



# Oxon Woodturners

## Newsletter

January 2026

Dear Members,

Happy New Year and I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas too. This month's Club Night was on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February and was a demonstration by Club Patron and renowned production turner Gary Rance.

Frankly, when I looked out of the window on Tuesday morning to -7 degrees C and thick snow and ice, I wasn't sure that the meeting would actually happen. However, all had cleared up by evening and, despite several members being away with seasonal illnesses or on holiday, we had a good turnout. There were quite a few visitors.....both turners and those considering turning...which was wonderful to see. In most cases they had seen our Facebook page, which was 'boosted' for this evening.

Gary's main theme was to turn a replica of a three-piece pepper mill (or most likely salt mill, given the date) which had been salvaged from the wreck of the Mary Rose in 1982. Considering that the ship sank in 1545, and that the mill would have been turned on a pole lathe with the most rudimentary of tools, the design was quite complex. Pause for thought when you consider the kit we have at our disposal now.



Gary with the Tippe Toppo

The mill on the right was turned on the night, the left was 'one he'd prepared earlier'.



Gary is a famously fast turner and despite taking breaks to patiently explain all the techniques he was using still had time to make a Tippe Toppo and a miniature hanging decoration.



## Competition

This month's competition was 'a box with a finial'. Only one entrant in the Advanced section but a good selection in the Beginners/Intermediate section.

### Advanced Section

**Winner Charlie Jones** with a beautiful yew hollow form with dauntingly slender finial.



## Beginners and Intermediate Section

### Joint 1<sup>st</sup> place

**Craig Jones** (left) with a fantastic design which was new even to Gary Rance.

### Joint 1<sup>st</sup> place

**Chris Hallsworth** (right) with a rather simpler design out of Newtonia and African Blackwood.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**Joe Brash** with a very nice hollow form and lid.



### Other entrants

**Ace North** (left) I'm showing my age by calling this a sputnik. Lots of tricky separate elements to this attractive form.

**Craig Jones** (right). A lovely little tactile box made from scrap wood. Craig is going to be one to watch in this section this year.



## **Next Club night is on Tuesday, February**

The format is a '**hands on**'. For those new to the Club,

the format is that we have we have two lathes set up and the theme for the night is spindle turning techniques. There will be a short demo on one lathe and people are welcome to just watch or have a go themselves. It's a great way for people to pass on and to take on new skills.....collaborative rather than competitive (everyone was a beginner once)

**Please do come along**

## **Harcourt Arboretum Spring Fair Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> 2026.**

Several clubs have told us that they get most of their new members from attendance at craft shows. The idea here is that we will have a Club stand (we have a gazebo) where member's work will be displayed and for sale. 10% of sales proceeds will go to the Club. We will also have a lathe and some members will take turns to make relatively quick items. Hopefully this will attract attention and start discussions with existing turners looking for a club and potential newcomers to turning.

- If anyone has a small generator we could borrow, **please contact me** on [chrishallsworth28@gmail.com](mailto:chrishallsworth28@gmail.com). If not we will have to hire one.
- We also need volunteers to put up the stand, staff it and hopefully two or three to do some turning. You don't have to commit to the entire day...a few hours would be great. Again, if you are willing and able, **please email me**.

*All the best and see you in February, Chris*