



Martock and District Woodturning Club Newsletter

June 2026

Diary Dates

June 30th Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Paul Hannaby

There will be no hands-on in July

July 28th Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Mike Parsons

There will be no hands-on in August

Aug 25th Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Dan Tarrant

Sept 12th Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room

Competition Time



Don't forget your entry for the club competition at the next club meeting (on June 30th).

The theme is "birds and animals" – interpret how you like!



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>

May Club Night – Bryan Milham



Bryan is currently the secretary of the AWGB and a member of the Weston Woodturning Circle.

For this demonstration he turned a goblet with the longest stem possible, given the size of the lathe!

For the cup and lid, Bryan started with a piece of yew mounted between centres, turned a spigot on each end to fit his chuck and parted off a section to make the lid.



The bowl section was mounted in the chuck and a hole drilled to the depth required for hollowing out.



This is Bryan's home-made depth gauge, consisting of a piece of timber with a length of brass bar through it. A slot was cut across the hole for the brass bar and a wingnut and bolt added to act as a clamp.



The bulk of the hollowing was completed using a [Rolly Munro hollowing tool](#), and finished with a "French curve" scraper (Bryan's own modification)



The outside of the cup was shaped using a spindle gouge, leaving a natural edge around the top.

A recess was cut in the rim to seat the lid.

The inside was sanded and finished. Bryan uses sanding pads from [Cobbs Tools](#) which he finds more durable in an inertial sander.



The cup was parted off and reversed in the chuck (using the lid recess) to finish the end. A hole was drilled in the base to take a spigot on the stem, trying not to go all the way through the bottom.



The lid piece was mounted in the chuck and reduced in diameter to fit the recess in the cup.



It was then hollowed out to a particular curvature to fit the screw chuck used to hold the piece later.



A small hole was drilled through the middle of the lid, using another home-made tool...

The large one consists of [a keyless chuck to fit an SDS drill](#), fitted into a wooden handle.



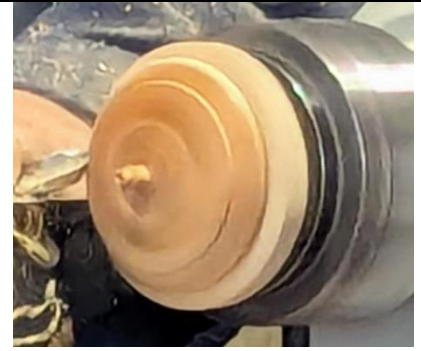
The smaller one is [a hex shank chuck](#), also fitted into a wooden handle.

After finishing the underside, the lid was reversed onto a domed screw chuck mounted in the chuck.



The top of the lid was then shaped using a spindle gouge, leaving a flat area in the middle for the finial. It was then sanded and finished.

After removing from the lathe, the hole was enlarged to 6mm to take the finial.



The finial was turned using a spindle gouge and skew, starting from the unsupported end and working towards the headstock, sanding each finished section before turning the next.

A 6mm tenon was made at the end to fit the lid.



The timber for the stem was turned to round between centres.

As the timber gets thinner it will start to whip as it becomes more flexible. To counteract this Bryan holds the piece under tension:

- The tailstock centre being used has a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch x 16 TPI fitting, which matches the spindle size of some old Record Power lathes, allowing it to take a small chuck (either directly, or via an adapter) – in this case an [Axminster Junior collet chuck](#).
- The morse taper in the tailstock centre has a 6mm threaded hole, allowing Bryan to fit a draw bar to keep the centre in place (the draw bar is a piece of 6mm threaded rod that goes all the way through the tailstock and is then held in place with a large washer and a wingnut)
- The stem can then be held in place between the two chucks and the tailstock assembly adjusted to apply the required tension.



A spigot was turned on each end to fit the cup and base.



The blank for the base was mounted in the chuck – this had been pre-drilled with a 30mm recess. This was then turned to round and faced off.



A hole was drilled in the centre to take the spigot on the stem and the stem glued in place with superglue.



A cup centre was used in the tailstock to support the end of the stem.



The base was then shaped and the stem blended in.

