



Martock and District Woodturners Newsletter

April 2025

News

Thank you to everyone who helped out at the two Yandles events this month, they were a good opportunity to publicise the club to other woodturners and those thinking about taking up a new hobby.

Also thank you to everyone who took part in the first club competition. Remember that anyone can (and should!) fill in a scoring sheet – it doesn't matter if you don't feel confident to judge the fine nuances, just use whatever criteria you like. In fact the more varied the opinions the better the overall result.

Finally, if you are enjoying this year's club programme bear in mind that we still do not have anyone to plan and book the demonstrators for 2026. Unless one of you decides to sign up to this role it could be a very bleak year...



Diary Dates

April 29 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Jason Breech
May 10 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
May 17 th	All-day demonstration – 10am to 4pm, Ash Pavilion - Andy Fortune
May 27 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Jason Breech
Jun 7 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
Jun 14 th	Scroll Saw Day - 10am to 4pm, Ash Pavilion – Gianni Deidda

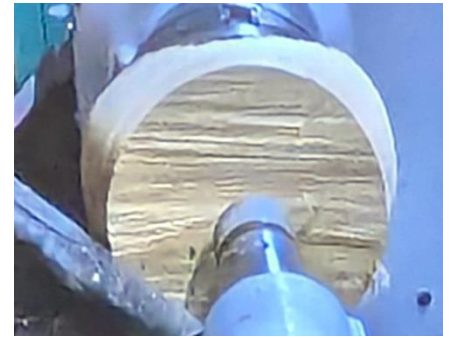
March Demonstration – Colwin Way

Colwin's first piece was this natural-edged "wobble bowl" with a rounded bottom and no foot. This was turned out of a piece of very dry box wood.



The blank was held using a set of [pin jaws](#) expanded into a 25mm hole previously drilled using a pillar drill. A ring centre was used to provide tailstock support for safety.

The blank was first turned to round using a bowl gouge. Nearest the rim, cuts were made in the opposite direction to normal (i.e. from the rim towards the bottom of the bowl) – this was to reduce the risk of damaging the bark.



The outside was shaped using a bowl gouge and a spigot created on the bottom (this will be removed later).



(Note the flat area around the spigot to provide stability in the chuck jaws.)

When happy with the shape, the finish was improved using a skew chisel as a negative-rake scraper.

Sanding of the “solid” area was done with the lathe running. The “wings” were done with a rotary sander in a cordless drill with the lathe static (a cordless drill runs at a slower speed than a corded one).



The bowl was reverse mounted into a set of O'Donnell dovetail jaws.

The inside was turned with a small (6mm) bowl gouge. This was done in stages, completing down to the desired wall thickness on each stage and making sure there is no transition line between each one before moving on to the next stage (the wall thickness was about 3mm).



The final stage is to cut across the bottom and create a nice smooth curve. Because of the vibration caused by the distance from the tool rest, Colwin changed to a larger (10mm) gouge.



The inside was mostly power sanded with the lathe turned off.



To remove the foot, Colwin first turned a piece of scrap timber to roughly match the inside curve of the bowl.



The bowl was held against the scrap timber using a tailstock pressure with a piece of tissue to provide some padding on the inside of the bowl.

Most of the foot was removed using a small bowl gouge and finished with a negative-rake scraper (skew chisel), followed by sanding.

The small nub remaining was removed with a small sanding disk mounted on the lathe.



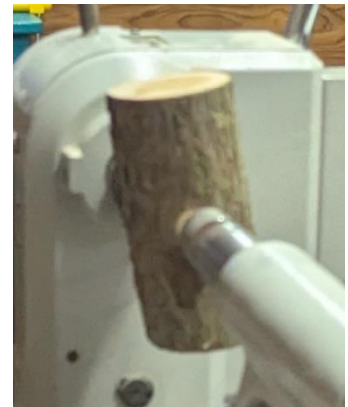


The underside of the finished bowl.

Colwin's second piece was this little bowl turned from a piece of yew branch.



A small flat was drilled on each side using a 25mm forstner bit so that the blank could be held securely between centres.



Colwin used pull cuts with a small (6mm) bowl gouge to start to form the spigot and the underside of the bowl. The lathe speed was relatively high (1200-1500 rpm).



