



Turnings

from the Tudor Rose Woodturners

Affiliated to the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2004

New Newsletter

Welcome to the new newsletter for and by the Tudor Rose Woodturners.

We have tried to get this first issue up and running with articles from the committee but for it to continue, we do need your input and help.

If you have anything that you could write about woodturning that would be of interest to the Club, could you please contact me as I am currently producing the newsletter.

There will also be a 'For Sale & Wanted' section and again, if you would like anything added, please let us know. Paul Loseby (Address etc at rear).

Inside this issue:

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Eli Avisera Demonstration

Sunday 29th February 2004

by Guy Ravine

I became aware of Eli Avisera and his range of tools through John Berkeley, who had been testing the tools on behalf of Hamlet, the manufacturers. Eli was working at the Ally Pally show, but so was I and being chained to a lathe all day doesn't actually give you much chance to study other people at work.

Subsequent to the show Eli stayed with John, prior to doing a full day demo with Tudor Rose, the AWGB branch of which I am chairman. I went up to John's to meet Eli, and watch

the tools demonstrated and to have a go myself. I admit that I had been dismissive of the tools at first, but rapidly changed my mind. They are all very versatile and user friendly.

Convex ground skews. These were the tools that I was most dubious about, but to my surprise they work just as well as conventional skews, better in fact as they seem to be much less likely to catch. It is a lot easier to keep the bevel in contact with the wood. It's also possible to do a lot of other things you can't easily do



with a conventional skew. Why hasn't anyone thought of this before? In my opinion this tool will demystify the skew and make it much more approachable to beginners.

Another tool with the same grind as the skew is a sort of super parting tool, which has some of the characteristics and virtues of the skew and the Bedan, but being

Cont'd on page 7

A .W. G. B. - Annual General Meeting

Sunday 28th March 2004 at 2pm

We are honoured to host this AGM which firmly puts us in the forefront of woodturning clubs.

We know it is on a Sunday and you would

like to be visiting relatives or watching Eastenders etc. etc. but please support our club at this event. There will be tea/coffee and biscuits available. We shall

also be learning about the future of the AWGB. *Malcolm Hill (Sec)*

Thought for the Day

It's nice to do a good turn for someone (MH)

Club Status and Finances:

The Club started on 11 Sept 2002 with 12 members, increasing to a present membership of 46.

With loans from members we made our first purchase of a lathe in June 03, we hope to repay the outstanding loans this year, I cannot for see us needing any further equipment in this financial year.

Club funds stand at £687.53 with loans to be repaid of £550.00. The club balance stands at £137.53 having repaid loans of £330.00 to members.

Club Purchases:-

Since conception, the club has bought one Vicmarc VL100 Mini lathe & chuck ; a lathe chuck on Morse taper; two Philips television sets and two colour bullet cameras. Total purchases add up to £1,593.29

We always need support from members on evening and Saturday events, which are very good value with top class demonstrators, morning and afternoon demonstrations, a good lunch, tea coffee and biscuits all for £15.00

Bernard Jolley - Treasurer

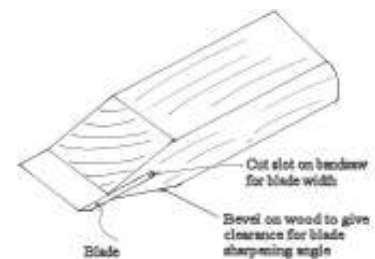
Captions Please - What is Eli thinking?



Prize for best entry—to be judged by show of hands at next meeting

Hints & Tips We will be trying to add as many of these as possibly over the months. If you have some tips that might help our other members, could you please send them to Paul Loseby for inclusion in the next issue

