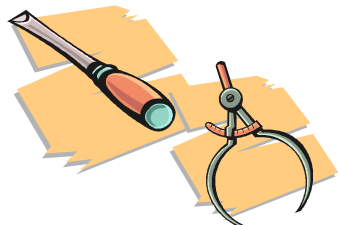




# Dublin Chapter Newsletter

January 2011 Volume 3 Issue 21



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## Riding the Bevel

Well 2011 has arrived and it seems to me that in general the New Year was greeted less by the usual ebullience and more by relief at seeing the back of 2010.

The return of the bad weather during Christmas week did little to help my turning activities. I seemed to spend much of the week shovelling snow around the house in an ongoing attempt to clear paths before it became compacted. I thought I had learned my lesson from a few weeks previously when I had left it in the hope of a quick thaw.

But as so often life has other lessons ready to be learned and I some how pulled a muscle in my chest through my excursions. Of course, this turned out to be one of those inconveniently placed muscles that is used in anything from sitting down to breathing so turning was again off the agenda. Thank God for the Ashes cricket to while away the small hours while I was struggling to sleep.

We were in Cork with my family for Christmas itself and that turned out to be a bit of a survival course with

no water due to frozen pipes. You don't realise how much water you actually use until it is rationed, but we got by.

We then came home to be greeted by a soaking wet carpet in the hot press. A leak seemed likely, but after a day or so of unsuccessfully trying to trace the problem I concluded that it was all down to condensation. This was something of a relief to say the least.

The volume of water that condensed was quite surprising. Though on reflection it should perhaps not have been. I have a dehumidifier running for 5 to 6 months of the year in happy place and find it is excellent for preventing condensation and rust on my tools. It has the added benefit of helping to dry some of the timber in the shed and I recycle the water into my wet grinder. At times it will collect a litre of water or more overnight.

All this makes me wonder how people are finding things in the workshop during the very cold weather. I know some of you have various options for heating from wood burning stoves to gas heaters to central heating in some cases.

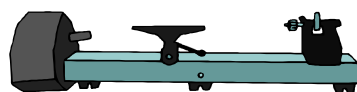
I'd be interested to know how others tackle these problems of cold and damp.

Anyway, my strain has recovered and things seem to have returned to normal this week. I've even managed to spend some time in front of the lathe.

Hopefully no one has had too bad a time as a result of the recent spells of bad weather and the rest of this winter will not be too harsh. Even if it is, struggling for traction on icy roads will be a thing of the past, for me now that I have discovered the wonders of wooden wheels. See photo below.

Have a good month.

Varn.



## Coming Soon

Wed 12 January - *Workshop* (Scout Hall)

Sat 5 February - (Scout Hall)

Demonstrator: Tony Lally

Competition: Hollow Form

Wed 9 February - *Workshop* (Scout Hall)

Sat 5 March - (Scout Hall)

Demonstrator: Seamus Carter

Competition: Fruit



## 2011 Membership

Please note that membership fees for 2011 are now due. When renewing your membership, **please** take a minute to ensure that we have either an up to date e-mail address and/or mobile phone number.

There have been a number of instances in the last year where the committee needed to get messages out to members urgently, due to last minute cancellations and the like. The only practical way to do this is via e-mail or text message.

## Notes from the Chairman

How many times have you kept your New Year's resolution? Well it's hard at times to do so, especially if you failed before.

This year I will make a New Year's resolution which I hope to keep and it's this: Keep my receipts in a box or plastic envelope. No I will not make other resolutions only this one.

I have had so much grief looking for receipts last year for items bought and needed them as proof of purchase to return a faulty product or service.

I have been a member of the Tree Council since 1989 and have attended most of the meetings and functions organised by that organisation. I have tried to engage the guild in National Tree Week every year held in March.

I was delighted that our chapter has members

helping out in Larch Hill Scout Camp Site which Barry Dunne has undertaken to organize. Barry joined the team in Larch Hill who look after the site.

It would be nice to see a lot more of our members helping Barry carry out the important task of looking after the trees there.

Last year we had a trip to the Phoenix Park to collect free wood and there were 29 members who took advantage of the offer.

I am looking for 10 mallets for the scouts in Terenure. They house our Nova Lathe and equipment and look for nothing in return. It would be a nice gesture to present the mallets to the scout leader in Terenure. These can be brought to our next meeting in February.

The handle length is 18 to 20 inches and the



head 3 to 4 inches in diameter and 7 to 8 inches long made in any hardwood. The handle should slip through the head with a taper so it does not slip off when using it. All mallets will be given to the scouts.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Joe O'Neill  
Chairman, Dublin Chapter.