The underside is about halfway through the thickness of the branch. A negative- rake scraper (skew chisel) was used to clean up the surface and ensure a sharp transition into the bowl.

Sanding was done by wrapping the sandpaper into a more rigid form and carefully “floating” it over the surface without applying much pressure (a ruler or something similar could be used as a backing for the sandpaper).



The top section of the blank was cut away down to the top of the bowl rim.



The wings were then cut down to width. By looking from the side it is possible to judge that outside of the rim follows the curve of the bowl on the other side.



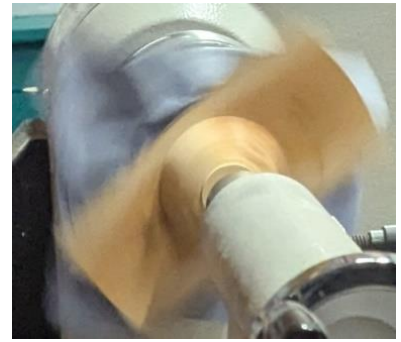
The bowl was then hollowed out. Don't try and check the wall thickness with the lathe running!!

The wings were sanded using the same “floating” technique as the underside.



The bowl was reversed using the same technique as the previous bowl (i.e. using a piece of scrap to match the inside curve and holding the piece in place with tailstock pressure).

The spigot was turned down to make a small foot and the remaining nub removed by sanding (as before).



FREE
EVENT



Yandles
Andy Fortune
Woodturning
Demonstration

2-6pm
16th May
Hurst, Martock, TA12 6JU

And don't forget that Andy will be with us all day on Saturday 17th.

Gallery & Competition

Here are the competition results as well as any other items made by club members in recent weeks.



Entry 1 – Brian H (Intermediate) – Score 5.8



Entry 2 – Dave H (Seasoned) – Score 6.6



Entry 3 – Charlie W (Seasoned) – Score 9.0



Entry 4 – Andy R (Intermediate) – Score 5.4



Entry 5 – Dave A (Expert) – Score 8.6



Entry 6 Nick C (Intermediate) – Score 4.8



Entry 7 – Chris H (Intermediate) – Score 5.8



Entry 6 Rod P (Expert) – Score 9.2



And from the inspiration table, this bowl by Steve A

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 – Panga Panga



Panga Panga (*Millettia stuhlmannii*) is a hardwood tree from Eastern Africa and is one of the most important export timbers from Mozambique. The tree grows to a height of 60-90 ft (18-27 m), with a trunk diameter of 3-4 ft (1-1.2 m). Locally it is common or even dominant, but over-utilization is predicted to deplete many populations.

The heartwood of Panga Panga has a distinct pattern, often compared to Wenge (in fact the two timbers are so similar in working properties and appearance that it is not uncommon for the two species to be used and mixed interchangeably). The

heartwood is typically chocolate-brown with alternating dark and light-coloured bands running through it, or it can be dark brown to near-black with bands of white tissue. The sapwood is clearly demarcated from the heartwood, and is pale yellow. The grain is usually straight, with a coarse and variable texture. The wood turns and polishes very well.

Panga Panga is an ideal timber for furniture, joinery, boatbuilding, flooring, staircases, mouldings, musical Instruments and carving. It is popular in the veneer industry, where it is used for decorative furniture. It has been used for heavy construction, mine props, railway sleepers, boxes and crates, but is generally no longer used because of its high price.

Although still common in some African countries, in South Africa Panga Panga is only found on top of a mountain at Ha-Makhuvha village, and many of the remaining trees have had their bark and roots harvested for medicinal and magical use. A root decoction is made and drunk for many ailments affecting the stomach. The use of this tree for firewood or anything else, except for traditional medicine, is strictly prohibited and controlled through myth and taboo. Collecting is done by a dedicated member of the Makhuvha royal family or by an experienced traditional medicinal practitioner. There are prescribed rituals to be followed during the collecting of the bark or roots and it is believed the bark will turn into venomous snakes which will invade the household of the collector if these procedures are not followed. The late Chief Makhuvha also claimed that he could feel it if there were people intruding or illegally collecting this sacred tree.

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