



Martock and District Woodturners Newsletter

January 2025

News

First of all, a Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and have now tried out all those new tools and accessories I'm sure you got as presents. If you haven't made a New Year's resolution, how about resolving to bring along something for the display table each month?

January is AGM month when once again we elect the committee for the coming year. We are always on the lookout for new committee members, so why not give it a go? We only meet six times a year so it is not a big commitment. No experience (or woodturning proficiency!) is necessary and you would bring a fresh perspective on how the club can best serve its members.

As an added attraction this year's AGM will include a **light buffet supper!**

Diary Dates

January 28 th	Club night – AGM and buffet supper – 7pm, Ash Pavilion
February 8 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
February 25 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Jason Breach
March 8 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room



December's Show and Tell



Dave A saw French turner Yann Marot turn the maple bowl on the left at the AWGB seminar and decided to make his own version out of elm.



Phil O passed round the curious bit of turning shown on the left (apologies for it being out of focus). This is in fact a piece of "inside-out" turning that when split and reassembled forms the basis of this Christmas decoration.



At last year's show and tell Liz K brought along the oak bowl on the right and explained why she was not happy with the design and decoration of the rim. This year she brought along the same bowl after it had been put back on the lathe and reworked.



Charlie W brought along two pieces – the first was an oak burr bowl where he had decided to experiment with various textures and finishes to produce something different. The second piece was a hollow form made from burr chestnut to which a pedestal and lid were added (ebonised sycamore).



This German style Christmas decoration was made by Eric G using plans by Colwin Way.



These two pieces were made by Richard D. The three-corner box was turned from walnut with an ebonised oak base. The bowl was made from walnut and features a textured rim made with the Sorby texturing tool and a centre decoration done with the Henry Taylor decorating elf tool.



Rod P made this African mahogany sphere with pewter decoration. It is made in two halves which are threaded so that they screw together (Rod made his own threading jig to achieve this).

The piece was submitted to a completion at the Worshipful Company of Turners, but didn't win!



Steve A has been turning resin and timber bowls for some time and brought along a couple in the making to show some of the process. The one on the left is ready to be removed from its mould and turned, the one on the right is packed with timber offcuts and small conifer cones and is about ready for its resin pour.



Andy R turned this bowl from a piece of black poplar.



These two pieces were turned by Dave H from a weathered piece of oak found amongst some old fence posts in a corner of the garden. The surface was brushed out with a wire brush and ebonised with a solution made from wire-wool in white vinegar.

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.



A number of club members have already booked up to attend the [Chestnut Woodturning Weekender](#) next year. The cost is only £75 pounds (plus travel and accommodation – if you act quick there is a special offer available on hotel bookings), or as it is only in Swindon, day tickets are available. This is a fun, relaxing weekend features four full-length demonstrations (the demonstrators will be Kate Armstrong, Andy Fortune, Simon Hope and Andy Matthews), clinics & smaller demonstrations and trade stands as well as a Saturday evening meal with bar & surprise entertainment. It is also an ideal opportunity to get to know some of your fellow club members better. If you think you might be interested in joining them, have word with Dave P to find out more.

Timber of the Month - Mulumanhyama



Mulumanyama (*Cassia abbreviata*) is a small to medium sized hardwood tree that grows mainly in East Africa from Somalia down to northern S. Africa. It goes by many local names and in English is more commonly known as sjambok pod or long-tail cassia.

It generally grows to a height of about 8m (but can reach 15m), with a slender and erect trunk. It is easily recognised by its deep yellow, sweetly scented flowers and its long seed pods. The heartwood is light reddish brown to dark reddish brown with darker streaks and interlocked grain. The sapwood is not usually distinct from the heartwood.

The timber is very dense and is used for furniture, turning and carving.

The distinctive seed pods are cylindrical in shape and up to 90 cm long. They can take up to a year to ripen from a light green to a dark brown. Lying on the ground, they can sometimes look like a snake.

This tree is popular with the local wildlife. Various birds from parrots to the Go-away Bird eat the fruit pulp and seeds. Animals such as Nyala, Giraffe and Kudu browse the leaves. Elephants have also been seen eating the leaves and the young branches of the tree.

Various parts of the tree have long been used in traditional medicine and at one time the tree was exploited commercially to produce a treatment for blackwater fever. The seed is known to be used as a tonic, the root is used for the treatment of toothache, and the smoke from smouldering twigs can be inhaled to bring headache

relief.

An infusion is made from the root and drunk as an aphrodisiac, which can also be used as a natural abortion agent!

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