



Woodworms

Issue 125 Woodworms

I hope you all have a wonderful Xmas and are looking forward to a Happy New Year. We had a Xmas turnout of about 40 members for the AGM on December 6th. Once the Admin issues were dealt with it was onto sales, raffles, Secret Santa and disposing of a large amount of festive nibbles and cakes.



Graham Burke (Treasurer) reminds us of fees for next year.

Club Membership fees for 2026

If you want to pay by bank transfer, Please don't do this until 1/1/26

Don't forget the club fees/rates that now apply -

Membership - £40 - annual fee

Joint membership - £60 - annual fee

Monthly club fee - £5

Free for 12 to 18 yr olds

You can pay by card or cash at our first meeting

For your reference -

Business Account: Derbyshire Dales Woodcraft Club

Sort code: **30 99 50** Account No: **37277062**

2026 – January Competition: Battle of the bird boxes

With all of the free time members will have over the festive period, it'll be time to fly into action as (fingers crossed) we all prepare our competition entry of a "Bird Box". See the article at the end of the newsletter for the rules for this and other competitions for 2026

Many thanks to those that contributed to this issue and assisting in the Xmas AGM.

Having members submit articles and descriptions of their work helps make this newsletter a more interesting read. Thanks to Graham Legg for assisting with "Peter Rabbit's" report.

Please checkout information about the Newark Show, (end of newsletter under "Upcoming Woodworking events") for clash with Club meeting of 7th March.

Ken Rivers: Editor

December 2025 Meeting

Wood & Tools for Sale



Even before the AGM was off and running, the bargain hunters were out in force.

I think parts of the "Tool and Tackle" table had been stripped before I managed to get a picture of what was left



Those that had not devastated the above were soon sifting through some selected wood pieces brought in by Phil Halliday.

I was left with a small hole in my wallet but managed to secure some good blanks.





As I stuffed my blank wooden finds into the car I was able to catch up with Greg Holmes. I had previously mentioned that at October's Bakewell Stickmakers Guild show, I had picked up a stick, washers and horn handle that I intend to put together for Christine Rivers to add to her collection.

Greg Holmes was able to show me a few sticks he had been working on. He informed me that in Ireland, golfers used these walking sticks, known as "Sunday sticks" or "sabbath sticks," to play golf discreetly on Sundays when the Church of Scotland discouraged golfing. These sticks were designed to look like regular walking canes, allowing players to enjoy the game without being noticed

The main event of the day was soon under way. Members ploughed through the committee's agenda. Full details will be sent to all individual members.





Once complete, the kitchen opened. The supplies members had kindly brought in were unpacked and a little socialising commenced.



Those partaking in the Xmas tradition of Secret Santa had already deposited their gifts on Santa's table and were allocated a ticket by one of Santa's little helpers, who looked a lot like Carole Snell.



Graham Burke, looking very festive, took charge of the Raffle prize table. I hope the lucky winners appreciate a biscuit with their “drink”!.



If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get?

Missile Toe

Who makes toy guitars and sings “Blue Christmas!

Elvis





Results of Masters and Members Yearly Competitions



In this year's Member's competition, the overall winner was Simon Groom with 38 points. Simon will now be promoted to the Master's group.

2nd Place: Ken Rivers with 27 points

3rd Place: Richard Dallas with 19 points.

In This year's Master's competition, the overall winner was Pauline Linnell with 38 points.

2nd Place: David Waldron with 29 points.

3rd Place: Joint winners for David Reynolds and John William both with 24 points.

Last year Pauline won the Members competition and was promoted to the Masters section and this year she has won the Masters section.

Derek commented that in his time he could only remember one other member doing that in two consecutive years.



What do you call an Elf that sings?

A Wrapper

Xmas Competition: “Bauble”



1st Derek Puplett (Cherry & Beech)

2nd Graham Legg (Sycamore: Reindeer)

The main bauble started life as a block of Sycamore. James Sharpe supplied me with a “compound cut” template, which I printed and then pasted onto the block.

The cutting out of the bauble was made using my scroll saw, with a No.5 blade. This process was ex-

tremely hard work and tense, taking a considerable time! The use of sellotape helped enormously whilst cutting in the various angles!