- We all know that wire will burn rings of the wood as we turn it. If you get in with the cheese counter staff at your local super-market, apparently their cheese wires break frequently and each makes about three suitable wires for the Woodturners needs. Remember to put a key ring on the ends for ease of handling and to keep your fingers. *(Paul L)*
- Short of a tack cloth - try a sheet of tumble-dryer softener. Perhaps not quite as good but it does the job and is a lot less expensive. *(Paul L)*
- Rolls of abrasive - with a felt tip pen, draw a line down the centre from one end to the other. 1 line for the coarsest, 2 for the next etc so that even if you only have a scrap of abrasive with no number on, you know which grade it is. *(John Berkeley)*
- Cut a few pieces of 2" diameter plastic piping about 5" long. Slice them with a craft knife or bandsaw and put your abrasive roll inside with the end poking from the cut. You will always have an easy way of getting the right length of abrasive and somewhere to keep it safe. A few of these tubes on a board together give easily accessible storage and access. *(John Berkeley)*
- Buy a pair of locking 'scissors' from John Johnson together with some foam backed abrasive and you have the perfect sanding equipment for the inside of small objects and boxes. *(John Berkeley)*
- A Clove makes an ideal bottom 'pip' for apples etc. And don't forget, when you are putting the 'stalk' of a pear in place, drill at an angle to make it more realistic. *(Malcolm Hill)*
- When sharpening short blades for hand tools such as the spokeshave or box scraper, make a holder from a scrap of wood to hold the blade and give more control over the sharpening process.



Eli Avisera Tools: Those who were able to get to the Eli Avisera demonstration day will have seen the innovative tools and methods of use by their creator. Here John Berkeley gives his view on the tools

How lucky I was to have met Eli last September at Hamlet Tools. It was then that I first saw the range of tools he had developed and I was excited. Prior to our demonstration last month Eli spent three days with me showing me some of his tricks, and the way he uses his tools.

Firstly let me briefly explain them. There are three distinct types. Chisels, Gouges and what we describe as Combination tools.

Currently there are four chisels, though three more are to be added to the range. Two skews, a beading tool and a parting tool. These all have, to many people's surprise, convex bevels. They need to be sharpened by an up and down movement on the grinding wheel, and then polished on a mop, either cotton or leather. This gives them that special edge which makes them a joy to use. They all have nicely rolled edges, which only contributes to their friendliness.

There are five gouges. Two

each detail and, especially deeply milled flute, bowl cum roughing gouges. Also a short 3/8th gouge. All have very well ground back wings, giving them a finger nail profile most ladies would be proud of, and in addition a double bevel. The detail gouges do just what the name implies. The others almost anything you want them to. They are all capable of being used for both planing and shear scraping cuts.

The combination tools are real hybrids. The two smaller ones are safe enough for even juveniles to use and will do almost anything a gouge will do. They are fingernail shaped and all of these tools have a small bevel, which gives them real cutting

capability. The larger ones are ideal, and very strong, for hollowing, and give an excellent finish when used in shear scraping mode.

These tools are all very well finished and come with smart

black ash handles. They have been greeted with admiration by several professional turners and will, I think, find an important place in the world of woodturning.

Any enquiries on availability or use, please contact me at john@johnberkeley.co.uk

John is also a distributor and demonstrator for Hamlet tools. Many of the current range can be purchased through John. He is available on Tel: 01455-557398 or through his website www.johnberkeley.co.uk

For Demonstrations, Private Tuition, please contact John using the same telephone number and website



Amended item

Segmented Turning - Eli's Candlestick

For those who missed Eli's turning of a segmented candlestick out of Maple and Purpleheart, here are the dimensions and instructions needed:



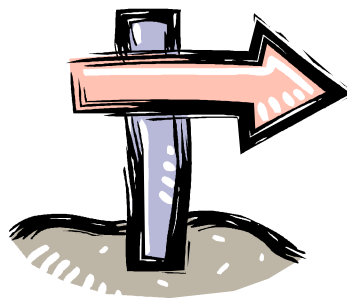
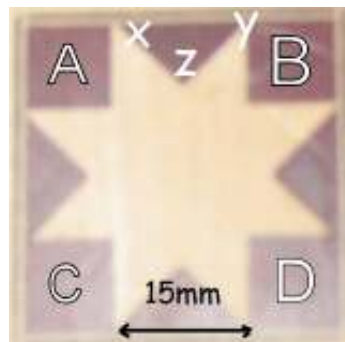
The measurements of the quarters are proportionate to the size of the wood that you want to use. Sounds complicated but I will try to explain.

The distance between blocks A and B is equal to the diagonal of the corner blocks i.e. if you draw a square and call it A and the diagonal measurement is 15mm, then the distance to block B is 15 mm also.

Make up the rest of the square on your drawing so that now,

each 'centre distance' is the 15mm.