## Competition News

A new year of competition kicked off at the December meeting where the assignment was for "two Christmas tree decorations." There were no beginners entries, but the advanced and experienced categories gave the judges some pause for thought with six entries in each. Sadly the year did kick off with some controversy - more on that below...



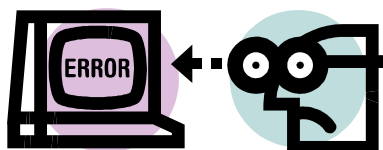
Michael Fay (Advanced)

Advanced	Dec
Michael Fay	15
Frank Gallagher	13
Sean Ryan	11
Joe O'Neill	9
Tony Lally	5
Cecil Barron	5

Experienced	Dec
Willie Reville	15
Stephen Harbourne	11
Graham Brislane	9
Gerry Ryan	5
Pacelli O'Rourke	5
Rich Varney	0



Willie Reville (Experienced)



Unfortunately four entries in the December competition (two in experienced and two in advanced) consisted of only one item and did not meet the original criteria of "Two Christmas Tree decorations (need not match)" as published in last February's newsletter and the chapter website. As a result these entries were not judged but were awarded the standard 5 points for each entry.

Subsequent to the meeting it was pointed out that the November newsletter wrongly listed the December competition as "Christmas Item". This was entirely my fault and I apologise to all those who were affected. In future I will double check the competition listings when updating the newsletter to prevent this from happening again. The competition secretary has decided that the competition results should stand. However as the mistake was mine, I feel that it would be unfair to those who were affected for my placing to stand. I will therefore take no points from the December competition.

Rich Varney.

## In memoriam

**Ned Farrell** who had been a member of the Dublin chapter died just before Christmas.

Ned was one of the first people to join the newly formed Guild back in the eighties and was a familiar figure at many national seminars from their beginnings.

Like many Irish people Ned went to work in England during the last war and drove a bus for some years. One of his friends said that Ned wasn't always punctual, at first, but when he missed one too many clocking-ins they threatened him with jail! Such was the importance of the war effort.

Anyway, after meeting his wife Kitty there he returned 25 years ago to live in Finglas and took up woodturning as a passionate hobby. He even appeared on the Late Late Show demonstrating how to recycle Christmas trees, making goblets and other little objects much to the amusement of his neighbours who now had a convenient way to recycle their unwanted trees. Kitty didn't always approve.

Ned had a very enquiring mind and took up many evening classes including computer courses as he always liked to know about the world around him.

He will be missed by his family and friends. Rest in Peace.

Chris Hayes

## Web Directory

Why not check out these useful websites for ideas and information...

[www.dublinwoodturners.com](http://www.dublinwoodturners.com) is our own website, which Owen Furniss keeps up to date with the latest news and information. Now you can follow Dublin Woodturners on twitter to be alerted when changes and updates take place. There are 3 ways to find us:

1. Just click on the Twitter icon on the left panel of the website
2. Go to [www.twitter.com/dublinturners](https://www.twitter.com/dublinturners)
3. Go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and search for "dublinturners"

[www.irishwoodturnersguild.com](http://www.irishwoodturnersguild.com) is the website for the guild.

[www.woodturner.org](http://www.woodturner.org) - website for the American Association of Woodturners with some useful information, access to "American Woodturner" magazine (paid membership is required to access the magazine) and useful forums.

[www.woodworkersinstitute.com](http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com) - website for "Woodturning" magazine and its sister publications with useful information and articles and forums.

[www.woodmagazine.com](http://www.woodmagazine.com),  
[www.finewoodworking.com](http://www.finewoodworking.com),

[www.woodsmithtips.com](http://www.woodsmithtips.com) - websites for American publications with useful information and videos.

[www.turningtools.co.uk](http://www.turningtools.co.uk) - good website for beginners with an e-book explaining spindle turning basics.

