



Martock and District Woodturning Club

Newsletter

March 2026

From the Chair

I have just realised that the clocks change this coming weekend – a quarter of the way through the year already! Coming up in April we have another Yandles Masters of the Lathe which looks to be another good event. We have been invited to have a stand, which is always good publicity for the club. If you can spare some time from watching the other turners to hand out leaflets and talk about the club to members of the public, do come and support us. And if you fancy doing a bit of turning then let me know!

The committee is always looking for opportunities to attract new members so if you know of any places where we could put up a poster or any events we could perhaps participate in then please pass it on.



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61568477045030>

If anyone is willing to take on the maintenance of this page please let me know.



Website: <https://madturners.co.uk/>



If you would like to join the club's WhatsApp group, please follow this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ir6ZZSOyuRmLh3Mc3ajwFf>

Diary Dates

April 11 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
April 18 th	Masters of the Lathe III – Yandles tool shop 10am – 4pm
April 19 th	Scroll saw day with Gianni – contact Dave Perryman to book (07791 171838)
April 28 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Jason Breach
May 8 th	Carving day with Phil Carter – contact Dave Perryman to book (07791 171838)
May 9 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room

Competition Time



The club competition will be at the next club meeting (March 31st), where the theme will be an egg (plain, decorated, hollow, coloured – whatever you like), or an egg cup (or even both!).

February Club Night – Paul Sweet

Paul is a regular demonstrator at the club and can usually be found selling his creations at the Yandles craft fairs.

For this visit he chose to show how he makes a natural edge pot pourri bowl from a piece of elm burr.

The blank was pre-drilled with a 25mm forstner bit to make a flat surface for a spur drive to grip. The position of the tailstock centre was adjusted to ensure the high points and low points on opposite sides of the blank are roughly even, by checking their position against the tool rest.

The blank was first turned to round to improve the balance and allow the speed to be increased.

Next, a tenon was turned on the bottom so that the blank could be reversed into a chuck (it is best to make this tenon slightly oversize in case it needs to be reshaped later).

When in the chuck, an area round the centre of what will become the top of the bowl was flattened off and a recess turned to fit the chuck jaws.

The blank could then be turned around again to shape the bottom, but this time with the blank held in a chuck rather than between centres.

Paul started by defining the size of the foot and reshaping the tenon.

The outside of the bowl was then shaped, all the time listening for changes in the sound that could indicate a previously unnoticed crack.



Sometimes it can be difficult to properly visualise the finished shape of a piece whilst it is lying horizontally on the lathe; taking it off the lathe (whilst still in the chuck) and putting it in its intended orientation can help.

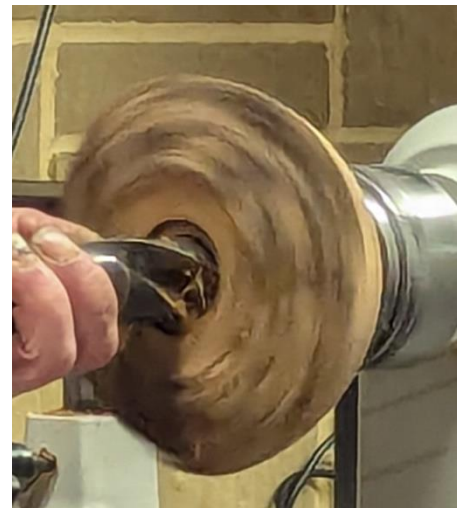


The shape was refined using a scraper to produce fine shear cuts.



The bowl was reversed in the chuck to turn the top. If there is any significant wobble Paul would reshape the outside to ensure the walls end up even an thickness all around.

Paul started by drilling a hole down the middle; for this he has a large engineering drill with a morse taper end, although a forstner bit could also be used.

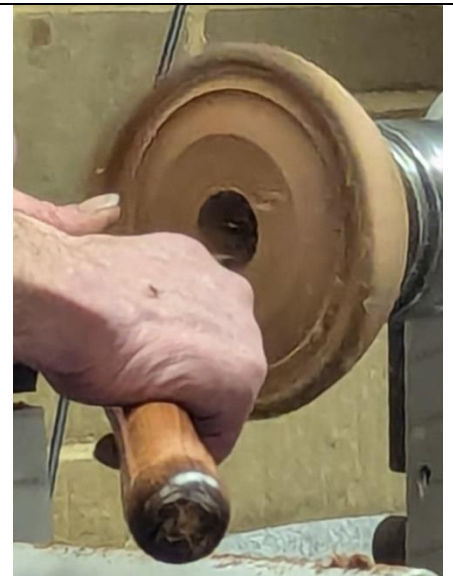


The top was flattened off to remove some of the height and the lumps and hollows of the burr, before starting to shape the top into a dome.



