

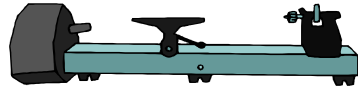


Dublin Chapter Newsletter

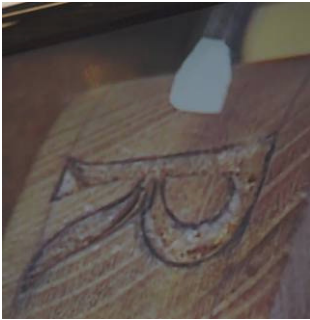
April 2012 Volume 3 Issue 34



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◀ *Carved up. Pacelli O'Rourke describes John Mangan's demonstration of carving at the March Meeting on page 3.*



► *Competition Roundup. March competition photos and results on Page 2.*



► *Important News and updates from the Chairman and committee on Page 2.*

RAFFLE

The Raffle to help cover the expense of our new container will take place at our regular meeting on Saturday 5th May. Please support this important fundraiser. First Prize will be a woodturning smock in the winners selected size embroidered with the chapter logo and winners name. There will be other nice runner up prizes including a five-hour basic woodturning lesson with Peter Mulvaney. Tickets cost €5 and will be available at the April meeting.

Riding the Bevel

The Ulster chapter were kind enough to invite me up to Templepatrick in March to demonstrate at their chapter meeting. What was supposed to be a demonstration of making an inlaid box would perhaps have better been entitled "keep digging".

For those who have not been up, the woodshed is a treasure trove and well worth a visit. (Incidentally Sam Moore will be at our meeting in May and will be happy to bring any special items that anyone wants with him. You can ring Sam on 04894 433833).

I was a little later arriving than planned and my first thought on walking into the packed demo area was that the last time I had saw something like this was in Wembley Stadium at a Michael Jackson concert. The chapter have a really nice set up with a permanent scaffold over the lathe housing high definition cameras and two huge TVs either side.

In short there was nowhere to hide and it turned out to be one of those days. I have these from time to time (more often maybe) and usually find that if I put down my tools and walk away for 20 minutes things

improve. Sadly walking away for 20 minutes was not an option (20 minutes wouldn't have been long enough anyway) and things just went from bad to worse as catch after catch ensued and I went to pieces. It's amazing how one can get into a state of missing the obvious cause of problems when under pressure.

Fortunately, the Ulster members were really nice (woodturners seem to be like that) and I had Vinny, Joe and John to keep me from jumping off a bridge on the way home. The experience has made me realise that some areas of my technique need looking at and perhaps a lesson or two might be in order.

Despite my best efforts to be organised and have the newsletter ready in good time this month, here I am at 4pm on Friday, as usual, trying to finish it off. I won't get into excuses, but suffice to say anyone wanting to hear some colourful language can engage me in conversation on the subject of Gas CH boilers at the meeting.

I hope everyone has a lovely Easter and a great month.

Varn.

Coming Soon

- Wed 11 April - *Workshop* (Scout Hall)
- Sat 5 May - (Scout Hall)
 - Demonstrator: Danny McGeever
 - Competition: Open Competition
- Wed 9 May - *Workshop* (Scout Hall)
- Sat 2 June - (Scout Hall)
 - Demonstrator: To Be Confirmed
 - Competition: Natural Edge Bowl and Tim McGill Trophy for Alzheimer's Sale

Tallaght Hospital Exhibition

Planning is under way for this year's exhibition at Tallaght Hospital. The dates are expected to be Monday 11th to Wednesday 13th June (9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) but are yet to be confirmed.

The competition for the Tim McGill Trophy will be held at the meeting on Saturday 2nd June. Items entered for this will be taken as donations for sale at the exhibition for Alzheimer's.

The success of the sale depends on us having pieces to sell so it would be great if everyone in the chapter could donate at least one turned item. Anyone wishing to contribute items for the sale can also bring them to the exhibition on the day.

We will also need pieces to be exhibited and volunteers to man the stands during the three days and will put a call out nearer the time.

Contact Frank Maguire for more details.

Notes from the Chairman

This month I need to update you on a number of important happenings in the chapter.

Sadly our secretary Alison Hurst has resigned from the committee, for personal reasons. Owen Furniss has agreed to step in to the position in the short term and has been co-opted on to the committee as Honorary Secretary. My thanks go to Alison for all of the effort she put in as chapter secretary. Alison added greatly to the running of the chapter and will be much missed on the committee.

