

Dublin Chapter Newsletter

June 2009 Volume 3 Issue 10

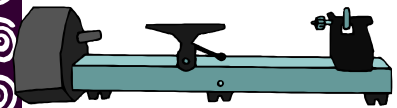
Firstly, apologies for the postponement of the June meeting. The cancellation was thrust upon us at short notice due to the hastily re-arranged English leaving cert exam. Although we tried to get word out to as many people as possible, it was inevitable that some people would still arrive at Terenure College. E-mail and Text messaging prove invaluable in these situations, so if you did not get any messages, it may be worth making sure the committee have your contact details.

If the exam cancellation had happened a month earlier, it would have spelt certain disaster for our one-day seminar. As it turned out, the day went extremely well. This is thanks to the demonstrators, trade-stands and in no small part, to those who mucked in on Friday evening to help get things ready and stayed late on Saturday to clean up.

Tony Wilson's two master-classes, at the scout hall, were also very well received by those in attendance. I was lucky enough to benefit from Tony's skills as a teacher at the first of these. Despite my determination to transform a 9" blank into a scabrous toothpick and huge pile of shavings, whilst losing my temper with inanimate objects, Tony valiantly kept me on the straight and narrow. I left not only with something at least resembling, if not considerably smaller than, the planned "honey bowl", but armed with a multitude of tips and lessons to put into practice.

Finally, the obligatory plea for material for the next newsletter. If you have anything, you can e-mail to: dwt.newsletter@gmail.com or phone me on 086-8327985.

Varn.



Inside this issue:

- Competition News.
- Seminar news.
- Exhibition news
- Turning and Learning, Part 10

Coming Soon

Saturday 4 July -

Demonstrator: Paddy O'Connor
Competition: Jewellery

Saturday 1 August -

Demonstrator: Michael Fay
Competition: Item made from a 2x2x6 blank to be supplied at the July meeting.

Change of date for October meeting.

Sat 10th October 2009

As the 2009 National Seminar clashes with our usual



meeting date of the first Saturday in October, the Dublin chapter meeting for October will be held on the following week Saturday 10th October.

Competition News

April's competition item was a Stool



Jack O'Rourke (Beginners)



Frank Gallagher (Experienced)



Photos by Hugh Flynn

Pat M. Walsh (Advanced)

An open chapter competition was held at the May seminar



Henry East (Advanced)



Rich Varney (Beginners)



Frank Gallagher (Experienced)

Competition Standings (2 May 2009)

		<i>Christmas Item</i>	<i>Bowl</i>	<i>Plant Stand</i>	<i>Table Lamp</i>	<i>Stool</i>	<i>Open Competition</i>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>
Advanced							
Pat M Walsh	76	15	11	15	7	15	13
Fran Lavelle	59	13	6	9	13	13	5
Tony Lally	39	0	5	13	15	6	0
Seamus Carter	32	7	7	7	5	0	6
Henry East	28	0	13	0	0	0	15
James Gallagher	27	0	5	11	0	11	0
Colm McIntyre	23	5	0	0	9	9	0
Albert Sloane	20	0	9	0	0	0	11
Michael Fay	15	0	15	0	0	0	0
Cecil Barron	13	0	0	0	6	0	7
Seamus O'Reilly	11	11	0	0	0	0	0
Colm Hyland	11	0	0	0	11	0	0
Adrian Finlay	11	6	0	0	0	0	5
Michael McNamara	10	0	5	0	5	0	0
Owen Furniss	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Richard Murphy	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Pat J Walsh	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Malcolm Hill	5	0	5	0	0	0	0
Sean Ryan	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Joe O'Neill	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Experienced							
Frank Gallagher	84	15	13	15	11	15	15
Tony Hartney	37	13	11	0	13	0	0
Brian Kelly	28	0	0	13	15	0	0
Barry Dunne	15	0	15	0	0	0	0
Beginners							
Frank Maguire	39	0	0	0	13	13	13
John Doran	35	0	15	0	9	11	0
Jack O'Rourke	30	0	0	0	15	15	0
Bernard Gallagher	26	0	0	15	11	0	0
Richard Varney	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
Sean Egan	13	0	13	0	0	0	0
Tony Newsome	11	0	11	0	0	0	0
Jimmy Lott	7	0	0	0	7	0	0