[www.woodtuningonline.com](http://www.woodtuningonline.com),

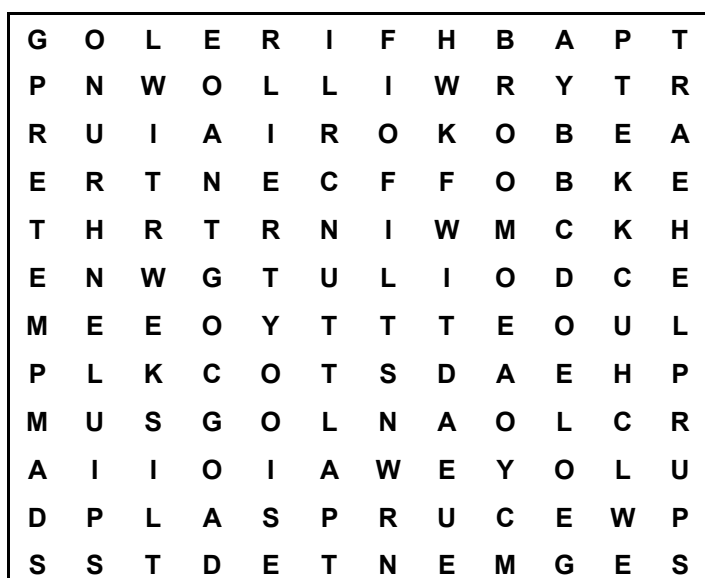
[www.woodturns.com](http://www.woodturns.com) - websites with links to useful woodturning information.

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) - You Tube is packed with videos on woodturning and other related techniques. Just head there and type wood turning.

Your search engine is your best friend. Just head to [www.google.ie](http://www.google.ie) or whatever engine you prefer to use and type what you are looking for in the search box. Internet searches often act as a reminder that the Internet is the biggest depository of crap ever built, but in amongst all the rubbish there are some real pearls, so it is well worth wading through. Putting "woodturning" in your search often helps to weed out the rubbish, so "woodturning lamp" will give a lot more relevant matches than "lamp" for example. Remember you can also search for images (a great source of ideas for projects) and videos on google.

Finally, I had to add this one which proves you can sell just about anything if you have the right marketing - [http://www.cafepress.com/+woodturning\\_dog\\_ts,41062965](http://www.cafepress.com/+woodturning_dog_ts,41062965)

## Turners' Wordsearch



All the words below are hidden in the grid. They are each in a straight line, **but** may be written horizontally, vertically or diagonally, and may even be spelled backwards!

Draw a line through each one as you find it **and also cross it off the list**. The letters that are left over at the end should spell out a message (reading left to right).

SPRUCE	WOODTURNING	ELM
TIMBER	DAMPMETER	FIRELOG
HEADSTOCK	PURPLEHEART	DISC
SEGMENTED	CHUCK	SANDED
BOWL	SKEW	BROOM
LATHE	PEWTER	WILLOW
OFFCENTRE	IROKO	TAILSTOCK
YEW	SPIGOT	TOOLS

Gerry Ryan



# The Doctor will see you now...

December saw the scout hall become an operating theatre for a demonstration of turning using surgical precision. Gerry Ryan was on hand to take notes on the procedure for "The Lancet" and has kindly allowed the reproduction of his article here...

**A**fter a prolonged spell of incarceration due to bad weather, the members were more than happy to gather for a much-needed hit of woodturning. After a period of gloom - not helped by the bloody budget and having to listen to all the newly qualified economic experts - what a blessed relief to meet old pals. Especially with the added attraction of goodies on offer by the Hut, the welcome of the scouts' roaring fire, our genial librarian with lots to offer, and our smiling and beautiful provider of teas and coffees. All this and a demo from Joe O'Neill !!!



Joe, resplendent in surgeon's gown and face mask, welcomed us and announced that he would demonstrate - "making one of the easiest owl yokes you could make". He then produced two boxes, showing an effortless mastery of the tools - many home-made - and as always giving some very essential safety tips along the way.

## Chinese, or "Pagoda" box

Mounting a cylinder of purple heart (3.5" X 5") in the chuck Joe mentioned that the full project could be completed without re-mounting the blank. This proved to be the case and greatly impressed me as I dislike having to reverse items with the risk of misalignment.

Using mainly a tool resembling a "Spindlemaster" which he had fashioned from a scraper he trued up the blank and shaped both the top and face of the lid.



Having removed some stock from below the lid to give some tool room, Joe shaped the "lip" which would fit inside the box. He then parted the lid using a v-faced parting tool so as to leave a very

good finish to the underside. Final parting was with a junior hacksaw.

Working now on the box, Joe stressed that the lid does not have to be a very tight fit, and that this allows him some welcome leeway. In case anyone would think that Joe was sloppy in his approach, he then threw in a series of references to very precise measurement indeed. "Perhaps just a tad. Maybe a hair or two. A bit less than a gnat's whisker. Just under a thingamajig and a quarter". What an example to us all!



The box was shaped with a nice inward curve at the top, and as this matched an outward curve on the bottom of the lid, it meant that a very natural finger-tip grip was in place for removing the lid - an important design feature with any box. Using the spindlemaster for shaping and some 'Joe-made' tools for hollowing, he quickly completed the box. In the process he also gave some useful hints on 'drilling' with a small spindle gouge.



