



Martock and District Woodturners Newsletter

August 2025

News

Hands-on will restart next month on 20th September (a later Saturday than usual). Do come along to do some turning or to offer advice and assistance, or just for a natter.

Many thanks to those who helped with the Yandles Masters of the Lathe event. Things were a little crowded and a bit hectic but I think it went off well.

Diary Dates

Aug 26 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Stephen Long
Sep 1 st	Subscriptions due!
Sep 6 th	Yandles Autumn Craft Fair
Sep 20 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles training room
Sep 30 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Jason Breach – Competition Night
Oct 11 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles training room
Oct 28 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Paul Sweet

Competition



The next club competition at the September club night, where the theme will be a bowl with a decorated rim.

Decoration can take any form – texturing, carving, piercing, colouring, pyrography, etc., etc.

Remember - only one piece per person! (You can still bring other pieces along for show, but only one can be selected as the competition entry.)

Reminder



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

These will remain at £65 for the year to allow us to continue to bring you quality demonstrations most months.

Payment by bank transfer is preferred, and details will be sent out by email before the end of the month.

July Demonstration – Dave Appleby

Starting with the Basics

Dave started with the absolute basics – things he would teach a new pupil who came to his workshop.

One item was to make sure your toolrest is free from dirt and dents that would impede the smooth movement of the tool along the workpiece. To this end Dave has a flat piece of wood with some Velcro stuck on one side to accept a piece of abrasive to smooth the toolrest, and a strip of leather on the other side onto which he can apply some honing compound to give it a final polish.

Dave then took us through the basics to remind us of best practice in tool presentation and technique. This included:



Using the spindle roughing gouge

Key points include:

1. Make sure the cutting edge is square (i.e. the wings are ground back as far as the centre and do not stick out).
2. Only cut with the part of the cutting edge that is along the line of support on the tool rest. You can rotate the tool to use any part of the cutting edge, but if the tool is resting on its centre, don't try and cut with the wing otherwise the forces acting on the tool will cause it to rotate and catch.
3. Ideally, set the tool rest height so that you are cutting on the centre line.
4. Work from the timber to the ends, rather than trying to start the cut from off the end of the timber.
5. Position the tool at a slight angle to get a better finish rather than presenting the tool at 90° to the timber

Using the spindle gouge

Key points include:

1. After sharpening, clean up the top of the cutting edge (inside the flute) – if you have a Tormek system you can use the narrow leather stropping wheel to do this, or you could use a small buffing wheel in a Dremel.
2. When turning a bead, draw a centre line and work both sides from it, trying to keep the two halves symmetrical.
3. When turning a cove, you can use a parting tool to define the centre and set the depth.

Having practiced the basic cuts, Dave will then get his students to make something using these techniques – in this case a wine bottle stopper.

Starting with a square-section blank it is first turned to round and the length and diameter of the shank defined using a parting gouge and callipers.

A spindle roughing gouge on its side can be used to thin down the rest of the shank, with a skew used to clean up the surface.

The shank is made to fit an [Agglomerated Bottle Stopper Cork](#).



Spindle gouge techniques can then be used to give the stopper some shape. After sanding, the piece can then be held in a chuck by the shank to clean up the top using a small spindle gouge. Dave uses a set of buffing wheels to polish and finish the piece.



Making a Kitchen Scoop

The blank was mounted between centres and turned down to 40mm diameter. A few millimetres were turned away at each end using a parting gouge to define the overall length.

The length of the bowl was marked to match the diameter and some of the waste removed with a parting tool.

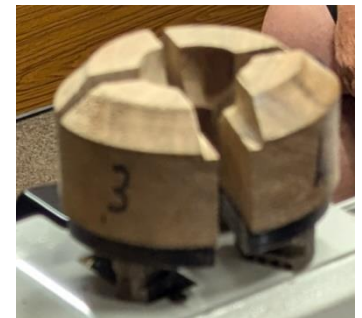
The half-way point was marked on the bowl which was then turned like a large bead using a spindle gouge to form most of a sphere.



Shaping the handle using a spindle gouge (Dave used a roughing gouge to remove a lot of the waste first). The piece can then be sanded.



To hold the scoop whilst the bowl is hollowed out, Dave uses a set of wooden jaws mounted on [Axminster Wood Jaw Plates](#). These have been shaped with a hollow to hold the scoop bowl and a cut-out for the handle (before turning the hollow, clamp some pieces of 5mm timber between the jaws so that when removed the jaws can tighten around the scoop bowl).



The scoop is mounted in the chuck.



A spindle gouge is used to flatten the top of the scoop, making sure to keep all limbs and appendages away from the rotating handle!



The bowl was hollowed out using a spindle gouge (like hollowing a box) and finished using a round carbide tool, before sanding.



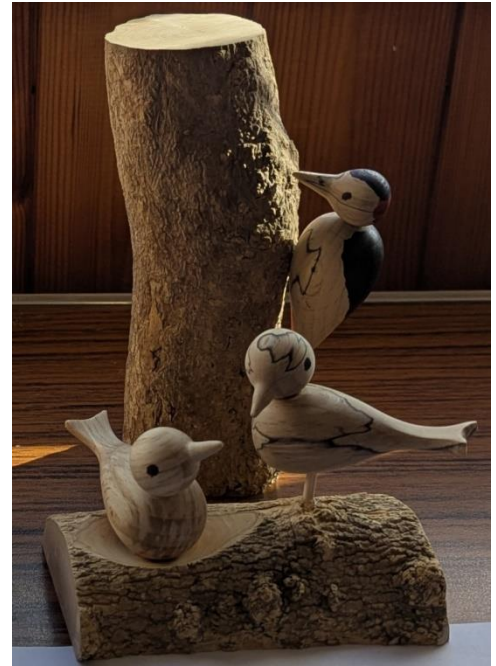
Various light-pulls and scoops

Gallery

Here are items made by club members in recent weeks.



These speaker horns were made by Mike C – used as a phone stand they amplify the sound.



Charlie W made these birds out of spalted beech and mounted them on pieces of box.



This hollow form was made by Andy R



A set of candlesticks by Dave A



Charlie W used this ash bowl to experiment with stencilling designs. The colours are Chestnut spirit stains applied with an airbrush.



A bowl by Chris H.



Bowl with a decorated rim by Phil O (will we see this again on competition night??!)



Following May's demonstration, a tower spinning top by Phil O.

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.



This is the last Yandles craft fair of the year where we need half a dozen volunteers to do a few hours car-park duty in the morning.

If we can muster enough support we will also be having our usual stand outside the shop. For this we need a few able bodies to help set up and clear away at the end, as well as people to man the stall and demonstrate to the public. We also need plenty of items to display and sell on the stall (a chance to earn some cash from your hobby!).

If you are prepared to help in any way please let me know.

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