Before going too far, Paul marked to size of the opening needed for [the pewter lid \(which can be bought from Yandles\)](#). These lids are not exactly round so several measurements should be taken to find the maximum diameter.

The top was then shaped and the rim formed.



A recess was made with [a bedan](#) to fit the lid – the outer edge needs to leave the lid flush with the surface and there needs to be a narrow rim to accommodate the small feet under the lid.

To hollow the inside Paul used a [Munro hollowing tool](#).



A set of double-ended callipers or [thickness callipers](#) can be used to check the uniformity of the walls.



The opening and rim were completed using a skew chisel as a scraper.



A point tool was used to turn a small bead around the opening.



The piece was then ready for sanding – for this Paul used a sanding pad held in a right-angle power drill.

For a finish, Paul uses hard-wax oil (wax will stick in the holes and dry white). He would normally apply three coats, cutting back between coats with a fine abrasive and buffing up using a buffing wheel after the final coat has completely cured. A thin coat of carnauba wax (applied with a buffing wheel) completes the process. The foot can then be removed.



Gallery

Here is where we display any items made by club members in recent weeks.



A collection of German smokers – the figure at the back is a prototype for the upcoming turn-a-German-smoker day.



A bowl made by Tony R





A bowl turned by Phil O – Phil would like to know if anyone can identify the timber



This bowl was turned by Richard D



A large natural edged bowl turned by Dave 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.

DAN TARRANT WOODTURNING DEMONSTRATION

YANDLES TOOLSHOP
MARCH 27TH
4-6PM



Yandles

MASTERS OF THE LATHE III

THE WOODTURNING EVENT OF THE YEAR!



18/04/2026

Timber of the Month - Algarrobo Blanco



Algarrobo Blanco (*Neltuma alba* or *prosopis alba*) is a South American tree species that grows in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru. Its name is Spanish for 'white carob tree' and was given by Spanish settlers because of its similarity to the European carob tree. Algarrobo Blanco is a medium-sized tree, growing to a height of 5 to 15 m (16 to 50 ft), and 1 m (3 ft) in diameter, although few tall specimens are found at present. It has a short with a round, globular treetop. The tree can tolerate drought and is capable of extremely low water consumption, fruiting best in years of drought. In some areas it is almost a weed, coming up singly and in groups along roadsides, around habitations, on refuse dumps and on disturbed ground.

The heartwood is yellowish brown to medium brown, which darkens with age. There is a narrow band of sapwood which is a pale yellow colour. Algarrobo Blanco has excellent rot resistance and is ideal for use in outdoor applications. The timber is rather dense and can be easy or difficult to work with hand and machine tools depending on the quality, as any irregular grain or knots can be challenging. It glues, turns, and finishes well. It is used for doors and floors, for furniture, for paving blocks, shoe lasts and wine casks (where it replaces the European oak). It also burns well so is used for firewood and charcoal.

The seed pods can be eaten as a fresh fruit but is often dried then ground into a powder. This flour can be mixed with a little water and eaten immediately or used for making cakes or as a flavouring for steaks, chicken, pork and fish.

Medicinally, leaf extracts have shown antibacterial activity, whilst the bark, branches, gum and foliage are mildly antiseptic.

In the 1940s a mildly intoxicating beverage called aloja was made from the pods through fermentation; in turn it was sometimes distilled to produce ethanol.

Don't Forget to Use Your Club Discounts

Just present your club membership card (it may be worth checking beforehand whether a discount will apply to your intended purchase).



10% off most items, except power tools.



10% off all timber and finishes

Your Committee

Dave Horner (*Chairman*)

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Andy Rossall (*Treasurer*)

treasurer@madturners.co.uk

Ray Fraser (*Communications Secretary*)

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Colin Churchill (*Hands-On Co-ordinator*)

Steve Aldred (*Committee member*)

David Parnell (*Committee member*)

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