When finished, I very carefully sanded down and then used Chestnut Products Rainbow Waxes.

The reindeer is also made from Sycamore, and cost me some considerable hours of concentration. The antlers are very fragile! After cutting out, I sanded down and then used Rainbow Waxes to colour.



The reindeer is glued into the bauble using CA glue.



Overall this was a challenging project that tested my patience and painting skills! [GL]

3rd Pauline Linnell (Sycamore)

I turned the sphere from a piece of sycamore and drew on a grid with horizontal and vertical lines. The number of vertical lines determines the number of spirals. Draw lines diagonally across the squares and cut along with a rotary tool or a saw to desired depth. Widen the cuts with a rasp. 1/8th” wide by 1/4th” deep. Hollow out the globe and use cloth-backed sanding strip to sand and round off each spiral. Part off and turn finials for the top and bottom. I sprayed these with black ebony lacquer and waxed before assembling. [PL]

Also Entered

Richard Latos (Various)



Kevin Shaw



Simon Groom: Christmas Trees (Various)



I casually offered to make "a few" Christmas Trees for our village primary school without confirming numbers!

30 Christmas Trees later.....!????????
However, it was great practice with skew and spindle gouge ...as well as re-sharpening skills. [SG]

Ken Rivers: Snowflake Bowl (Unknown)



Still getting the hang of using resin. This one started life as a piece of unknown wood bought from the club.



The blank had a bad / loose piece that soon fell out as I started to mark it out. So the first resin job was to fill in this missing piece, blue resin and a few plastic snowflakes.



The snowflake image was marked on the bottom of the blank and routed out. This was then filled with resin and mortice turned on this part of the blank.

With the mortice in the head stock the bowl inside was turned until the snowflake pattern emerged in the bottom of the bowl.

It now sits in my kitchen, full of chocolates, topped with a box of mince pies and surrounded by an ever growing army of snowmen and Xmas trees I am knocking out for



neighbours and friends.



Carole Snell: Carved Leaf (Pine)

The hanging carved leaf “bauble” was a piece of pine. A while ago I tried carving a portrait picture of a green man figure without a lot of detail. This time I tried to ensure the image was more like a regular green man. [CS]

David Waldron: Christmas Pudding (Various)

The Christmas pudding was made from two marquetry pictures of coloured veneers with the design reversed on the second picture. These were then glued to a plywood disk, and finished with sanding sealer. A hole was then drilled in the top portion and a string fastened for hanging on the tree.

**Andrew Gordon: Bauble (Oak)****David Reynolds:
Xmas Gonk (Assorted)**

Phil Halliday: Bauble (Pear)**Dick Potter: Bauble (Cherry)**

To make my Christmas bauble I used a blank of cherry, (2" sq. by about 6" long).

I first decided where to make the sphere (about 1/3rd from one end) having already turned the blank to a cylinder, between centres. Then by holding the shorter cylinder in the chuck, I turned the wedge shape, the sphere and the wiggly finial, then sanded to 320 grit and friction polish.

The wedge shaped end still had a short cylindrical section enabling me to grip it in a smaller diameter chuck, which I then parted off with my 2mm parting tool.

Then using my 60mm long jaws, suitably covered in small pieces of rubber matting (for protecting the finished wood), I held the sphere at right angles, and turned an internal sphere into it, sanded to 320 grit, friction polish as before.



Finally I drilled a 1mm hole at right-angles to the wedge end, threading the brass-looking thread through into a hanging loop. Job done! [DP]

Graham Cope: Bells (Olive)

My first attempt at two bell shapes would have pulled the Christmas tree over, so I ended up using a smaller piece of Olive wood that was lurking in the back of the cupboard.

I'm quite pleased with the outcome as I always like using olive wood. I would like to add that I am always amazed at the standard of work on show something to aspire to. [GC]





A thank you to our new competition organiser, Andrew Gordon, for building and supplying the 'bauble' display stand.

