



Martock and District Woodturning Club Newsletter

September 2026

Diary Dates

Oct 10 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room
Oct 27 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Paul Sweet
Nov 7 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room - Note change of date!
Nov 24 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Colwyn Way
Dec 8 th	Club night – 7pm, Ash Pavilion – Show & Tell and Competition Night
Dec 13 th	Christmas Lunch and skittles – 12 noon at Bell Inn, Ash
Dec 19 th	Hands-on – 10am, Yandles Training Room- Note change of date!

Competition Time



The next club competition will be at the **September** club meeting (on Sept 29th).

The theme will be a natural-edged bowl.



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>

Reminder

Subscriptions for 2026/27 were 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.

Please give your name as reference so we know who has paid!

If you prefer to pay by cash or cheque then could you please give it to Andy at any meeting.

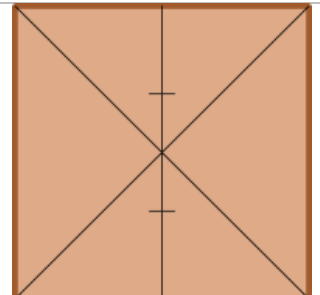
August Club Night – Dan Tarrant



Dan will be a familiar figure to anyone visiting Yandles, where he is the manager of the tool shop. Dan is also an AWGB accredited tutor and woodturning demonstrator.

For his demonstration Dan completed a couple of projects suitable for beginners – some off-centre turning to make an oval tool handle, and the processes necessary to turn a simple weed pot.

The starting point for an oval tool handle was a piece of stock about 4cm square. Both ends were marked out as shown, with a centre point and two offset points about 1cm either side of the centre. Make sure the offsets are the same direction on each end!



The blank is mounted between centres and turned to round. Using a spindle roughing gouge.



The blank is then moved to one set of offset centres, in the same direction at both ends. Make sure the tool rest does not get in the way by rotating the piece by hand before starting the lathe. Using a spindle roughing gouge make several passes along the piece – turning the blank like this will remove timber from one side only. Count the number of passes made.



Remount the piece using the other pair of offset centres and repeat the cut for the same number of passes.



It may be necessary to repeat the above two steps until the cuts meet about half way.
The oval cross section can be completed by sanding or using a hand plane to round off the points.



To make the weed pot Dan started with a blank about 5cm square. If it can be held in the chuck jaws as shown this should be adequate, otherwise it might be necessary to first mount it between centres to turn a spigot that can then be held in the chuck.



Dan started by drilling an 8-10mm diameter hole to a suitable depth so that it finishes near the bottom of the completed pot.



The tailstock centre was advanced to give additional support and the piece turned to round.



A small bead will be created at the rim, so this section is first reduced in diameter to about 20mm using a parting gouge.



A recess was cut using the parting gouge to define the bottom of the pot and the outside shape formed using a spindle or bowl gouge.



The bead is formed using a spindle gouge and a chamfer added to the hole. The piece can then be sanded and a coat of sanding sealer applied before parting off at the base.



Dan used a pre-formed mandrel with a "pin" to fit the hole in order to reverse mount the piece for finishing off.



The bottom of the piece is carefully cleaned up using light cuts with a spindle gouge, leaving the base slightly concave to prevent it wobbling. The base can then be sanded and given a coat of sanding sealer.

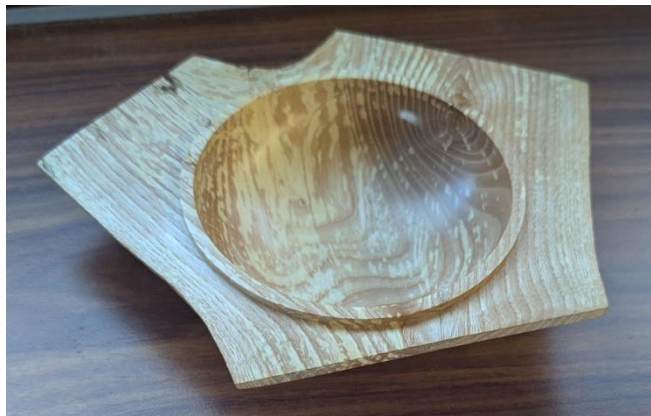


Dan used the Chestnut buffing tree to polish the piece and apply a coat of carnauba wax.



