



Martock and District Woodturners Newsletter

January 2026

From the Chair

First of all, a belated Happy New Year to everyone. If you haven't made a New Year's resolution, how about resolving to bring along something for the display table each month, or an entry to the competition?

It's that time of year when I always seem to be appealing for another member or two to join the committee for the coming year. The committee continues to be somewhat light, 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.

When I started this newsletter nearly six years ago it was never meant to be a solo affair and I did receive a number of articles from members for a while but they quickly faded away. I am always pleased to receive any contribution, however long, whether it be a full project write-up or simply a short tip or supplier recommendation.

Diary Dates

January 27 th	Club night – AGM – 7pm, Ash Pavilion
February 14 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
February 24 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Paul Sweet
March 14 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
March 31 st	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Michael Parsons

Agenda for the AGM

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 2025 AGM and Matters Arising (not covered below)
4. Approval of 2025 AGM Minutes
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Secretary's Report
8. Adoption of Officer's Reports
9. Programme for 2026
10. Items for Discussion:
 - Do we change our name to Martock & District Woodturning Club?
 - Comments, thoughts and suggestions for improving the competition?

- Ideas and suggestions for improving the way the club works?
- Ideas for advertising the club and attracting new member?

11. Refreshments

12. Election of Officers and Committee

13. Election of new President

14. Award of Competition Prize and Elliot Trophy

15. Award of President's Cup

16. Any other Business

December's Show and Tell



Three pieces by Colin C. On the left, inlaid patterns made using the Paul Howard fluting jig. Centre is a pattern made using centrifugal painting. The photo on the right shows a section of the underside of a bowl that was decorated using a texturing tool; Colin brought it along to ask for opinions on the end result.



This bowl was turned by Chris H using a homemade off-centre jig (pictured right). The design of the jig was described in Woodturning magazine.



Two resin pieces by Steve A. Steve described his process, especially how he economises on resin.



These three pieces were made by Andy R as he sought to find the most pleasing shape for a square platter.



Candle stand with resin decoration made by Nick C



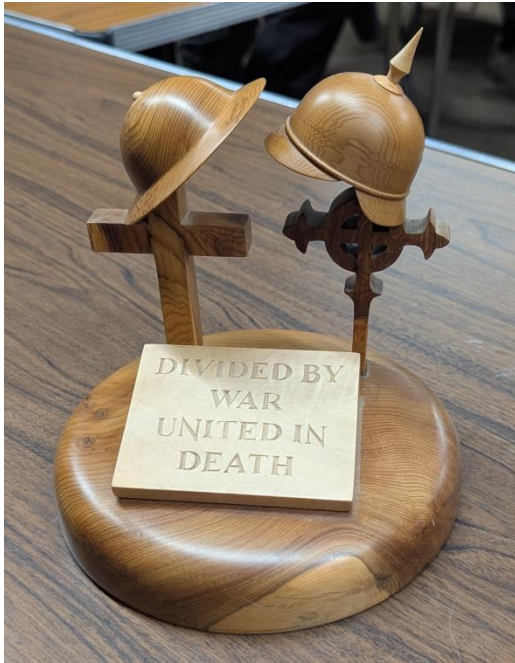
A square-edged bowl by Dave A.



Dave A also turned this piece from brown oak burr.



Liz K started this bowl during her demonstration to the club in February and brought it along to show the finished item.



This piece was made by Rod P as an entry to the 2018 competition at the Worshipful Company of Turners, where it achieved 3rd prize.

The theme was the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. The inspiration for this piece came from the graves of four unknown German soldiers buried next to the graves of some British soldiers outside All Saints church, Tarrant Monkton. To date, the identity of these German soldiers remains a mystery.

The timber used came from a yew tree that overlooked the graves and was blown down in a storm in the winter of 2013-14.

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.

Yandles

COLWIN WAY WOODTURNING DEMONSTRATION

**YANDLES TOOLSHOP
JANUARY 30TH
4-6PM**



MASTERS OF THE LATHE III

THE WOODTURNING EVENT OF THE YEAR!



18/04/2026

Timber of the Month - Afrormosia



Afrormosia (*Pericopsis elata*) is a tall, deciduous, flowering tree native to the African forest. It grows to a height of 30-45m (100-150 ft) with a trunk diameter of 1–1.8m (3-6 ft). It is sometimes known as afromosia or African teak, although it is not closely related to genuine teak (*Tectona grandis*). The trunk is often straight, cylindrical, and blunt buttressed. Despite its relatively small diameter, trees can live to be over 400 years old. The species is native to moist, semi-deciduous forests in Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, DRC, Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Nigeria. Up until the mid 20th century, the tree was

commonly found throughout its native range. However, after being introduced to world markets in 1948, its range quickly diminished. It can no longer be found in the Ivory Coast and only small pockets remain in other countries besides the DRC where it is still under threat.

Afrormosia is listed as endangered in CITES Appendix II, and is on the IUCN Red List, so exports are regulated and tightly controlled. The population has reduced by half in the past three generations, caused largely by illegal logging and habitat loss. It is considered as one of the four most important timbers in the Congo.

The heartwood is yellowish brown, occasionally with a reddish or olive-coloured hue, darkening with age. The heartwood is distinctly demarcated from narrow band of pale yellow-brown sapwood. Afrormosia is easy to work with both hand and machine tools. It turns, glues, stains, and finishes well and has a distinct odour while being worked. Under moist conditions, the wood often stains dark where it is in contact with iron. The wood resembles that of teak, having a similar weight and strength, nearly comparable rot resistance, and a similar appearance, though it lacks the oily texture. Even though it is threatened and protected, afrormosia is a lower-cost alternative to genuine teak.

It is used mainly for high grade furniture and as decorative veneer, but also for interior and exterior joinery, stairs, flooring and boat building. It is also suitable for heavy and light construction, railway sleepers, vehicle bodies, interior trim, handles, ladders, agricultural implements, sporting goods, musical instruments, toys, novelties, boxes, crates, carvings, turnery and draining boards.

The tree has no known edible parts. Several plant parts, however, are used medicinally such as the bark, leaves, and wood; the pulped bark is used for pain relief and the wood contains chemicals with antibiotic, antimalarial and blood-sugar reducing properties.

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