Some of the equipment used by Bryan during his demonstration:

Rolly Munro hollowing tool	https://guydutoit.com/product-category/woodturning_tools_kits/munro-tools/
Urethane foam sanding pads	https://www.padovac.co.uk/product-category/backing-pads/
Keyless chuck to fit an SDS drill	https://www.amazon.co.uk/Toolzone-Keyless-Chuck-SDS-Adaptor/dp/B002BIE5PU
Hex shank keyless chuck	https://www.amazon.co.uk/Keyless-Chuck-Cutter-Garages-Warehouse/dp/B0DFD2S9Y6
tailstock centre with ¾ inch x 16 TPI fitting [see note]	https://www.rdgtools.co.uk/product/2mt-revolving-live-centre-threaded-3-4-x-16-2/
Axminster Junior collet chuck	https://www.axminstertools.com/axminster-junior-chuck-3-4-x-16tpi-ref-t01-701004
¾ inch x 16 TPI to M33 x 3.5 adapter	https://www.amazon.co.uk/Charnwood-VIPERID-Insert-M33-16tpi/dp/B00IR8265Y
¾ inch UNF nuts and bolts to make your own custom tailstock supports	https://www.wentinfasteners.co.uk/shop

Note: I recently purchased this item from RDG Tools and although it had a 6mm hole in the morse taper it was not threaded, so unable to take a draw bar. I hope to acquire a ¾ inch UNF tap that may put sufficient thread in the hole to take a threaded rod?



Gallery

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

Some of the stick handles started at the carving day lead by Phil Carter



Charlie W



Dave H



Richard D



Tony R

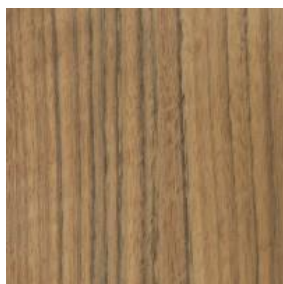
Please send photographs of anything you have made to newsletter@madturners.co.uk, or better still bring them along on a club night to put on the inspiration table for all to admire.

Ash Village Fete

On Saturday 20th the club set up stall outside the pavilion as part of Ash Village fete. It was a good opportunity to talk to members of the village about what we do (and to possibly sell a few items of work!). Many thanks to Dave P for organising the event, Richard D for bringing along a second lathe, and to everyone who came and helped on the day.



Timber of the Month – Ovankol



Ovankol (*guibourtia ehie*) is an evergreen tree of the genus *Guibourtia*. It is native to tropical west Africa and grows in Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Nigeria, often in small groups in closed rain forests. The tree grows to 30–45 m (100-150 ft) m tall, with a trunk 1-1.5 m (3-5 ft) in diameter. It is heavily buttressed at the base, with smooth bark. Ovankol has many common names and may be called amazique, amazoué, hyedua, black hyedua, Mozambique or shedua. Although not CITES listed and considered a species of least concern, it is being impacted by habitat loss.

Timber can be varying shades of yellowish to reddish brown with darker brown, grey, or black stripes and is similar in appearance to East Indian rosewood. The sapwood is moderately wide and pale yellow, clearly demarcated from the heartwood. The grain is fairly straight but might be slightly interlocked. Ovankol is from the same family as Bubinga and shares many of the same traits.

Overall it is a fairly easy wood to work, although it does contain silica and can therefore dull tools prematurely. Interlocked grain, if present, may be troublesome and cause tearout. It turns, glues and finishes well.

The timber may be found as veneers, in furniture and cabinetry, turned objects, musical instruments, and flooring. A number of high-end instrument manufactures have used ovankol for many years as a substitute for Indian

rosewood as it is noted for its good tonality, colour, and reasonable price.

The bark of the tree exudes a gum if cut, but fresh gum is not produced in commercial quantities. However, 'fossil' resin (copal) is collected from the ground in parts of West Africa and made into sweet-smelling necklaces by local traders. In Nigeria, this resin is burnt to provide lighting.

RECORD POWER
ROADSHOW AND SALE

24/07/26 - 25/07/26

FRIDAY BANDSAW DEMO
BANDSAW/SHARPENING COURSES

SATURDAY DEMO
A WOODWORKERS SON

FREE ADVICE **FREE PARKING** **FREE EVENT**

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*)

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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