Committee Members for 2009

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Chairman	Jonathan Wigham	087 795 2296
Secretary	Colm McIntyre	086 155 1625
Treasurer	Joe McLoughlin	087 261 0803
Competitions	Cecil Barron	01 846 1666
Books & Video	John Killoran	01 490 3410
Workshops	Chris Lawlor	087 648 4380
Exhibitions	Graham Brislane	087 291 4770
Newsletter	Rich Varney	086 832 7985

Woodturning Classes

Up to 3 students per class.
Graduate Lathe per student.
One day courses also available.
Contact: Peter Mulvaney
Ph: 01 280 2745

Woodturning Classes

Joe O'Neill offers classes on
Tuesday and Wednesday A.M.
& Thursday nights.
Ph: 087 623 0162
Email: rudyperudy@yahoo.com

Thursday afternoon workshop



The Thursday afternoon workshop is now regularly taking place once per month on the Thursday following the Saturday Terenure meeting from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Scout Hall, Templeogue Lodge, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. Contact: Joe McLoughlin (087-2610803).

Exhibition News

Adelaide & Meath Hospital, inc N.C.H. (Tallaght Hospital) - May 2009

For the Alzheimer's competition at the April meeting, we had 8 individual items entered by 6 entrants. The judge studied all the pieces and chose Michael Fay as the winner. Michael's winning piece was a bowl made from Elm. A special thanks to Cecil Barron for the prize for the winner, and the other spot prize.

Thanks to all who entered, the pieces went towards the Alzheimer Society sale, during the exhibition in the Adelaide & Meath inc. N.C.H., in Tallaght. The Exhibition was a great success, and the hospitality from the staff at the Hospital was excellent, and we should look forward to being back there next year.

From donations, and the sale of items for the Alzheimer Society made by members of this chapter, we made € 866.00. A cheque for the above amount has been forwarded to "The Alzheimer Society of Ireland".

Finally, thanks also to those who helped in setting up on the Tuesday, manning the show during the week, and helping to clear up on the Friday.

Our next planned Exhibition will be in the South Dublin County Library, in Tallaght next December.

Graham Brislane.

On behalf of the Exhibition Committee.



Exhibition photos by Graham Brislane.

Clockwise from top left:

Lex Mehta keeps an eye on the stall.

Cecil Barron, Adrian Finlay and Frank Gallagher check out the turned items on offer..

Albert Sloane and Michael Fay join Cecil, Adrian and Frank at the exhibition.

Turning and Learning, Part 10

Chapter Demonstrations.

Scraping

Peter Mulvaney gave the April 2009 demonstration to the Dublin Chapter. He started by mentioning that of the three actions of lathe tools - scraping, cutting and shearing - most of the work done by the turners of old involved scraping. He feels that scraping is the easiest and safest of these, and is best for beginners.

Many experienced and skilful turners use this action, very often because it gives good results, it is easy to replicate pieces, it gives fewer bad cuts, it reduces wood wastage and can be quicker, thus resulting in better use of your time.



Peter Mulvaney demonstrating scraping at the April meeting

To demonstrate, Peter copied a complex antique candle-holder which contained a variety of sizes of shoulders, coves, ogees and beads. He did this almost entirely with scraping tools, some of standard pattern and some which he had made from chisels and bits and pieces. He stressed the importance of spending time setting and re-setting the tool-rest at the correct height. For scraping, Peter recommends setting the rest so that when the tool is horizontal it should be at "nine o'clock", then by lifting the handle slightly the cutting edge will be presented to the wood just below "nine". He achieved a very smooth finish which only needed a minimum of smoothing. He did this using Webrax which he recommended highly, mentioning that he sometimes saves time by using a piece in each hand!