Joe parted off the box and made a jam-chuck on the piece which was still in the chuck. He dished the base and decorated it with two circles. Despite not doing any sanding - out or respect for those in the front row - Joe's work came off the tool with a very nice finish.

## Vow of Silence

As time was short, Joe declared that he would not speak at all during the making of a second box. Mounting another blank (2.5" X 3") of something from the mahogany family he proceeded with a more traditional cylindrical box. By turning a



small spigot shape at the top of the lid (this was part of the design and would remain), he was able to mount it later in the chuck to do the hollowing work. (There was no hollow area in the lid of the Chinese box he made earlier).



The box was straight forward enough and this time the box top was to fit inside the lid, so final adjustments to the fit would be made when finishing the latter. Joe advised making the 'lip' at a slope, so the matching of lid to box would not involve the full surfaces - this would help avoid any excess binding of the two surfaces.

To those who know Joe O'Neill it will come as no surprise that he broke his vow of silence during the second half of his demo. They might be surprised just how many times he actually spoke (or swore, or told jokes, or sang) during the last half hour of his allotted time. (Guesses to the Editor please). Many thanks to our talented and genial Chairman for chasing away our winter gloom.

Gerry Ryan, December 2010  
Photos by Hugh Flynn and Tom Delaney

## Tree Teaser 2 - Cocobolo...

Wood Magazine's website explains that

"In the days when merchant ships battled the ravages of South America's treacherous Cape Horn, heavy cocobolo commanded precious little cargo space. But, the opening of the Panama Canal in 1912 changed all that. Cocobolo became common deck cargo, and tons poured into New England ports, where manufacturers turned it into handles on the finest cutlery.

Even though merchants had traded cocobolo for more than 100 years, it was decades before botanists agreed on its name. That's because the tree-first discovered in Panama-was classified as rosewood. Later, botanists found other specimens in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico, and classified each as a different species!"



"Cocobolo (*Dahlbergia retusa*) belongs to the same genus as Brazilian rosewood, and in fact, has similar properties. Rosewood, however, likes South America's rain forests. Cocobolo prefers the drier, upland savannah country of Central America's Pacific Coast.

A medium-sized - and quite often poorly formed - cocobolo tree reaches a height of only 75'-80'. Its reddish-brown, scaly trunk measures about 3' in diameter. Amid the tree's large, leathery leaves, tiny yellow blooms flower, and then later turn to long, flat seedpods."

For more see:

[www.woodmagazine.com/materials-guide/lumber/wood-species-1/cocobolo/](http://www.woodmagazine.com/materials-guide/lumber/wood-species-1/cocobolo/)

I first came across Cocobolo while on a trip to California in 2004. I had talked the family into stopping off at a town called Carlsbad on a drive from L.A. to San Diego. My internet research before the holiday had led me to a business specialising in Tropical Hardwoods.

After a good look around and a chat with

the proprietor, he showed me to a bin housing lots of dirty off-cuts of a dark brown timber. Initially I was not that impressed as it was hard to make anything out between the end-seal and general dust and grime on these lumps. However the man took me to the business next door to show me a huge (ten foot by six foot) wall hanging in the reception. The hanging consisted of four veneers of highly figured cocobolo re-sawn from the same piece. The veneers were inverted so that the grain was mirrored both top to bottom and left to right. This was framed in other timbers and was absolutely stunning.



After picking my jaw up off the ground, I went straight back to grab as many of the off cuts as I thought I could get into my suitcase. I got a lot of timber for a very good price that day. And thus my love affair with Cocobolo began.

The heartwood is typically orange or reddish-brown in colour, often with a figuring of darker irregular traces weaving through the wood. There is a sharp boundary between the heartwood and the sapwood, which is a creamy white.

Cocobolo is a very hard, dense and oily wood. This oil lends a strong, unmistakable floral odour even to well seasoned wood and is even prone to stain if the wood is not sealed.

Due to its density and hardness, even a large block of the cut wood will produce a clear musical tone if struck. Cocobolo can be polished to a lustrous, glassy finish.

Some cocobolo has a specific gravity of over 1.0, and will sink in water.

Cocobolo's oils can often induce allergic reactions if exposed to unprotected skin. The dust can also be extremely irritating and dangerous. I find the need to wear dust

protection while turning this wood in addition to sanding.



Despite these concerns, Cocobolo is a lovely wood to turn although tools must be razor sharp. It also machines extremely well. Due to the abundance of natural oils, the wood tends to clog abrasives awfully. However sanding and polishing brings this wood to a superb lustre with little effort.