The one-day meeting we had planned in May has had to be postponed as the Guild Executive refused our request to hold it. Without permission of the Guild the event would not be insured. The May meeting will go ahead as normal on the morning of the 5th May and the demonstrators that we would have had at the one day meeting have been asked to demonstrate for us at some of our regular meetings later in the year. We hope to have a

Seminar in 2013 and will start planning this early to ensure we comply with the Guild's requirements. Our April guest demonstrator is Robert O'Connor from Gorey and he will show how to make some hollow forms plus other items of interest. Danny McGeever will do our May demo .

As you know by now, we have our container in place and filled with our gear. We were unable to get the container insured under the Guild insurance policy and a separate policy to cover the container has ended up costing far more than we would have hoped. This is unfortunate but the public liability insurance is not something we can do without. The raffle we were planning for April will now be held in May. This is to help defray the cost of the container. I hope you all have tickets. We will also look for help from the National Lottery and Joe McLoughlin and Adrian Finlay are looking into this for us. Since our formation as a chapter in 1990 we have not received or sought any

funding from anyone. Other clubs around the country have got support from the Lottery.

The East Central Chapter will hold their one day seminar on 12 May and I would like to see our members support it.

The Annual seminar in Killarney should be the highlight of the year. Don't leave it to the last minute to book your place at the Malton Hotel. There are special rates for members attending the seminar. The chapter Challenge for this year is a spinning wheel. We have a few teams being put together but need more volunteers. You will get every assistance from members who made the wheels in the past. Let me know if you would like to join a team. We have the plans so let's get spinning.

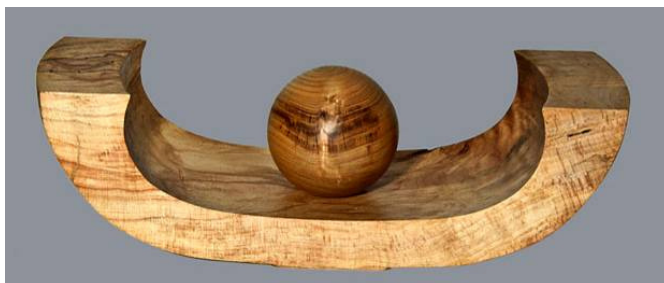
Joe O'Neill
Chairman, Dublin Chapter.



Competition News

The March competition item was a goblet with captive rings. This is a tough ask but 17 goblets joined the three artistic pieces on the competition table. The winning pieces maintained the excellent standard we have seen this year. Congratulations to Owen Furniss, Pacelli O'Rourke, John Sheeran and Cecil Barron on their wins.

Competition Photos by
Hugh Flynn



Cecil Barron (Artistic)



Owen Furniss
(Advanced)



Pacelli O'Rourke
(Experienced)



John Sheeran
(Beginners)

Advanced	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Cecil Barron	42	9	13	11	9
Willie Reville	40	11	9	7	13
Owen Furniss	36	15	6		15
Henry East	28		15	13	
Tony Hartney	21		5	5	11
David Sweeney	20		11	9	
Pat M. Walsh	20		5	15	
Frank Gallagher	17	7		5	5
Joe O'Neill	16	5	5	6	
Peter Mulvaney	15	5	5	5	
Seamus O'Reilly	13	13			
Michael McNamara	12			5	7
John Holmes	10		5	5	
Tony Lally	7		7		
Rich Varney	6	6			
James Gallagher	6				6
Malcolm Hill	5		5		
Paddy Finn	5				5

Experienced	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Alison Hurst	46	9	15	15	7
Pacelli O'Rourke	39	15	9		15
Noel White	35	13	11	11	
Paul Murtagh	33	6	7	7	13
John Owens	25	7		13	5
Willie Edwards	24		13		11
Frank Maguire	12			6	6
John Doran	11	11			
Sean Egan	9			9	
Peter Curran	9				9

Beginners	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
John Sheeran	45		15	15	15
John Duff	39		13	13	13
Pieter Maanen	11			11	

Artistic	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Cecil Barron	54	13	13	13	15
Frank Gallagher	22			9	13
James Gallagher	15	15			
Malcolm Hill	15		15		
Henry East	15			15	
Peter Mulvaney	11	11			
Paul Murtagh	11			11	
Pieter Maanen	11				11
Joe O'Neill	9	9			
Pat Walsh	7				7

Carved Up

John Mangan, Woodcarver & Turner demonstrated at the March meeting and was watched by Pacelli O'Rourke who describes John's Relief Carving of Celtic Scroll Work, Oak Leaf and Edge-Lettering.