With a pair of compasses, draw a circle using the centre of the wood as the pivot point and the nearest corner of A as the radius. Draw the circle and you will now have the point for the centre sections. Join x to z & y to z with equal length lines. 'z' is at the depth you will need for the router when taking out the centre pieces.



Route or saw corner pieces A,B,C, and D out of the wood and replace with lengths of purpleheart. Glue and hold with elastic bands. When dry, plane level. Now with your router set at a depth down to 'z' route out the centre sections. Again then fill with purpleheart, glue and hold.

Cut and plane all sides square and level and if you want to, at this point you can wrap sheets of veneer around the block that you have made so far. Finally add four pieces of Maple (whatever size you feel right) around the work and glue. Once dry, you have the work ready for turning.

Hope this helps

Paul L

Club Day Out by Coach - Saturday 2nd October 2004

CRAFT SUPPLIES SHOW @ Bakewell

Take your wife, girlfriend, husband, boyfriend etc.etc. to Bakewell for the day. Let them go shopping for a "tart" whilst you go to the show. The secretary is organising this trip so let him know if you wish to go.

The tickets for the show are cheaper (see Revolutions advert)

and the secretary will get them. Suggested times – Leave Daventry area at 9am. Pick up at Leicester Forest East. Leave Bakewell 4-5pm for return journey.

Let the secretary know if you are interested (and numbers) before the end of July 2004.

Malcolm Hill - Secretary

Requests from your secretary

The Midlands Show

April 23rd - 24th - 25th

We need members to help on the display for all 3 days. This entails talking to the visitors, explaining about the club and answering any questions. Please volunteer for either a morning or afternoon or even a full day. This is a golden opportunity to promote our club within the woodturning world. Last year was a success so let's do even better this year. Please let the secretary know if you can help. Ring 01327 872982

ALSO at the same event we shall be running 2 lathes so we need demonstrators. Turn for an hour or two and make whatever you like. It doesn't matter how long you have been turning, have a go. Give the secretary a ring

Turned for a year now - How that first year has gone

Paul Loseby

I am sorry that this is a piece by me and about me but I hope that you will appreciate that I am trying to fill this first issue in the hope that others will follow and save my scribblings...

My turning started in November 2002. I was on a cabinet making course in Leicester but I saw that they had lathes in the workshop and was itching to be allowed to 'have a go'. When they did let me loose, I was told not to sharpen any of the tools as this would mean buying replacements quicker and there were not the funds for this. Also the only abrasive was 80 grit. I made a few nice chunky logs with bits out but it wasn't my idea of turning so I went and bought my own lathe - a Perform CCL from Axminster and about a dozen tools that the Crown representative suggested. How I wish I had taken advice from a professional first. The lathe turned out to be classified as 'Hobby Use Only' and was suitable for only 2 - 3 hours a week and many of the tools are still unused.

The Perform lathe was fine for the first few weeks but I was using it for 2 - 3 hours a day. Also from my lack of reading the instructions and thinking that head bearings lubricated themselves, I ended up with a broken pulley wheel and rattling head bearings that I could hear over my stereo headphones and Steve Wright in the afternoon. I called Axminster and had a very abrupt and dismissive conversation with a female there but in fairness, when Ian and Alan Styles of Axminster heard of the problem, the matter was resolved immediately with no loss to me whatsoever. I was extremely impressed by the customer care shown by these two managers.

In the meantime, I had met and had a lesson with John Berkeley. Working with sharp tools was a delight and having someone who really knew what he was doing, improved me from minute one. I found that

half of the tools I had bought I would probably never use and that for many of the others, I could make my own. They perhaps didn't look brilliant but when starting, an old tool blade ground to a suitable shape, is a lot less expensive than more new tools. There was also the factor that I have a wife and at that stage, I may have been wasting my money.

During the lesson, John persuaded me to join the newly formed Tudor Rose Woodturners and offered to take me. I had visions of a room full of top class turners with no time for 'newbies' like me. I could not have been more wrong and I realised that when John had said, now you are a Woodturner, you have friends for life, it was probably going to be true. Instead of that image I had, I found turners at all stages of skill from professionals to others who, like me,



had only just embarked into woodturning and each and every one was only too willing to help me.



