



Martock and District Woodturners Newsletter

September 2024

News

Many thanks to those that helped with the car parking and club stand at the autumn craft fair at Yandles. It was a busy day, even though it ended with a spot of rain.

Planning next year's programme is under way – if you have any thoughts on who you would like to see demonstrate at the club (whether it is someone you would like to see back or someone new you have seen elsewhere) please mention it to Dave P who is always open to suggestions, as long as they are polite!

Reminder

Subscriptions for 2024/25 were due at the beginning of September



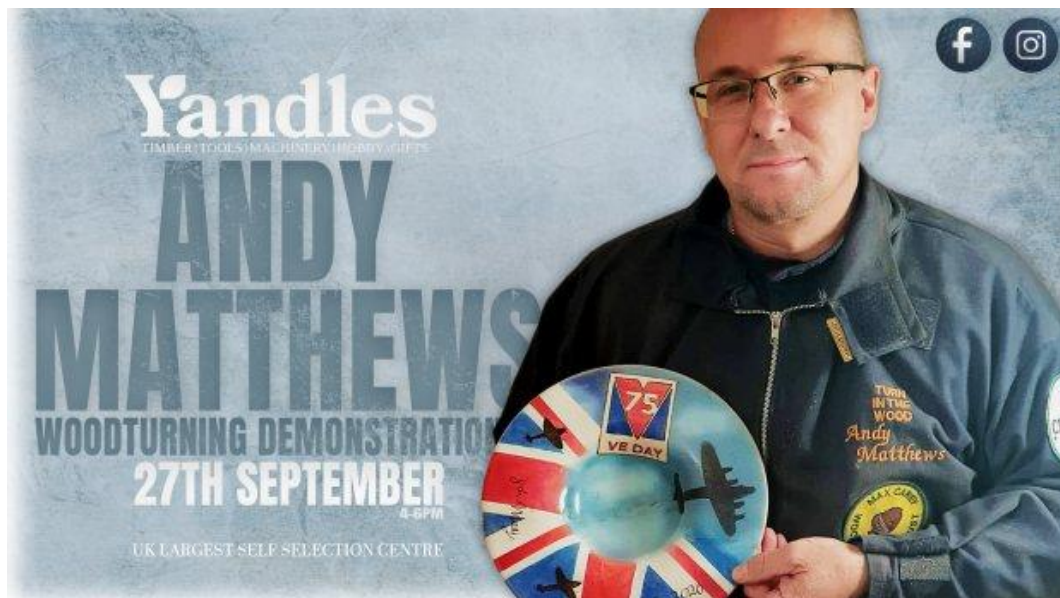
As agreed at the last AGM, these will be £65 for the year to allow us to continue to bring you quality demonstrations most months.

Payment by bank transfer is preferred, and details have been sent out by email.

We hope to have another interesting and varied programme in place for you next year.

Diary Dates

Tues, Sept 24 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Colwin Way
Sat, Oct 12 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
Tues, Oct 29 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Dan Tarrant
Sat, Nov 9 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
Tues, Nov 26 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion



August Club Night – Gianni Daidda



Scroll-saw wizard Gianni was back with us again to show us some scroll-saw techniques and encourage us to have a go – “how many of you own a scroll-saw?” (lots of hands), “how many of you use it?” (practically no one)!

During the evening Gianni went through the basics of using a scroll-saw whilst making a decorated box.

The starting point was a simple plywood box held together by a series of finger joints that fitted into holes cut in the sides.



Three panels were cut out to fit the front and sides. The front edges of each piece were chamfered using sanding paper. These pieces can be painted before gluing to the box; the side panels will hide the box joints.



The decoration on the top consisted of some turned acorns and some oak leaves cut on the scroll-saw. Detail was added using a pyrography machine.



Had time permitted, Gianni would have shown us the steps involved in making this interesting set of drawers. Instead, he made a quick Christmas decoration using compound cutting (cutting from top to bottom and from side to side).



Scroll Saw Day with Gianni

Eight members (and one ex-member) enjoyed a day making their own version of the box demonstrated by Gianni the night before.

A mix-up with dates meant the hall was double booked in the morning so the day was spent outside in the sunshine...

...except for the one heavy shower that sent nearly everyone scurrying indoors for a cup of tea and some cake.



Gallery

Here is where we display any items made by club members in recent weeks.





Please send photographs of anything you have made to newsletter@madturners.co.uk, or better still bring them along on a club night to put on the inspiration table for all to admire.

Timber of the Month – Pink Ivory



Pink Ivory (*Phyllogeiton zeyheri*) is an African hardwood tree that grows predominantly in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Northern Botswana and South Africa. It is also called Red Ivory, Purple Ivory, Umnini or Umgoloti. The tree grows to a height of 30-40m (100-130 ft), with a diameter of 1-1.5m (3-5 ft).

Although the species is not listed in the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the tree is protected and sustainably maintained in South Africa, and can only felled by very limited permit. This is probably one of the reasons Pink Ivory is typically very expensive, and is often cited as one of the most expensive woods in the world, along with African blackwood, sandalwood, agarwood and ebony.

Pink Ivory ranges in colour from a pale brownish pink, to a bright pink, to a deep red, with the bright pink timber typically the most valuable. It can often have a curly or fiddleback grain pattern, further enhancing its visual impact. The sapwood is pale yellow to light brown, with a somewhat gradual demarcation from heartwood. Like many coloured timbers, Pink Ivory can fade or dull over time.

The timber is used to make a variety of products such as billiard cues, knife handles, inlays and veneers, chessmen, and other turned objects. It is often available to the woodturner as pen blanks.

Pink Ivory was the royal tree of the Zulu people and only members of the royal family were allowed to possess it. Before the Anglo-Zulu War, the Zulu king would carry a pink ivory Knobkerrie (a stick with a knob at one end) and also wear jewellery made from Pink Ivory wood. It was said that non-royals who possessed Pink Ivory would be put to death. After the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War the possession of Pink Ivory lost its significance.

The Pink Ivory tree produces a fruit that is delicious to eat, whilst other parts of the tree have been used traditionally as remedies and medicines.

Don't Forget to Use Your Club Discounts

Just present your club membership card (it may be worth checking beforehand whether a discount will apply to your intended purchase)



10% off most items, except power tools.



10% off all timber and finishes

If you have anything you would like to share through this newsletter, or have any ideas of what you would like to see included, please let me know by emailing me at <mailto:newsletter@madturners.co.uk>.

Thanks, Dave H