



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

September 2011 Volume 3 Issue 27



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Demo Reports and Photos

◀ John Owens saw Billy Henry in action at the July Meeting. Report on page 2.

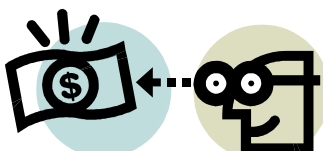
Christy Glynn paid us a visit in August. Photos on page 6. ▶



◀ Judge Dredd: Find out what cut the mustard in July and August on page 4



Turning a profit: Frank Maguire on the tips revealed at the 'Craft Means Business' conference. Page 3 ▶



Riding The Bevel

Remember to set your video recorder for the new series 'Craft Master' which starts on Tuesday 6 September at 7pm on RTE 1. Each program in the series sees three students in a given craft take part in a master class before being pitted against each other as their work is judged. The winning pieces go through to a final when one person will be crowned Craft Master 2011.

The series kicks off with glass blowing and will cover a number of other disciplines before moving on to woodturning on Tuesday 27 September. Our own Irene Christie and Chris Lawlor will feature as we finally get to see how they and another turner got on when they went to Glenn Lucas in Carlow.

While on the subject of Glenn Lucas: Joe is in the process of arranging a day trip to Glenn for chapter members in

the new year. More details will follow soon. Before that, thanks to Alison, we have a day at the National Stud.

My thanks to John Owens for stepping in to write up Billy Henry's demo for me. I apologise for not being organised enough to find some one to write up Christy Glynn's visit. Instead you will have to be content with a small collage of the day. Despite that, I've happily been in the position of having too much material to fit everything in this month. So you can look forward to the last of Jonny Wigham's articles on glues in October. There is still a fine line between having too much and too little and I could well be short of content next month, so please keep sending me material by whatever means you can!

Have a great month.

Varn.

EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL STUD



The Chapter has received an invitation to hold an exhibition and demonstrations at the Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens in Kildare on **Saturday 10 September** from **10am to 5pm**.

We will have access to the courtyard beside the Sun Chariot yard which is on all the tours of the National Stud and so should see a significant number of visitors. The yard also houses the farrier and saddle maker, who will hopefully also be there on the day too. There will be options to work in or outside so the weather should not present an issue.

We will need work to exhibit and the stud have said that there would be no problem with selling work privately on the day should anyone wish to do so. We will need the usual help in setting up and tidying as well as running demonstrations, so volunteers will be needed throughout the day.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the chapter to put woodturning out to a wider audience and for you to show or sell your work. The Stud and the Gardens are a lovely venue and Kildare Village is just down the road. So there is something in the vicinity for everyone. More details will be available at the September chapter meeting, when we will be looking for volunteers who can help on the day.

Coming Soon

Wed 7 September - Workshop (Scout Hall)

Sat 10 September - Exhibition (Kildare)

Sat 1 October - Chapter Meeting (Scout Hall)

Demonstrator: Jack Kearney

Competition: Candle Holder

Wed 5 October - Workshop (Scout Hall)

14-17 October - IWG Seminar (Killarney)

Sat 5 November - AGM (Scout Hall)

A demonstration will take place after the AGM.

5-10 December - (Tallaght Library)

Craft Week. Including exhibition and sale for Alzheimer's. More details to follow soon.

Notes from the Chairman

How many times have you put things on the long finger? I suppose we all leave it to tomorrow and it never gets done. What's he getting at now?

Our monthly competitions could be better supported from a lot more members. Instead of making excuses, make an item for the competition instead. When it comes to exhibitions and shows it's the same people who give their works for display. We have the largest membership in the Guild and our meetings are well attended but when it comes to having turned items for a show we shy away. It would surprise you to know that I

have seen the work of some of the people who could have submitted something for the competitions but lack the confidence to lug it along. Their work is good and in fact very good and if only we had them bring their pieces along it would make us a better Chapter.

Do it now and take pride in your work. We learn from one another and I am sure we have some members out there who could do a good demo for the Chapter. Our Wednesday meeting in the afternoon is a good time to have a go at doing a demo. We have wealth of expertise out there

waiting to be tapped. Every member has a contribution to make but some need a kick-start to get them going.