Having realised that I was actually enjoying the turning more than cabinet making, I almost begged Penny to allow me to buy a better lathe and fortunately, John was selling his Poolewood. I wanted variable speed because when you learn with John, you learn (or it seems try to) make

screw threads and boxes. For the threads, my mind won't work at 500rpm and the electronic variable speed was ideal. I don't know why I should have wanted to make screw thread boxes but every time I make a half decent one, I get a real buzz (almost better than sex and you can do it in the garage on your own).

To be honest, I haven't had too many lessons as such from John, but he did want a web site which I felt able to do and I wanted help and advice on woodturning; this has turned out to be a fantastic arrangement although I am sure that I get the better end of the bargain.

I have also found that belonging to a club such as ours has made the world of difference. To be able to watch professionals and some damn good amateurs has meant that I have never failed to learn at the meetings....and I get free coffee and biscuits. I have found that majority of the demonstrators have been brilliant to watch, especially the likes of Jimmy Clewes and Eli Avisera. Even within the club, we have Guy Ravine, John Berkeley, John Johnson, David Ouellette (have you seen his carvings and toys too - brilliant) and Womens' Institute pinup Malcolm Hill (Malcolm did suggest that we all got together for a 'Calendar Girls' type calendar but it was decided that it might be dangerous with us all having different sized skew chisels).

Anyway, the real reason in my writing this piece is to say **thank you** to all of you for the help, guidance and friendship that you have shown to me over the past 12 months.



Paul Loseby

THE CLUB SHOP

run by John Johnson

In the Shop

Most of you will by now be familiar with what I sell, but for those of you who are not, here is a brief reminder:

Polishes/Finishes

Friction Polish, Shellac Sanding Sealer, Cellulose Thinners, Cellulose Sanding Sealer,

Melamine Lacquer, Woodwax 22, Woodturners Was Sticks, Finishing Oil, Food Safe Finish, Acrylic Sprays – Spirit Stains, 0000 grade wire wool – All from the Chestnut Range of Products.

Rustins Danish Oil is also available.

We also keep a limited stock of Record and Crown Woodturning Chisels, any we haven't got in stock can be ordered for fairly quick delivery. Four prong drives from 3/8" to 1", pen mandrels, pen kits and trimmers, saw tooth bits, manufactured by Planet Engineering are also in stock.

Abrasives, both paper and cloth backed, 120,240,320 grits and 50mm diameter velcro pads for power sanding, 120,,180,240,320 grades also currently in stock.

Multistar Chucks and components are, I'm pleased to say now available again and we hope to increase the stock held very soon.

We are also able to supply Lathes, bandsaws, sanders and dust extractors from the Record Power Range. We are unable to stock these items but would like to quote to meet your requirements. Delivery usually 7-14 days, depends on availability.

Other Chestnut products include:

Tack cloths, French polish, Nyweb pads, safety cloths, stockinette rolls, vinyl gloves, various waxes, burnishing cream, pine stain, sample stain sets, end seal and much, much more.

If you want to buy a particular product which I many not have in stock, please telephone me on 01327-857032 .

Professional Tuition given by Club Members:

Guy Ravine has been a professional Woodturner since 1979. He is known mostly as a Spindle turner, but is equally adept at Bowl and Face-plate turning. He has been on the Register of Professional Turners since 1993, and has become a regular demonstrator at major woodworking shows such as Axminster, NEC, and Alexandra Palace. He is also a regular demonstrator at woodturning clubs nationwide, is a writer for Woodturning magazine, and has recently produced a teaching video. Guy can arrange tuition using your own lathe at your premises. Anyone interested should contact Guy on **01327-340410**.

John Berkeley has been turning wood professionally for 7 years but is already a highly respected member on the Register of Professional Turners. He too is a regular demonstrator at the major woodworking and woodturning shows and is a regular writer for Woodturner magazine. John has his own 2-lathe studio in Lutterworth. His speciality is small boxes and puzzles but he is also one of the rare masters of the hand chased screw thread. John can be contacted on **01455-557398**.

More Professional Tuition:

John Johnson is also on the Register of Professional Turners and gives Introductory and intermediate courses of 2 days or longer if wished. Shorter courses can be arranged if required and to learn about a specific aspect of woodturning if desired.

The Introductory course includes various methods of holding the wood using expansion, compression and screw chucks, tool sharpening and finishing. Students on this course are shown basic cuts and how to achieve various shapes, turning wood between centres.