Sharpening

Peter demonstrated sharpening techniques so competently that he made it look very simple; as a result I may have missed some important points, but I made a note of:-



Peter sharpens a skew on his belt sander

- Mounting the grinder at chest height means less bending and stooping
- Regularly dress the stone to remove hills and hollows
- Use the full width of the stone [start in middle and then move side to side]
- Adjust the rest [guide plate] to height that suits required bevel
- First apply the heel of the bevel to the wheel and then raise handle
- Gentle pressure only [unless you are re-shaping the profile]
- The circumference of the wheel will give a hollow ground profile to the cutting edge
- Continue the process until the sparks are coming off the top edge of the bevel
- Examine edge. If some or all is "shining" it is flat and requires more work



- Some tools, e.g. skew, may be better sharpened on a belt
- Moving tool from side to side can be easier on belt even if time-consuming.
- A small “hobby” stone can be mounted in a chuck and dressed to give a profile to a home-made scraper for making beads [See Safety]
- An excellent bead scraper can be made from a worn down spindle gouge [Peter thanked Henry East for giving him this tip]

Peter was joined by Joe O'Neill in a lively chat on the colour of sparks [red from HSS and white from carbon, if my memory serves me right] - and the best way to lubricate the tool so you won't lose your temper [oil v water]. My own father-in-law, who learned cabinet making skills from his father, recommended the use of spit to cool steel tips - “Spit contains natural oils; that's why its also great on your palms to prevent blisters”!

Safety

The demonstration led to highlighting the need for a very light touch if grinding on the side of a wheel, and some grinders come with a warning to avoid this completely. The use of wheels mounted in a chuck - without a guard - has been discussed at previous demonstrations and Peter stressed the importance of alertness, as well as safety shields/goggles. Among his other safety recommendations were:-

- Always wear safety goggles when sharpening
- Always wear tight cuffs or roll up your sleeves above the elbow
- Do not wear a neck-tie, a watch or any rings or jewellery
- If you have a problem with noise level wear ear protection
- Most grinders revolve at 2,800rpm and take some time to stop - Beware
- Keep lubricant handy in case of overheating

There is always plenty to learn from Peter's demonstrations, and I jotted a note on one such little gem. He very quickly turned two toggles and threaded a bicycle spoke through a 3mm hole in each. This was held in place by the hook, at one end and the threaded nipple at the other, and he had a ready-made burning tool for decorative rings. Many thanks to Peter for passing on so much useful information.

Dublin Chapter Seminar.



Tony Wilson turns a “Honey Pot”

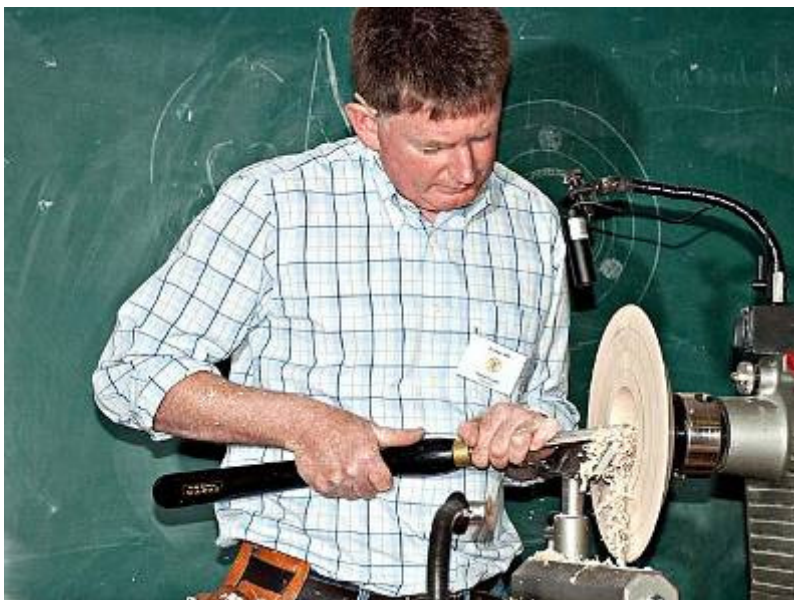
A full day of first-class demonstrations, mooching around trade stands, meeting old friends, and noting down new ideas and challenging projects for the future - Yes, its Seminar time again! Its time to come along on the evening before and help with setting up the venue. Oh dear, you arrive at half seven to find all the work done and everyone gone home - what a shame! You will just have to bear the disappointment and the guilt!