Competition Votes & places

1	Derek Puplett	8
2	Graham Legg	7
3	Pauline Linnell	6
4	Richard Latos	4
4	Kevin Shaw	4
5	Simon Groom	3
5	Ken Rivers	3
6	Carole Snell	1
6	David Waldron	1
6	Andrew Gordon	1
7	David Reynolds	0
7	Phil Halliday	0
7	Dick Potter	0
7	Graham Cope	0



Who hides in the bakery at Xmas

A Mince Spy

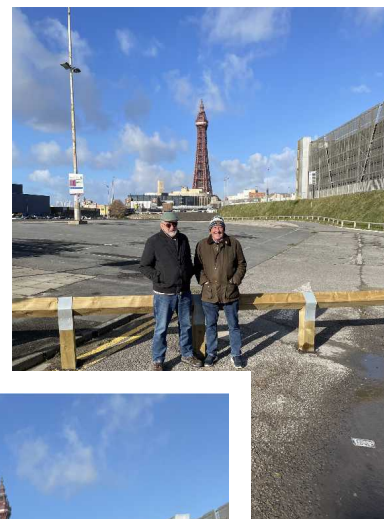


Blackpool Day Trip



Here it is folks, your Chairperson and his minder have been caught trying to get in to Strictly Come Dancing at Blackpool!

Brian and Derek had great difficulty trying to stand upright in a very strong wind, but did manage to get to the RNLI boat station, where Derek was able to buy another one of his collectible items (but what is it that Derek collects?).



You may wonder why two of our Musketeers were in Blackpool? Well they do like a stick of rock, a Gregg's lunch and travelling in a "Blue Circle" vehicle (Al takes over the car, it drives itself and Brian does not need to steer!).



Other than that, they had a very pleasant visit to Bevan Machinery, where Record Power generously gave us a discount on three new CamVacs. This equipment has been purchased using the £1,000 grant we received last year.

Where will they visit next? It feels like, "Where's Wally"!

Your roving reporter

Peter Rabbit

Outreach news from Brackenfield

A little more information for those members not familiar with the work the club does for our outreach programme at Brackenfield. Listed below are some photo's of the projects that the students have made, ready to sell at the school Christmas Fayre.

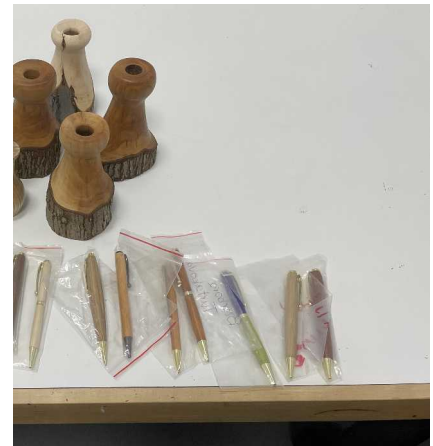


Our Woodturning and art work started in early September, teaching the same small number of students each week.

We have worked hard at completing a project within one hour, before working with another student.

The rewards for this work are huge, both for the young people involved and for our tutor team. We have seen the students grow in confidence, building self esteem and developing their communication skills.

As we move towards the end of the school Autumn term, it is with much gratitude that I would like to thank Kez, Derek, Colin, Andrew and David, for their continued involvement and support at Brackenfield SEND School.



As tutors, we learn something new each week. We have a good laugh (mostly at our expense), and have created an atmosphere of trust and respect with the students.



It is a fitting compliment that the school does not need to provide a qualified teacher to manage the group. Instead we work mostly with the same Teaching Assistant.

We enjoy a relaxed, friendly and extremely rewarding Tuesday morning.

To date we have raised £600 for our Club chosen charity (Safe and Sound), by being given a donation of £50 for

each session that we teach.



We are always in need of additional support / volunteers. Please contact any of our team if you may be interested in joining us. You do not need to be available each week, since we create a rota.

With thanks to Kez, Derek, Colin, Andrew and David.

Graham Legg
(Safeguarding Officer)

<https://safeandsoundgroup.org.uk/>



Safe and Sound works to keep children and young people safe and sound from sexual exploitation.