We hope to have a special project where several members would take part to complete an item in a specified time frame. Let's hear your suggestions of what that project should be but do it soon?

Joe O'Neill
Chairman Dublin Chapter



Boxes with Billy

At July's meeting, renowned woodturner Billy Henry paid a visit from Antrim. John Owens stepped in to take notes.

At our monthly chapter, Billy Henry, a man of thirty years experience in woodturning gave us more than we had bargained for. Billy is a member of the Register of Professional Turners and a fellow of the Ulster chapter of the IWG and treated us to two projects...



With a piece of "chac te koke" wood of a natural burgundy colour, he turned a small trinket box approximately two and a half inches wide and high. He then amazed us with a five inch diameter spalted bowl with tapered base and finished with a lid proportionate to same.

"Chac te koke" trinket box

He first threw up the face on the head stock telling us that it is a wood that burns very easily if tightly sanded. When turning the lid Billy has the happy knack of undercutting the lip. This fits on the base so that the lid clips on. In this way there is less wear on the opening and closing of the box since one does not need to twist it.



The inside of base he turned with a half inch gouge and scraper. These are tools that Billy has made himself. The scraper is designed to undercut the top of the bowl, thus being able to give it a relatively narrow opening while retaining the beautiful oval shape.

The receiving lip for the lid was then made smaller with a square scraper. Billy's method of turning and the smooth movement of the gouge and scrapers gave the finished article something of precision personified.

Spalted beech box

After the break, Billy turned to his second project: the spalted beech box and lid. As mentioned above Billy's deft hand at hollowing came into play again. He told us that when doing a box of this size about 5" diameter from a solid piece of beech, to leave it for a couple of months until it shrinks.

This was turned from end grain which can make it rather difficult to put beading on the edge, but presented no trouble to Billy. At this stage Billy told us that when sharpening scrapers to rub the burr off with a slip stone as this will give you an even sharper edge. Also that the less sanding you do the better as one can make the contour oval without realising it.

Having turned the bowl and then the lid, Billy used a scraper he had made out of an old file and has lasted ten years.

Please be warned that files and other improvised tools are not generally forged to handle the forces that can be imparted during turning and could break causing injury. Ed.)

Billy cut a spigot to hold the underside of the lid and threw it up evenly. The time of Billy's expertise flew by and by the reaction of other members of the audience it was definitely a morning not wasted by anyone.



Just to conclude, when I went home and mentioned Billy Henry's name, my good wife informed me that he was the gentleman whom she had approached about twenty three years ago at a turning display in Arnotts. She asked if he knew of any place that gave classes in woodturning. He mentioned the North Strand Tech. So that set the ball rolling as regards turning and I have never looked back. Thank you Billy.

John Owens
Photos by Hugh Flynn and Rich Varney

Craft Means Business Conference

Frank Maguire gives his observations from a conference at Farmleigh House, which he attended on behalf of the chapter.

This event, sponsored by Fingal County Enterprise Board, took place on 30th June and was designed to “inspire craft / design companies to take a leap forward in the year of craft”.

While I am only involved in turning as a hobby, I thought it might be worth checking out the prospects if the worst came to the worst in this age of collapsing pension funds and bankrupt governments. The conference consisted of a series of talks by those who had developed successful businesses in the craft trade and this was followed by an opportunity to network later with other participants.

The first speaker was Philip Gaffney of O’Gowna Gifts (www.ogowna.com), who specialises in selling Irish ethnic items to the US market. These range from top of the range chess sets to leprechauns, although the latter item would not be typical. He positions his offering in the mid-range €30 to €70 bracket. For anyone wishing to break into this market there are two big shows each year – the Ireland Show Secaucus held in Secaucus NJ every April (www.irelandshowsecaucus.com) and Celtic Marketplace in Chicago which is held in September; next one coming up 18th to 20th Sept 11.

The Irish market is estimated at \$140 billion...

These shows give the new entrant the opportunity of meeting buyers and getting an honest opinion of what they have to offer. If the buyer feels your item is something he could sell, the next question is how much will you supply for. Don’t ask how much he is going to sell it for – that’s his business. You can assume it will be at least twice what you get but don’t forget that he may also be liable for sales tax if the item is retailed through a shop.