Seminars represent truly great value - in this case, (May 2nd, 2009,) for fifty euro we got as much coffee and biscuits as we wanted, a good lunch, and on top of that, three demonstrators who are masters of their art, Seamus Cassidy, Paddy Lynch and Tony Wilson. Thanks are especially due to Cork's own Paddy who promised to simplify everything, so the mainly Dublin audience could keep up with him.



Seamus Cassidy

I attended two sessions by Seamus, and as usual, thanks to his natural ability to impart facts and techniques, I added reams to my little book of "How To Do It". As an example of how he involves his audience he gave us a choice of two blanks from which he might turn a decorated shallow bowl from hard ash - one was free of blemishes and the other had surface faults which would mean ad-lobbing as the extent of the defects was uncovered. While the audience opted for the "good" blank he actually found time to do quite a bit on the defective one also. As a result we learned about design factors, shallow bowl turning within a platter-size blank, adding lines of minute size, inscribing geometric patterns (and stitching) with a pyrography machine, and adding small "domes" of contrasting wood.



Seamus Cassidy

In his second session Seamus made a small bowl of burr elm, with a long steam-bent handle of ash. As with a lot of his work this had a very distinctive suggestion of the ancient and the Celtic, and you could imagine Firbolgs dipping this very bowl into a wooden pitcher of mead or some native firewater, as they sat around their campfire! Again Seamus gave some very practical tips on standing back and marking out various dimensions, so as to arrive at the most pleasing perspectives and profiles before starting on the next stage of shaping. His techniques for bending were most interesting but would take too long to describe here. Why not go along and see for yourself the next time he is demonstrating.

Paddy Lynch

I went to see Paddy's demonstration immediately after lunch, but there was certainly none of the usual drowsy feeling that can set in after grub. Paddy entertained and elucidated in equal measure. He quickly turned a beautifully proportioned mount for a clock or barometer. This was made up of a hollowed circular surround mounted on an oblong base, with a turned ball between the two. Some of the completed pieces he had on display were stunningly finished and proportioned.

I was delighted to see how Paddy used a router to cut a profile around the top of the rectangular base, as I had done the very same thing recently - I had very poor results, and also risked losing a finger tip. Thanks to Paddy I will tackle this job with more confidence next time. Having shown us how to drill accurately into the circular clock-mount for the dowel on the ball, Paddy neatly fielded a question from some thick in the audience (yours truly) on how to drill a gavel so that the handle won't be off-centre. In less time than he could sink a pint of Murphy's, he turned a cup chuck to hold a gavel (use a soft wood). A drill can be advanced into the gavel which will be firmly centred, and will ensure you have a well finished item. With his pleasant line in chat you could almost miss the dozens of really useful tips Paddy is imparting, and it is well worth while having a pen and notebook in constant use. From a fairly simple bit of split turning Paddy produced a classic wall-mounting that could be used for a candle or small ornament, and which would look well even in the mansion of a retired banker. This was my first time to see Paddy Lynch in action, but I hope it will be the first of many.

Tony Wilson

Due to the demand to see this popular expert, Tony generously agreed to extend his stay and I had an opportunity to see him in action at our normal Thursday mini-session in Templeogue. It had originally been planned that Tony would give a master class to four or five people, and us regulars would listen in. In the event, Tony is such a first-class turner and tutor that nobody wanted to miss a word he said, or wanted to overlook any of his demonstration. As a result the four spare lathes lay idle for most of this fascinating session.



In the course of turning a small elm box Tony Wilson passed on an incredible number of tips on tools, sharpening, techniques and safety, that it was difficult to absorb it all. Working on his Hegner HDB 200XL lathe he was so comfortable and at ease with the demands of his craft that you absolutely forgot that he was actually working from a wheelchair. During his years of turning he has been involved in tool design, and this fact shone through in his obvious expertise in handling even the trickier aspects of turning.