Now while a number of our members were in Gorey for their seminar today, the rest of us got a very special treat in having John to ourselves for a couple of hours, listening to his clear and simple insights into the 'hows' and 'whys' of relief-carving, observing his consummate skills, and benefitting from his readiness to answer our many questions. He started with a most complex mode of relief-carving, that of three dimensional Celtic scroll work on a circular disc of wood.



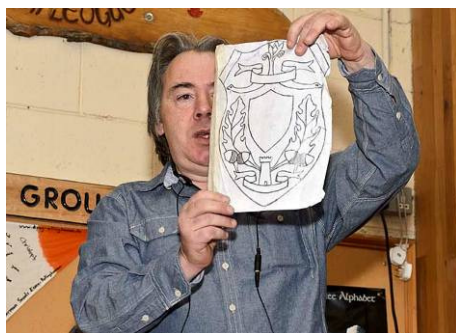
Getting the pattern on to the wood

The actual scroll design might be found in a magazine or whatever. This needs to be photographed, the photograph then enlarged to a dimension appropriate to that of the wood. This image is then traced onto tracing paper. Now a sheet of carbon paper is placed over the wood, and the traced image carefully positioned on top and held secure with masking tape. The pattern is then traced onto the wood. John prefers ballpoint pen for stronger definition. He applied the above process to an oak leaf with acorns, lifted from a picture of a heraldic crest. Having put that piece by, he now began working on a section of the Celtic scroll pattern.



Securing the workpiece

Firstly, John secured a piece of thin ply to the back of the workpiece, using panel pins. He didn't secure the ply to the bench surface though I imagine you could. He preferred to have it easily manoeuvrable as he worked. He certainly proved himself a most accommodating craftsman,



working on a 'Workmate' which was rather too low for comfort, and inclined to bounce under the mallet!

About the tools

There are 3 classic cutting tools:

- Gouge
- Straight chisel
- V tool

John would suggest the following for a basic, though quite adequate kit:

- A No.4 in 2mm, 6mm and 12mm widths.
- 3mm, 6mm and 12mm widths
- Just one.

Added to this you need a round mallet (round because this diminishes the risk of damage to the workpiece by mis-striking): also a nail punch (which can be fashioned literally from a wire-nail).

And that's the carving tool kit complete. Actually, John made an interesting comment: "You can have too many tools" which resonated, I think, with everyone in the room!

Chiselling out the pattern

Basically John was proceeding inside the lines of the pattern with a straight edge chisel, placing the corner of the tool accurately in position before increasing the angle and striking. "It can take a bit of time ... no instant results". For the many bends in the pattern he chose a gouge of appropriate depth of curve.

Taking out a section

"Always use a gouge for taking out material — never a straight tool", using multiple light taps. The sense of control in all of this is palpable. This operation may be done along the path of the lines or transversely, from either side. Extremely light taps effect the final excavating cut. The depth of cut is a personal choice. Perhaps about 4-5mm (3/16") on average. "Get the bottom as level as possible then texture it". John uses a leather-

punch for this. Questioned about using a router, he said that it was quite possible, but it would "only do so much." (I felt we surely had a 'mallet-and-chisel' man here!) he wouldn't be against Dremel tools either but he doesn't use one. His favourite wood to work with? Yew, because of its beautiful figuring. Today's pieces were of elm.

Carving Up-and-overs

The visual effect of Celtic scrolling, even in two dimensions, is that of interlaced bands meandering over and under each other. This effect is enhanced in relief carving by creating a gradual increase of depth as you approach a crossing band. The straight chisel is used here, with nice, shallow taps. Once the whole pattern has been carved, it only remains to give it a final touch up then sand and finish. For the latter, John's preference is for lacquer.

Carving the Oak Leaf

"You've a bit more freedom with leaves". Before embarking on this John showed a number of stunning pieces, namely a clock in oak and two family crests in yew.