You need an item or small number of items with a fixed price for each category. This is different to selling at a craft show where every item can have its own individual price. Then there is the cost of shipping. This can be ex-factory, landed or door-to-door. In the first case the buyer takes charge of the shipping (may suit a buyer who already imports from Ireland). Landed means that you deliver to an import agent at a US port and any onward delivery is arranged from there. Door-to-door means you send the item direct to the buyer e.g. using Fedex or the postal system.

The web sites of these companies will give you the rates, which are mainly based on weight. Assuming all the figures add up and you want to go ahead, the buyer would normally start off with an agreement for a small test quantity to check consumer reaction. Assuming this will be positive, make sure you are in a position to meet the demand. Can you supply for example, 100 ten inch, 75 nine inch and 50 six inch bowls by next month? You can deal with more than one buyer but would you be able to handle the quantity if everything goes well? The Irish ethnic market is estimated at \$140 billion, so it is a good starting point but there is no need to restrict yourself to this market. Your item should be good enough for sale in the general craft market which is several times larger. The biggest player in this field is QVC, (Quality, Value, Convenience), the on-line and television shopping channel. As an indication of this company’s strength, it is the largest buyer of gold in the US – for its jewellery sales.

The next two speakers Susannah Grogan (www.susannahgrogan.com) and Vivien Walsh (www.vivienwalsh.com) are two gifted designers who have developed their craft into successful businesses. Susannah Grogan is a textile designer with 15 years experience producing designs for the likes of Tommy Hilfiger, Estee Lauder etc. When she launched her range of scarves, there was no question about how they would be received. Because of their unique quality, some shops want to be the exclusive stockist for a particular area so customers will have to come to their shop. There is also the potential problem of copying as the designs cannot really be protected. This means she must keep one step ahead with a constant flow of new material.

Vivien Walsh is a jewellery designer who has been in business since 1984. She has her own shop in Monkstown where her trained team produce the hand made items designed by her. After twenty years in business, she has a loyal band of customers who keep coming back and in fact some of their children are now customers.

The next speaker was Greg O’Gorman, group marketing director of Kilkenny Design Shop, assisted by his sister Melissa who is a shop manager. Kilkenny has its origins in the craft courtyard at Kilkenny castle and was originally a state sponsored enterprise. They now have six shops around the country which form the largest emporium for Irish designed products anywhere. Contrary to

popular opinion, they are not just a tourist shop and in fact tourists account for only 20% of sales. They have done some market research and have identified their typical customer as an Irish woman between 35 and 55 who works and is married with children and appreciates good design. In addition to the shops they also have two web sites www.KilkennyShop.com and www.giftshopireland.com. Both sites have the same items for sale but the gifts shop site is geared for the US market. The company has 500 suppliers, 80% of whom are Irish. So how do you go about becoming one of them?

First look at what they are selling in your area of interest and check the price. There is a 2.5 times mark-up on the price the supplier gets for the item. So if you see a wooden bowl for sale at €60 you would have to be able to supply it for €24. Of course there is no point in supplying the same item. You must have something that is novel, displaying creative design and of high quality. They particularly like items which are innovative and ‘push the boundaries’.

There is a 2.5 times mark-up on the price a supplier gets for an item.

The Irish aspect of the piece is also important. With the advent of the recession, Irish people are now much more careful to select Irish made goods. As usual there would be a test period to gauge demand and then ‘fulfilment’ becomes important if the item takes off. Obviously the Kilkenny shop option is an attractive one as it combines domestic sales and export sales as well via the websites and tourism. It is also local. The only question is “can you sell there at a profit?” If interested, the person to talk to is Laura Pasquetti who is the buyer for wooden items; email pasquetti@kilkennygroup.com

Following the formal presentations, there was an opportunity to mingle with the other attendees over a glass of wine and, among others, I met a lace maker who was only offered €4 for an item that took 5 hours to make; a man who is making picture frames out of used coffee granules and a furniture designer who may be looking for someone to turn pedestals for tables – he has not been in touch so far.

