcome a number of new members and we will be holding another one on Thursday 16th April. Clearly this is not a normal club night so please pop the date it in your diary as having as many members present as possible obviously injects plenty of energy into the event. We will also need display items to show off so please start collating a few – and we want them at all skill levels so we can show beginners what can be achieved right through to experts!

May 1st & 2nd Daventry Woodworks show
The club will have a display stand at the Daventry Woodworks show this year. The show is **FREE** to attend and is being held on a Friday and Saturday and, for those who haven't been before, it is a really good Woodturning show. It takes place in the Daventry Leisure Centre which is about 20 miles from Leamington and the venue is a sensible size rather than being a sprawling corporate NEC-type event – it's ideal and there are good raffle prizes and plenty of cakes etc.

There are 5 professional woodturners attending who put on demonstrations including Simon Hope and The Tiny Turner along with about 15 Woodturning Clubs who have display stands and competition entries. If you haven't been before then you will be amazed by some of the pieces that are displayed, they are works of art and some don't even look like they are made of wood! This link will tell you more (copied in the email) https://tudor-rose-turners.co.uk/woodworks

We'll need 2-3 members to 'man' the stand over 3 shifts each day. It's a fun thing to do with plenty of chat with visitors and other club members etc and there's plenty of time to drift off and have a look round – so please let us know at March/April meetings if you can help.

We will also need display items for this show so, if we can keep the items from the open evening it would be appreciated.

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		
Thu 5th March	7pm	Short AGM PLUS…. Bud Vase competition and "Big For-Sale Tables"…so bring your stuff.
Thu 2nd April	7pm	Making Finials
Thu 16th April	7pm	Spring Open Evening
Fri 1st/Sat 2nd May		Daventry Woodworks Show 2026
Thu 7th May	7pm	External Demonstration by Steve Gordon – Thread Chasing
Thu 4th June	7pm	Hollow Forms
Thu 2nd July	7pm	Focus on Sharpening

Committee 2025/26

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