The tool used is the straight chisel.



Outlining

You should never undercut — always cut away from the line, the bevel facing inward, so tilting the cut away.

Venation

John uses the vee-tool to carve the vein-pattern in the leaf. This is then opened out with a gouge. An extremely light touch is called for now, proceeding as far as possible with the grain. The whole effect is now blended with a broad, open gouge. A degree of light texturing with the punch finishes the process. It only remains to sand and finish to the carver's preference.

Continued on Page 4

Carved Up

Continued from Page 3

Edge lettering

Resulting from a question asked, John set about demonstrating the carving of a letter 'R' on the edge of a wooden disc. Firstly he held the piece edge up in the Workmate. He then drew a pencil line top and bottom, to denote the height of the letter. Finally he inscribed a pretty perfect letter 'R' freehand in pencil. A short vee is excavated from the bottom of the two legs, and another at the top left-hand corner. The actual pathway around the form of the letter is carved from both sides at an angle to create a triangular depression in section. Again, this can be achieved lengthwise with the vee-tool, but John's preference is for a transverse cut using the straight chisel. It leaves a cleaner cut-edge. And that just about wrapped up all that John could demonstrate in the allotted time.



I find myself again and again in these reports commenting on creative craftsmanship of the highest order. Today again we were privileged to see a master at work. And as is often the case, he made the execution of complex skills seem so easy. That, and the generous warmth of John's own personality, served to provide us with a very special demonstration—an experience for which we thank John and also our hardworking committee for arranging his visit.

Finally, it would be remiss of me to neglect to mention Tony Hartney's brilliant camera work throughout the morning. The accuracy of the close-ups of John's working methods brought a clarity that truly was stunning. So to you also, Tony, many thanks (no pun intended!).

Pacelli O'Rourke

photos by Hugh Flynn and Tom Delaney

Woodturning Supplies

The Hut

Ph: 086 333 3226 / 086 813 2040

Email: dahut@live.ie

www.thehutwoodturningsupplies.com

Woodturning Classes

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

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

Woodturning Tuition

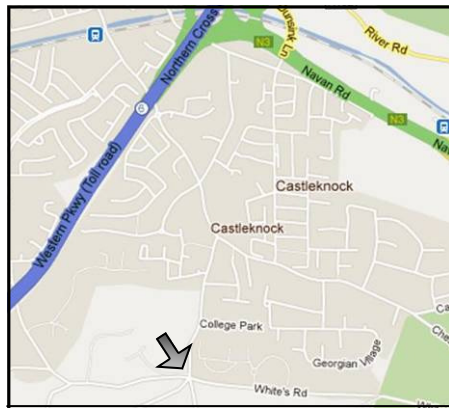
Morning, afternoon, evening of full day tuition available for 1 to 2 students. Graduate Lathe per student.

Contact: Peter Mulvaney
Telephone: 01 280 2745

Woodturning Classes

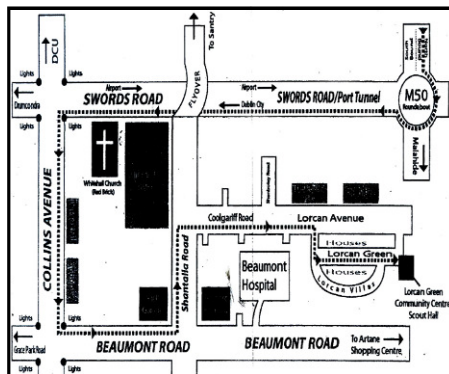
Joe Laird woodturning Studios Half-Day, Full-Day, Evening and Weekend classes available (up to 5 students) for all skill levels.

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



Dublin 15 Chapter meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30pm to 10pm, at **Castleknock College**.

www.craobhcuigdeag.org



Dublin East Central Chapter meet on the second Saturday of each month in **Loran Green Community Centre / Scout Hall** from 2.00 pm.

Tel: 086 8241470

www.eastcentralchapter.com

Committee



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Joe O'Neill

☎ 087 623 0162

✉ DWT.Chair*



Acting Secretary

Owen Furniss

☎ 087 252 2637

✉ 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*



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Frank Maguire

☎ 087 285 3716

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Exhibitions

Adrian Finlay

☎ 087 983 8633



Newsletter

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