He followed the box with an intricate piece of bowl making. Using a sycamore blank cut by band-saw to a rough shamrock shape (about 30cm in diameter and 4 or 5 cm thick) he turned a splendid shallow bowl. Testament to his level of skill was the smoothness of the piece straight "off the tool". Considering the amount of shadow-work involved with the three leaves and the stem, this was impressive stuff indeed. I had not seen Tony Wilson's work before this, and was thrilled to hear he will be back for the 2009 National Seminar. We all hope to see him in Armagh.

*Gerry Ryan, May 2009
Photos by Hugh Flynn*



Tony Wilson gave the first of two master classes the day after the seminar. Hugh Flynn was on hand to capture the action.

Clockwise from top left:

Ken Hartnett gets the shavings flying

Having already blown the newsletter editor's feeble excuse about the lathe being "a bit too high" out of the water, Tony points out "... and you look a right muppet in those glasses!"

Tony gives a hands on demonstration of grinding and sharpening techniques.



Seminar Competition Winners

In third place...

Cecil Barron



...in second place...

Michael Fay



...and in First place...

Pat Walsh



Notices from May 2009, 1 day Seminar. Saturday 2nd May 2009.

Seminar Badge Return Raffle:

At our recent 1 day seminar we asked at the end of the day that people return their name badges, and in exchange they would be entered for a raffle prize.

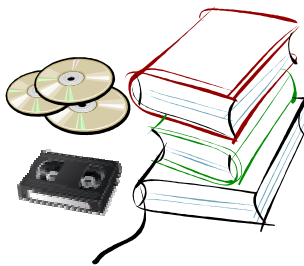
Well lots of people entered and Michael Farrelly of the Dublin Chapter was the name pulled from the hat. Congratulations to Michael who will be presented with prize during the June Chapter meeting.

Thanks to the Exhibitors:

The committee would like to thank all the exhibitors, for taking the time to support our seminar. Without them we would have no new tools, woodturning accessories etc., to fill our goodie bags during the day.

Graham Brislane.

On Behalf of the Committee.

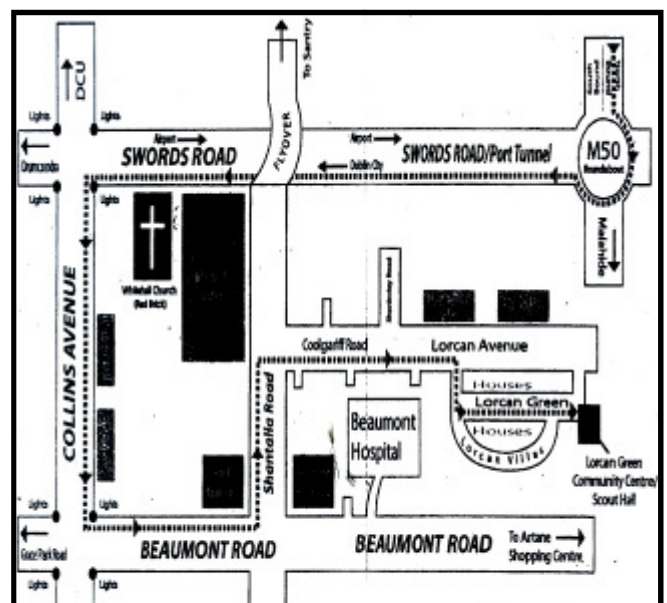


Library Returns Please.

Before coming to the next meeting, don't forget to check to see if you have any books, videotapes or DVDs to bring back to the library.



Dublin 15 Chapter now meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30 pm till 10:00 pm, at the **BRACE Centre, Main St, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.**
www.craobhcuiigdeag.org



Dublin East Central Chapter

This chapter meets on the second Saturday of each month in Lorcan Green Community Centre / Scout Hall at 2.00 pm. Tel: 086 8241470