Gallery

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



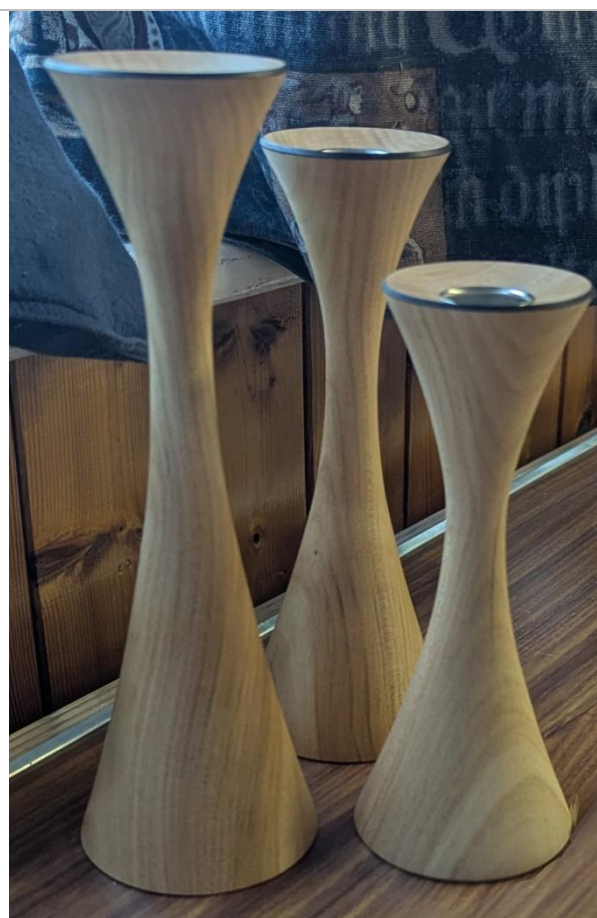
Spalted Ash bowl by Charlie W



Another piece by Charlie W, this time in Spalted Cherry



Dave A discovered this apple in a delivery of firewood



A set of cherry candle sticks, also 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.

MASTERS OF THE LATHE IV

THE WOODTURNING EVENT OF THE YEAR!



10/04/2027

Timber of the Month – Coolibah



The coolibah is a species of eucalyptus (*eucalyptus coolibah*) widely distributed over Northern Australia, commonly found near rivers and on the heavy soils of flood plains. It will grow up to a height of about 25-50 feet (8-15 m) tall with a trunk diameter of about 2-3 foot (0.6-1 m).

The heartwood ranges from brownish pink to a darker reddish-brown. There is thin sapwood band that is greyish-white in colour. The heartwood is far darker than the sapwood. Coolibah species can yield some of the hardest wood in the world. The grain is heavily interlocked, making the timber rather difficult to work in most operations, with tearout and blunting of cutting edges common.

This wood can be difficult to source in the UK and is generally sold as burrs or pen blanks. It is not listed within the CITES Appendices or on the IUCN Red List as a threatened species, which is most likely due to the fact that harvesting burrs does not necessitate cutting down the tree and is therefore quite sustainable.

Timber is often used for creating turned objects, knife and gun grips, inlays, and for cabinet-work. It has also been used as a substitute for lignum vitae in hard-wearing applications such as bearings and pulleys.

Indigenous Australians used the wood to create spears, fire-making equipment, message sticks, throwing sticks and wooden dishes (known as coolamons). The seeds are made into cakes that are baked for eating and sap from the roots is used as an emergency supply of water.

Coolibah is best known for its mention in the song "Waltzing Matilda" which has been described as Australia's unofficial national anthem. The original lyrics to the song were composed in 1895 by the Australian poet Banjo Paterson, to a tune played by Christina MacPherson based on her memory of the march "Craigielee". Various published versions subsequently change the words and the tune, the best-known version being written by Marie Cowan as an advertising jingle for Billy Tea in early 1903. Extensive folklore surrounds the song and the process of its creation, to the extent that it has its own museum, the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton, Queensland. There is also a Waltzing Matilda Day held on 6 April.

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 H (*Chairman*)

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Andy R (*Treasurer*)

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Ray F (*Communications Secretary*)

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

Steve A (*Committee member*)

David P (*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