Established in 2002, we have built a strong reputation as a key provider in the bid to end sexual violence, child sexual exploitation and abuse, and are trusted by victims of sexual exploitation, their families, carers and professional agencies alike.

We provide support directly to children, young people and families in Derby and Derbyshire affected by the abuse and work to ensure that individuals receive the support they need to move forwards in their lives.

We also offer an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) service to support young people through the Criminal Justice System (CJS) following sexual abuse.

We are committed to raising awareness of the issue within schools and community groups and firmly believe in early intervention in these environments to prevent young people becoming victims of child sexual exploitation in the first place.

We work at a national level to support the development of policy and response to the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and young people.

Don't forget those last minute presents



Editor's corner

Xmas "Bauble" bowl can be seen here in its box for resin pour no.1



The smaller bowl was a test project for another friend. This was my first attempt at routing out a pattern in a blank and doing a resin fill. My 'hand guided' routing did not do the "Celtic Knot" pattern any justice and I made a few mistakes. You can see where I had plunged with the router, the pattern was not joined. Also I had to remove a lot of the inside of the blank in order to see the pattern. Lesson learned for the "Snowflake Bowl"

shapes).

The next competition is "Battle of the bird boxes" so as I write this my entry is just past the planning stage and I have a cutting list. Hopefully by the time you skim through this issue it will be well under way and ready for a coat of paint.

Ho Ho Ho!

Ken Rivers



What happens if you eat Xmas decorations?



You get Tinsel -itus

ZOOM Meeting 18 December 2025

Just a few of us gathered for the last meeting of the year.

First topic was the Newark show on 6th and 7th of March. However the 7th is club day?

Out of the members that attended the Zoom meeting, most have decided to go on Friday 6th so that they do not miss Saturday the 7th Club meeting and demonstration by Chris Parker.



Topics for discussion

1. A booking for 2027 Phil Halliday has reported that he has booked Paul Hannaby for the 2027 season. Paul has asked what we want him to demo and has suggested the list below. This can be viewed on his website (<https://www.hannaby.com/interactive-remote-woodturning-demonstrations/>)

This list consists of:

Bowl turning – a simple bowl and a thin walled natural edge bowl

Hand thread chasing and boxes

Boxes with push fit lids

Pewter casting with wood

Goblets – natural edge goblet, a twist stem goblet and hollowing with a ring tool

Colouring & texturing – a selection of techniques including acrylic texture/colour; spirit dyes; ebonising and grain fill techniques.

Colours and grain fills – a mixture of media

Airbrushing and masking

Spinning tops

A pair of candlesticks

2. Who's made the most xmas toys, snowmen etc.

I was happy to display a few of the 8 snowmen and 3 trees made this year for friends.

Sheldon showed a lovely set of stars he had created. I am hoping to see one at the next meeting so I can ask him about technique.



3. Expected Xmas pressies!! I have asked Santa for a Pyrography kit and Sheldon has asked for a Pie course (As in how to make them rather than eat them : which I assume would naturally follow on from completing the first part of this 'course'.

All other members have more tools that they can name!

4. "owt" else that comes up

The discussion then veered towards remaining showrooms open to view equipment (Apart from the woodworking shows) Places to go to view lathes: Charnwood (LE67 1TU) probably the closest to the club.

Talking of lathes I chipped in with a recent failure of my Axminster 355WL as it had been displaying an F3 error code (Problems with Reverse). Axminster support first went all PC and said turn it off, unplug the cables, wait a minute then reconnect and have another go. Unlike a lot of PC problems this resulted in "no change". They offered a replacement Control box if I would be happy to swap it out else return the lathe. I went for option 1 and if that fails, my next task will be to make a sturdy box, pack it up and wave au revoir to my favourite shed toy. Update: I received a new control box from Axminster. Hopefully this will resolve the problem



I personally do not think it's a reverse problem as I only ever use reverse for sanding.

Colin was keen to tell me that there are more uses for reverse than sanding. So I am hoping at the next meeting he can introduce me to these mysteries.



Upcoming Woodworking events

Newark show. (6th-7th March 2026).

This show clashes with the March meeting of Saturday March 7th and turning demonstration from Chris Parker. Latest poll of members suggests that those that intend to go will do so on Friday 6th March.

