



Martock and District Woodturning Club

Newsletter

April 2026

From the Chair

Thank you to everyone who helped out at the Yandles Masters of the Lathe event last Saturday. I hope you all had a chance to see the various demonstrations going on as well.



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

May 8 th	Carving day with Phil C – contact Dave P to book (07791 171838)
May 9 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
May 26 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Bryan Milham
June 13 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
June 30 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Paul Hannaby

Wood Toxicity

One of our members commented on the fact that he had developed a serious rash after turning some spalted timber. This should be a reminder to all of us that wood dust can be harmful, with some species being particularly hazardous.

In Australia all wood dust is classified as carcinogenic, which goes to show that investment in a good respirator is especially important when sanding. You should also use a dust extractor in your workshop and consider fitting an air filter.

This list from Australia lists some of the hazards associated with specific timbers (though not everyone will suffer the outcomes listed):

<http://www.ubeaut.com.au/badwood.htm>

Another excellent site is:

<http://www.wood-database.com/wood-articles/wood-allergies-and-toxicity>

Turn safe!

March Club Night – Mike Parsons



Mike trained as a joiner/cabinet maker and has been woodturning for about 50 years. He is currently a member of [Somerset Woodturners](#).

The piece shown on the right was made during lockdown and consists of over 4200 pieces of timber stuck together with CA glue.

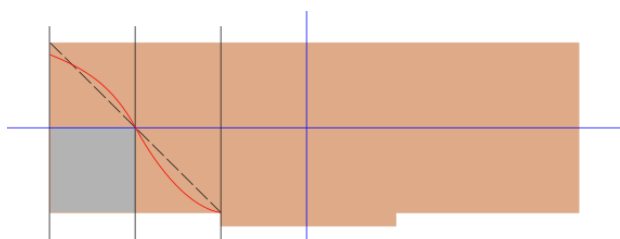


His demonstration for the night was a bowl with a rim decorated using [Jo Sonja Iridescent Paints](#).

Mike started with a sycamore blank mounted on a screw chuck. He first cleaned up the face and turned the piece to round.

To turn the ogee profile, Mike divided the radius into three, with the inner third to be the foot. Using a parting tool he cut the outside of the foot and the inside where the recess will be to hold the piece in the chuck.

The next third defines the inflection point on the ogee curve, which allowed him to remove the waste section shown in grey below.



This gives an approximate reference point from which the curve can be shaped. (A more detailed description of this method can be found [here](#)).



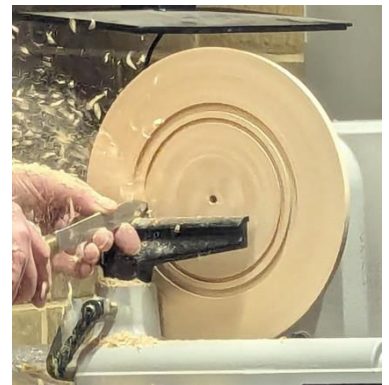
The chucking recess was completed and then the back of the bowl sanded and smoothed using Yorkshire Grit/True Grit before being finished with a wax polish.



After turning the blank round and remounting it in a chuck using the recess, Mike used a parting tool to define the inner edge of the rim.



The parting tool was also used to define the size of the bowl to be hollowed out.



After hollowing out the centre, Mike shaped the rim leaving a raised border around the bowl.



The rim was first sanded and then given several thin coats of Chestnut ebonising lacquer until it was uniformly black.



The chuck (with the piece still in it) was removed from the lathe and mounted on [a carving jig](#) to keep the rim horizontal.

The [Jo Sonja Iridescent Paints](#) were applied using a brush by randomly placing dabs of each colour around the rim to give a uniform coverage. (These paints all appear white, regardless of colour, until they start to dry.)



Once sufficient paint had been applied, Mike used an airbrush (without any paint in it) to blow the wet paint around. This served to swirl the various colours together and fill any gaps.



The paint was then left to dry (although Mike did use a hairdryer to speed the process).



The edges of the rim were defined by cutting away the paint using a bowl gouge. The rim and the raised bead around the bowl were rounded over using a skew chisel on its side as a negative-rake scraper.

The inside of the bowl was sanded to remove any over-spray from the ebonising lacquer.



The completed bowl, which Mike would finish with several coats of spray lacquer.