For more information contact John on **01327-857032**

Another thought for the day:

It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.

Anon

[Eli Avisera cont'd](#) ...smaller has even more versatility.

There is also a range of sizes of a tool (**Combination Tools**) that resembles a spindle gouge but is solid, and the two larger sizes have a double bevel. I have been using a similar tool for many years, (and with extra bevels!) but Eli's has some additional features, such as the elimination of the heal, which make it even more user friendly and versatile.

There is a set of **gouges** with a shallow but broad flute, which function equally well as roughing out gouges and conventional bowl gouges. This in itself is nothing new but the double bevel seems to enable it to be used comfortably in both "pushing" and "pulling" mode, as well as in shear scraping mode.

There are also scrapers, again with the double bevel, which again seems to make the tool much more controllable and comfortable to use.

I find it quite extraordinary that one man should have come up with so many ideas for tools which will, I feel, cause many turners to reassess their tool usage. Eli's demonstrating skills are similarly illuminating. He has all manner of little tricks and set pieces that are quite inspirational to novice and veteran alike.

Eli started his demo with a simple finger spinning top with chatterwork decoration (the chattertool used is of his own design), and followed it up with one of his characteristic spinning top boxes. These have a beautiful segmented wood core

using purpleheart, maple and ebony. The "dreidel" boxes commemorate a period of Jewish history when Israel was occupied and language and religion banned. The top was a way of surreptitiously carrying out religious ritual, if challenged the "players" could say that they were just playing a game.

The next project was a candlestick made from the same laminated wood used for the box. The design was based on the characteristic "Osolnik" shape, and Eli had handed round diagrams of the basic shape with measurements. Throughout the demonstration Eli used his own design tools (apart from the Kelton tools used in the hollow form demonstration) and explained how best to sharpen them, as the convex bevel on the skew and the double bevels on most other tools do present a challenge if you are not used to them.

This was the largest audience that we have had for a demo at Braunston, numbering about 50. The excellent buffet lunch was well presented and despatched with few problems! If our demos get any bigger, however, we may have problems as we were almost at the limit as far as space and equipment go at this venue. It may be that we will have to limit numbers.

Eli's demo continued with a pair of candlesticks, to get a matching pair he will part finish the first, then copy it and complete the second, before returning to the first and making any necessary adjustments. He had handed round diagrams of this project too.

The next section of the demo involved off centre techniques and Eli showed how to make a variety of small projects utilising ordinary chuck jaws; though he stressed that should you want to scale up these projects then you need an "Escoulen" chuck. He made eccentric patterns of pen, spoon and goblet in quick succession. I'm sure that many will have found these items both inspirational and approachable.

By this time Phil Irons had joined the audience, and he joined in with Eli's final project, a small hollow form in Cherry. Eli used the small set of Kelton hollowing tools, and showed his standard procedure for such work. He starts by turning out a parallel sided hole then works from the top in small and defined sections until the inside is finished; or at least he would have done if Phil hadn't finished the piece while he was talking!

This was a very full day with a lot to take in, both in terms of technique and tooling. Eli has devised a whole tool system that I feel sure is going to have quite an impact in this country, as I'm sure he will as a demonstrator. Tudor Rose Woodturners are proud to have presented Eli's first demonstration in Britain. Eli will be coming back in autumn for the NAC show and there is a possibility that the club will help him to run workshops for his tools; there are so many of them and they are sufficiently "different" that there will surely be a demand for this.

Guy Ravine

Diary of Forthcoming Events

Sunday, March 28th 2004 @ 2.00pm - AWGB
AGM being held at the Club.

Tuesday April 13th 7.00pm - Henry Taylor Tools

April 23rd - 24th - 25th - Midlands Woodworking and Woodturning Exhibition. Warwickshire Exhibition Centre (**Exhibits needed for club stand**)

Tuesday May 11th - 7.00pm - Guy Ravine gives one of his excellent talks on Exotic woods

Tuesday June 8th - 7.00pm - John Bradbury demonstrates Segmented Turning.

No meeting during August due to building work at the venue. During the winter, we hope to start having two meetings per month—details to follow.