2026 Chestnut Products Weekender: 29-30 August 2026 The Dome Event Centre, Bawtry Road, Doncaster DN44 7PD

<https://chestnutproducts.co.uk/woodturning-weekender/>

DDWC Programme 2026

Competition themes

January	- Battle of the bird boxes
February	- Music
March	- Nature
April	- Fantasy
May	- Wacky Races challenge
June	- No Theme
July	- Toy Day - Year 1940
August	- No Theme
September	- Scrap wood challenge
October	- Symmetry
November	- Remembrance
December	- Christmas Around the World

Demonstrations for 2026 :

March we have a turning demonstration from Chris Parker
July we have an Involute turning demonstration from Margaret Garrard
September we have a Turning Demonstration with Gary Rance
November we have a Carving Demonstration with Michelle Bolton

Zoom Meeting Schedule for 2026

16th January	13th February	13th March	17th April
22nd May	19th June	18th September	16th October
20th November	18th December.		

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Competition Rules for the Challenges/ Collaborations 2026

Battle of the bird boxes- January 2026

- One entry per person or team
- The birdhouse must be **primarily wood**. Other materials are fine for details, but wood should lead the show.
- It has to be something an actual bird *could* use. No bird mansions the size of your shed, and no doorways only a mouse could fit through.
- Must be sturdy enough to survive the British weather, or at least pretend to.

Make the most imaginative birdhouse you can dream up.

Think beyond “standard wooden box.”

Tudor cottage? Go for it.

Spaceship? Lovely.

Tiny bird-sized pub? The birds will talk.



Wacky Races- One entry per team or person: May 2026

- gravity powered cars only
 - all car must not exceed the dimensions
 - first car to reach the end of the track wins
 - cars can be made with other materials but must be 70% wood
 - safety of the driver is paramount
- Car dimensions are so the car fits on the track
- max width including wheels 7.5cm
 - min width including wheels 4.45cm
 - height 10cm
 - min ground clearance 1 cm



Scrap wood Challenge- September 2026

- The entry must use a minimum of 3 different pieces of wood.
- *(Carvers and pyrographers; That means be really creative or glue scraps together).*
- Each single piece of wood used can be no bigger than A5 size
- *148 * 210 mm: that's 5.8 * 8.3 inches*
- If a single piece is big enough to make an item such as a bowl, then it can't be regarded as scrap.
- The **exception** to this, is if you are making something from a pallet. Pallets are officially regarded as scrap wood. Longer than A5 sized lengths from a pallet, ripped, planed and sanded to provide sections of wood that can be used as it or glued / laminated to create boards of larger pieces.
- In order prevent a plethora of miniature items being presented as entries, the entry must **not** be that small that it would fit inside a 3" * 3" box (76*76mm).

Christmas Around the World- December 2026



Each member creates an ornament inspired by a different country's holiday traditions.

- Must be made primarily from wood.
- Any woodcraft discipline allowed (mixing is encouraged).
- Piece must relate clearly to a cultural winter/Christmas tradition.
- Provide a short note (a paragraph or two) about the country/tradition that inspired it.

Eg: In Hawaii, Santa Claus doesn't ride a sleigh with reindeer. Instead, he often arrives on an outrigger canoe, sometimes accompanied by hula dancers and musicians. The boat is usually pulled by dolphins



**NEXT ISSUE COPY DEADLINE**

28 January 2026

Find us on 

New Club positions will be listed
next month

Club Positions	
Chair	Derek Puplett
Vice-Chair(s)	Kez Halliday
Secretary	Peter Branson
Treasurer	Graham Burke
Librarian	Val Branson
Demo. Co-ordinator	Philip Halliday Elaine Massey
Safeguarding Officer	Graham Legg
Competitions Co-ordinators	Kez Halliday Andrew Gordon
Tool Co-ordinators	Brian Walker Val Branson
Members Representatives	Graham Legg Elaine Massey
Woodworms Editor	Ken Rivers

<https://www.facebook.com/derbyshiredaleswoodcraft>

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Woodworms - newsletter of Derbyshire
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