Competition Results and Gallery

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



Entry 1 – Chris H (Intermediate) – Score 6.2



Entry 2 – Mark M (Intermediate) – Score 5.0



Entry 3 Brian H (Intermediate) – Score 5.2



Entry 4 – Tony R (Seasoned) – Score 8.5



Entry 5 – Dave H (Seasoned) – Score 7.5



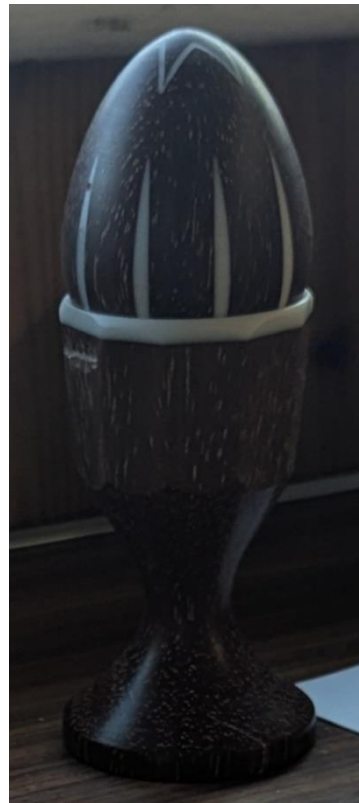
Entry 6 – Dave A (Expert) – Score 7.2



Entry 7 Eddie M (Seasoned) – Score 7.6



Entry 10 – Rod P (Expert) – Score 7.7



Entry 8 – Nick C (Intermediate) – Score 7.7

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.

Paul Hannaby Woodturning Demonstration



Yandles Toolshop
April 24th
4pm - 6pm
Free Event



Timber of the Month – Red Palm (Coconut Palm)



The Red Palm or Coconut Palm (*Cocos nucifera*) is one of the many species of *Arecaceae*. These are perennial, flowering plants commonly known as palms, which can appear as climbers, shrubs, tree-like and stemless plants. Currently, 181 genera with around 2,600 species of *Arecaceae* have been identified, most of which are restricted to tropical and subtropical climates.

The red palm grows to a height of 65-100 ft (20-30 m) with a trunk diameter of 1-1.3 ft (0.3-0.4 m) and is the only living member of the *Cocos* genus.

Palms are Monocots – a division of plants that are identified by only having one embryonic leaf in their seeds (as opposed to Dicots that have two). This gives rise to a number of specific differences, one being that they do not grow from an out cambium layer like most trees, but have a distinctive arrangement of

vascular tissue which is scattered throughout the trunk. This means there are no annual growth rings. Palm trees do not have a taproot or root hairs - the root system consists of many thin roots that grow outward from the plant near the surface, with only a few penetrating deep into the soil for stability.

The timber consists of reddish brown fibres embedded in a lighter tan or light brown coloured body. These fibres are more densely packed toward the outside of the tree trunk, becoming more and more sparse toward the middle of the tree. The core of the tree is soft and contains none of the darker vascular bundles that give the wood its characteristic look and hardness. (This is nearly the opposite of the typical outer sapwood/inner heartwood combination found in dicot hardwoods.) The grain is very straight, and contains no growth rings, medullary rays, knots, or defects.

Red palm tends to be quite difficult to work with machine or hand tools. The hard fibres contrast with the soft body of the wood, and can be brittle and splinter or pull out. Very sharp tools and correct cutting angles are required to get clean results. Applying a hardener or sanding sealer prior to final sanding/machining may help reduce tearout. The lighter coloured body of the wood tends to absorb larger quantities of finish, so care must be taken during finishing; a sanding sealer is recommended. It is commonly used for flooring, canoes, rafts, walking sticks, knife and tool handles, carvings, rafters, furniture, and turned objects. Trees will be typically harvested for timber after they are 50-70 years old, once they stop bearing useful coconuts.

The coconut palm provides food, fuel, cosmetics, folk medicine and building materials. The inner flesh of the mature fruit forms a regular part of the diet of many people in the tropics and subtropics. Mature coconuts can be processed for oil and coconut milk from the flesh, charcoal from the hard shell, and coir from the fibrous husk. Dried coconut flesh (copra), and the oil and milk derived from it are commonly used in cooking and in soaps and cosmetics. Sweet coconut sap can be made into drinks or fermented into palm wine or coconut vinegar. The hard shells, fibrous husks and long leaves are used to make products for furnishing and decoration.

Genetic studies have shown that the species evolved in the central Indo-Pacific. It was domesticated by Austronesian peoples in the islands of Southeast Asia and spread during the Neolithic era via their seaborne migrations as far east as the Pacific Islands, and as far west as Madagascar. On these long sea voyages coconuts provided a portable source of food and water, as well as building materials for outrigger boats. Coconuts were spread much later along the coasts of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans by South Asian, Arab, and from the 16th century by European sailors. Based on these introductions, the species can be divided into Pacific and Indo-Atlantic types. The Indo-Atlantic type was introduced to the Americas during the colonial era in the Columbian exchange, while Austronesian sailors appear to have introduced Pacific coconuts to Panama in pre-Columbian times.

The coconut has cultural and religious significance for Austronesian peoples, appearing in their mythologies, songs, and oral traditions. It has religious significance in South Asian cultures, where it is used in Hindu rituals including weddings and worship.

A myth persists that there are more deaths per year caused by falling coconuts than by sharks, though the truth is actually the reverse.

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*)

chairman@madturners.co.uk

Andy Rossall (*Treasurer*)

treasurer@madturners.co.uk

Ray Fraser (*Communications Secretary*)

secretary@madturners.co.uk

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