The high natural oil content of the wood can sometimes make it difficult to achieve a strong glue joint, and can also inhibit the curing of some varnishes, particularly oil based finishes.

For gluing, best advice is to wipe all joining surfaces with lacquer thinner or acetone, and then glue immediately. If fillers are to be used, all contact surfaces should be wiped with thinner and sealed with sanding sealer.

Wax generally works well as a finish on Cocobolo as do lacquers. Oils finishes can run in to problems curing against the natural oil and tend not to be successful unless the wood is first sealed.

## Tree Teaser 3



After a couple of exotic tree teasers here is something closer to home that I expect everyone would know. If you fancy writing about this tree and its wood, let me know.

Rich Varney



## 2011 Committee



Chairman  
Joe O'Neill  
☎ 087 623 0162  
✉ DWT.Chair\*



Secretary  
Alison Hurst  
☎ 086 856 0472  
✉ DWT.Secretary\*



Treasurer  
Vincent Whelan  
☎ 087 760 4918  
✉ DWT.Treasurer\*



Vice-Chairman  
Joe McLoughlin  
☎ 087 261 0803



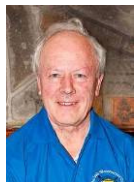
Membership  
Peter Mulvaney  
☎ 01 280 2745  
✉ DWT.Membership\*



Competitions/Workshops  
John Doran  
☎ 087 639 3081  
✉ DWT.Competitions\*



Books & Video  
Eamonn Boland  
☎ 086 274 7600  
✉ DWT.Library\*



Exhibitions  
Frank Maguire  
☎ 087 285 3716  
✉ DWT.Exhibitions\*



Exhibitions  
Adrian Finlay  
☎ 087 983 8633



Newsletter  
Rich Varney  
☎ 086 832 7985  
✉ DWT.Newsletter\*

## Advertisements

### Woodturning Classes

Joe O'Neill offers classes on Tuesday and Wednesday A.M. & Thursday nights.

Ph: 087 623 0162  
Email: rudyperudy@yahoo.com

### Woodturning Classes

Up to 3 students per class.  
Graduate Lathe per student.  
One day courses also available.

Contact: Peter Mulvaney  
Ph: 01 280 2745

### Ace Saw Services

Offer a discount to all members of the IWG Dublin Chapter.

Earl's Court Industrial Estate  
Beaumont Ave,  
Churchtown, Dublin 14  
Telephone 01 2989115

### Apex Electrical Rewinds

Offer a discount to all members of the IWG Dublin Chapter.

Marrowbone Lane, Dublin 8  
Telephone 01 4541066/4541135  
www.apexrewinds.com

### Hennessy Glass Company

Offer a discount to all members of the IWG Dublin Chapter.

266 Lower Kimmage Road  
Dublin 6W  
Telephone 01 4925920



*If you have anything to contribute to the newsletter or any comments or suggestions for what you would like to see in future, please contact the editor by e-mail, by phone, or in person.*

### Woodturning Classes

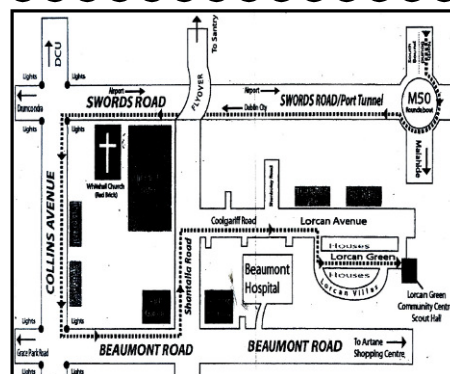
Joe Laird woodturning Studios  
Half-Day, Full-Day, Evening and Weekend classes available (up to 5 students) for all skill levels.

Ph: 01 825 8079 / 087 269 8027  
www.joelairdwoodturning.com

### Woodturning Supplies

The Hut

Ph: 086 333 3226 / 086 813 2040  
email: dahut@live.ie  
www.thehutwoodturningsupplies.com



Dublin East Central Chapter meet on the second Saturday of each month in Lorcán Green Community Centre / Scout Hall from 2.00 pm.  
Tel: 086 8241470  
www.eastcentralchapter.com



Dublin 15 Chapter meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30pm to 10pm, at the BRACE Centre, Main St, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.  
www.craobhcuigdeag.org

\* When sending e-mail to the "DWT" addresses, remember to add "@gmail.com" to the end of the e-mail address given. For example DWT.Newsletter@gmail.com.