Tony Osborne is arranging the meetings for the rest of the year but we can say that we are hopeful of having another day with Eli Avisera in October 2004. Please watch this space.

ALL DAY DEMONSTRATIONS

Saturday April 17th at 10.00am—Allan Batty, time-served Woodturner and master of the skew, gives us the benefit of his experience. If you would like to attend, please contact Bernard Jolley asap—Cost £15.00 including buffet lunch

ANNUAL CLUB SEMINAR—FULL DAY - Saturday May 8th 10.00am until 4.00pm. Demonstrations by Guy Ravine, John Johnson, John Berkeley and David Ouellette. An excellent day last year and we are sure this year will be as good. £15.00 including buffet lunch - Tickets from Bernard Jolley

Saturday September 25th 10.00 - 4.00pm

Paul Coker talks on the history of and demonstrations on all aspects of rose engine and ornamental turning

Saturday 13th November 10.00 - 4.00pm Stephen Cooper specialises in the unusual such as a peeling vase and translucent vessels. Today he imparts some of his knowledge to us

Message from Eli Avisera to the Club PL

Eli has asked for a message to be passed on to you all:

“I will never forget the day at your club and the people. I have never been made to feel more welcome anywhere. It was really good and I will always help your club if ever I can” Eli

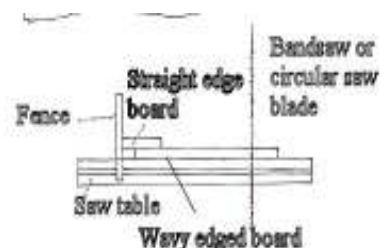
Hot Tip 2 from John Johnson

When cutting waney edge boards to form a straight cut, use a straight edged board and nail to the top of the wavy edge board.

Nail straight edged board to wavy edged board



Feed both through the saw with the straight edge against the fence.



Tudor Rose Woodturners' Club



We are on the Internet
and can be found at

[www.tudor-rose-
turners.org.uk/](http://www.tudor-rose-turners.org.uk/)

The club was formed by a steering committee in the summer of 2002, as it was felt that there was a need for an AWGB branch in Northamptonshire. The first meetings were held in Willoughby, but the club soon moved on to Braunston where it is currently settled. The club is fortunate to have several professional turners in its ranks, all of whom are regular demonstrators.

At present meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, the doors opening at 7pm for a 7.15 start. The programme is based on demonstrations and lectures, and we hope that there will be something worth learning at each meeting. There is always time for socialising at the meetings, and the club is trying to build a strong and friendly identity. There is usually some wood, and some woodturning supplies on sale at meetings.

Our full day demonstration programme is intended to present the leading contemporary turners to both club members and a wider audience. An excellent quality buffet lunch is always on offer at these demonstrations, and is included in the price.

It is hoped that the club will continue to grow, and that it will accumulate its own equipment, and present an ever-improving programme for its members.
Guy Ravine - Chairman

Committee Members:

Chairman...Guy Ravine Tel: 01327-340410 e-mail: guy@guyravines.com

Vice-Chairman...John Berkeley
Tel: 01455-557398
e-mail: john@johnberkeley.co.uk

Secretary...Malcolm Hill Tel: 01327-872982
e-mail: malcvale@btinternet.com

Treasurer...Bernard Jolley Tel: 01327-705038
e-mail: bernard.j@tesco.net

Programme Secretary...Tony Osborne Tel: 01788-890121 e-mail: tony@t-jtools.co.uk

Library & Committee: David Ouellette Tel: 01327-351068 e-mail: david@ouellette.freerve.co.uk

Committee: John Johnson
Tel: 01327-857032 e-mail: JohnJohnson@woodturning.fsbusiness.co.uk

Committee/Lathe Store: Brian Froggatt
Tel: 01788-816950

Webmaster/Newsletter:
Paul Loseby Tel: 0116-2861244
e-mail: pal@loseby.co.uk

Meetings:-

The club currently meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Braunston Village Hall. Braunston itself is on the A45 between Rugby and Daventry. Visitors and New Members are always welcome

Articles for Newsletter: Please forward any articles (if possible by e-mail) to pal@loseby.co.uk Documents would be preferred in .doc format and pictures in .jpeg

If sending by normal post, please send to Paul Loseby, 3, Farm Close, Littlethorpe, Leicester LE19 2JD