Overall an interesting and informative event and well done to Fingal County Enterprise Board.

Frank Maguire

Competition Standings and Winners

		Two Christmas Decorations		Table Lamp		Hollow Form		Fruit		Platter		Open Competition		Box		Clock		Wall Hanging	
Advanced	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug									
Michael Fay	113	15	11	7	15	15	15	5	15	15									
Cecil Barron	88	5	5	13	13	13	6	15	5	13									
Tony Lally	64	5	7	9	5	7	11	7	7	6									
Pat M. Walsh	55			11		9	13		11	11									
Joe O'Neill	49	9	5	5	7	5		6	5	7									
Frank Gallagher	39	13	5	5	11	5													
Albert Sloane	37		9	6				13	9										
Seamus Carter	33		13			5	9		6										
Colm McIntyre	25		5	15	5														
Jack O'Rourke	24							11	13										
Tony Hartney	23		6		5	5	7												
Colm Hyland	20					11		9											
Michael McNamara	21				6	5			5	5									
Henry East	15		15																
John Holmes	14				9	5													
Sean Ryan	11	11																	
Adrian Finlay	6					6													
Martin O'Halloran	5		5																
Pat J. Walsh	5			5															
Malcolm Hill	14				5													9	

Experienced	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Rich Varney	93	0	15	15	6	13	11	11	11	11
Willie Reville	88	15	6	11	13	9	15	5	7	7
Gerry Ryan	78	5	13	5	9	5	6	5	15	15
Stephen Harbourn	68	11	11	5	11	11	13	6		
Graham Brislane	66	9		6	15	5	5		13	13
Pacelli O'Rourke	40	5	9	9	5	7		5		
John Owens	49		5	5	7	5	5	7	6	9
Paddy Finn	34		7			5	7	15		
Brian Kelly	29				5	6		9	9	
Sean Egan	15					15				
Jonathan Wigham	13			13						
Mark Daly	13							13		
Frank Maguire	12			7	5					
Tom Delaney	10		5			5				
Willie Edwards	10				5			5		
Sean McMorrow	9						9			
Sean Murtagh	5			5						
Irene Christie	5					5				
John Doran	11							5		6

Beginners	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Peter Curran	92		15	7	11	13	11	13	9	13
Noel White	69			11	15	15	13		15	
Paul Murtagh	76			13	9	11	6	11	11	15
Pat Costigan	30						15	15		
Alison Hurst	29				13	9	7			
John Duff	25			15	5	5				
Frank Trappe	18		11		7					
Dean Dawson	18			9			9			
Vincent Whelan	15		9		6					
Seamus McKeefry	13		13							
John McMurragh	13								13	
Tony Beatty	7					7				



Michael Fay (Advanced - July)



Gerry Ryan (Experienced - July)

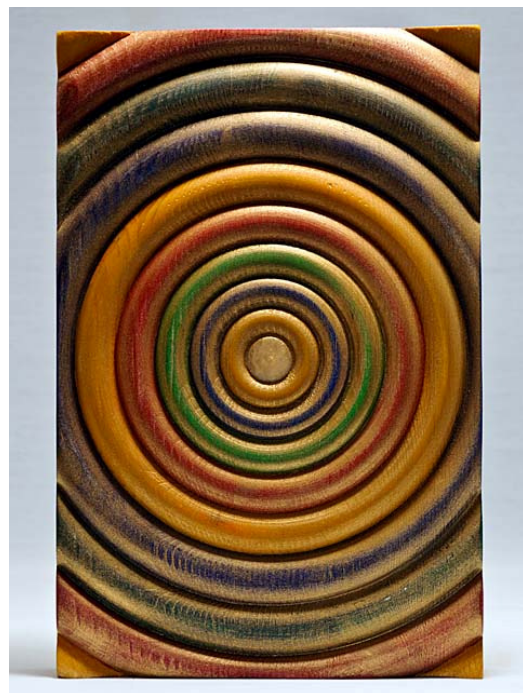


Noel White (Beginners - July)

All competition photographs by Hugh Flynn



Michael Fay (Advanced - August)



Paul Murtagh (Beginners - August)



Gerry Ryan (Experienced - July)

