



Martock and District Woodturners

Newsletter

February 2025

News

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM and contributed to some lively discussions. Also thanks to Dave P, Caroline, Ray and others who put together an excellent buffet for us to enjoy.

As a result of the discussions you may notice a few changes being introduced:

1. We need more contributions to the inspiration table, however humble or complete. There will be slips available for you to fill in so we can know whose contribution it is and for you to share a bit of detail. On nights where there is a club turner (such as next Tuesday) there will be an opportunity so say a little bit more about your piece.
2. We will be introducing quarterly competitions (which will start in March) and an annual prize. Competition rules will be circulated shortly.
3. We have introduced a club WhatsApp group to enable us all to share information, requests for help, etc., more spontaneously (although we will continue to use email to reach all our members). There are currently 17 members in the group and if anyone else would like to join please contact me.
4. Ray will have some copies of a club member contact list for you to take away.

Lastly, don't forget that we still need someone to take on the programme coordinator role from Dave P if we are to have any club demonstrations next year. Please talk to myself (Dave H) or to Dave P if you would like any more information about what this involves.

Diary Dates

February 25 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Liz and Charlie	
March 1 st	Demonstration Day – 10am, Yandles tool shop (see below)	
March 8 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room	
March 25 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Colwin Way	Competition night
April 19 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room	



MARTOCK & DISTRICT

Demonstration Day

Try before you buy with Dave Appleby

1-1 Tuition

Woodturning Demonstrations

Free Refreshments

Hurst, Martock, TA12 6JU



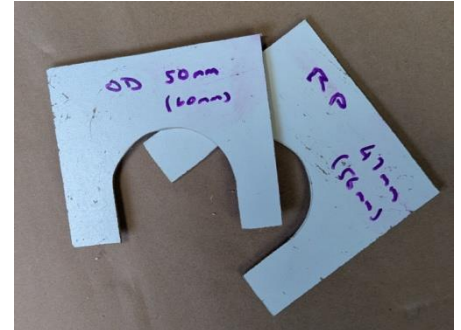

10am-2pm 1ST MARCH

This is an opportunity for us to advertise the club and perhaps recruit a few more members. If you are around then please come and support Dave and his team, talk to members of the public and even make a few coffees! If you have anything to contribute to the display area then please bring it along on club night or on the Saturday morning.

Some Simple Workshop Aids

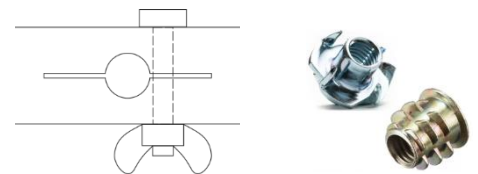
After buying your lathe, chucks, chuck jaws, turning tools, sharpening system, etc., there are lots of accessories to spend your money on. There are also many simple accessories that can be made in your own workshop. Here are a few that I use myself – if you have any of your own you want to share then please send them to me on <mailto:newsletter@madturners.co.uk> (with photos if possible) and I will include them in a later newsletter.

Are you always looking for a ruler or callipers to measure your chuck jaws and tenon size? Why not make a set of handy sizing gauges? Label them with the chuck system and jaw size – I also record the size of the recess needed as well to save me having to measure it again.



A simple depth gauge will help prevent you turning bowls into funnels or lampshades. The dowel can be a friction fit until it starts to become loose, in which case there are several options for a tightening method:

1. Use a keyhole saw, fret saw or scroll saw to cut a slot either side of the hole and add a bolt and wing nut.
2. Use an insert nut to hold a bolt.



A wooden disk covered with non-slip material can be used to hold a bowl whilst the tenon is removed (use the tailstock to hold the bowl against the disk). This can be 18mm ply (or laminated from thinner if you don't have any this size). Roughly cut the disk and mount it on a faceplate while you turn it to round and add a recess in the back for your chuck jaws.

This disk is covered with a piece of old sleeping mat, but you can use [router mat](#), [rug anti-slip mat](#), [non-slip drawer liner](#), etc. as long as it is non-marking (should there be any slip).



Whilst you are making your friction disk, why not make another to take a self-adhesive sanding disk?



A [circle centre finder](#) can be useful when mounting bowl blanks, but a few disks cut from hardboard or thin ply work just as well. Sizes differing by about 5cm are about right, although diameters do not need to be anything specific. These disks can also be used as a guide when cutting out a bowl blank on the bandsaw.



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 quickly 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 - Newtonia



Newtonia (newtonia hildebrandtii) is a medium to large-sized tree native to eastern Africa. It is also known as the Lebombo wattle or Lowveld newtonia. The tree grows to a height of about 25 m (80 ft). The trunk is usually rough, with small branchlets and twigs that are densely covered with very short soft hairs when young.

This tree is found from Kenya and Tanzania, through Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia, to Mozambique and parts of South Africa. It is generally a tree of riverside forests, but it also grows in sandy areas with a high water table, at altitudes of up to about 1,100 m (3,600 ft). *Newtonia* is locally very common, often dominant in its habitat, but it reproduces very slowly. Harvesting for firewood and overgrazing of saplings is causing a continuing decline in South Africa, where it is a protected species.

The species is named after [J.M. Hildebrandt](#), a German botanist and collector in East Africa and Madagascar during the 19th century.

The timber is dense and hard with an interlocked grain. The heartwood is reddish brown with dark brown to black streaks. The sapwood is off-white. It is used for building construction and for making poles and implements, and for carving. The wood turns well, giving a good finish off the tool. It also burns well and makes good-quality charcoal.

As with most species, products from the tree are used in traditional medicine; an extract of the roots is used against worms, and an extract from the bark has been shown to have antimicrobial activity against a range of germs.

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