Artistic	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Cecil Barron	97			15	15	9	15	15	15	13
Gerry Ryan	81		11	11	9	6	13	11	13	7
Frank Gallagher	42		15	9	11	7				
Colm Hyland	26			13	13					
Joe O'Neill	22		13					9		
Henry East	15					15				
Seamus O'Reilly	28					13				15
Tony Lally	13							13		
Sean Egan	11					11				
Adrian Finlay	5					5				
Malcolm Hill	11								11	
Michael McNamara	9								9	
John Owens	6								6	

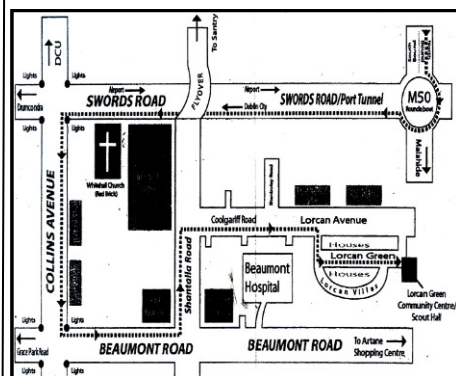


Cecil Barron (Artistic - July)



Seamus O'Reilly (Artistic - August)

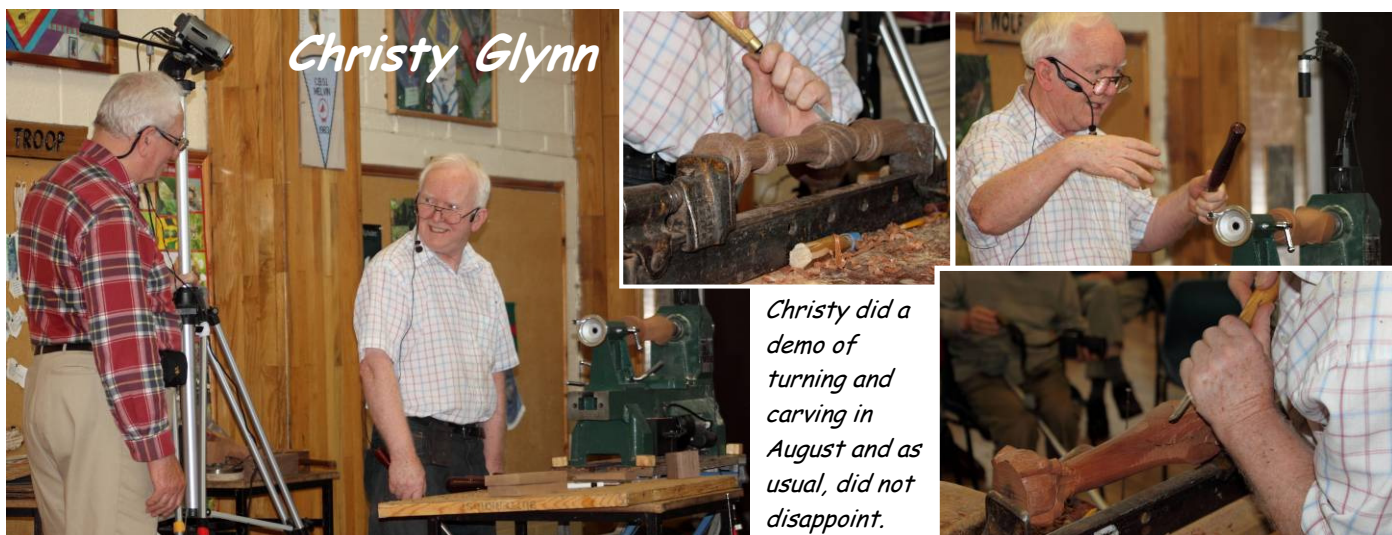
Other IWG Chapters



Dublin East Central Chapter meet on the second Saturday of each month in **Lorcan 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



Christy Glynn

Christy did a demo of turning and carving in August and as usual, did not disappoint.

2011 Committee

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

Q: What sort of wood do movie stars most like to turn?

A: Hollywood

Advertisements

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Telephone: 087 623 0162

Email: rudyperudy@yahoo.com

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