

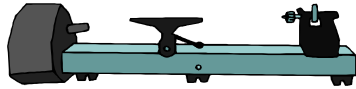


Dublin Chapter Newsletter

July 2012 Volume 3 Issue 36



Inside this issue:



◀ **Danny McGeever** combined basket weaving and woodturning at the May meeting. **John Owens** reports on Page 2.

Competition results and photos from May and June are on Page 3 together with the current standings.



◀ **Pacelli O'Rourke** takes us through the finer details of **Chris Lawlor's "Craftmaster"** demonstration. See Page 5.



Riding the Bevel



It was great to see so many members making the trip to Blessington last weekend for John Doran's Workshop.

Also to Joe O'Neill who had a demo prepared but time sadly caught up with us so we can look forward to it in the future.



The monthly workshops at the scout hall provide another opportunity for members to see and discuss woodturning.

At the May and June meetings there were demonstrations from Peter Mulvaney and Seamus Carter (above). Jonathan Wigham also brought his chair (as featured in the Journal) along in May



John wasn't able to provide the bright sunshine we saw at last year's event but he managed to tick all the other boxes and once again provided a smashing afternoon of entertainment.



If you are free on Wednesday afternoon, try to get along to the workshop.

The May and June demos (see the reports further on) showed two very different techniques to embellish turned bowls. Danny McGeever's integration of weaving was very effective. Chris Lawlor's carving was fascinating, but the star of the show was the carved replica of Sebastian Vettel's Formula 1 helmet, complete with the driver's face when you lifted the visor. I don't have the space to do this justice this month but will come back to it, either in the Newsletter or the Journal for those that missed it.

I hope that everyone has a great month.

Varn.

Coming Soon

Wed 11 July - *Workshop* (Scout Hall)

Sat 4 August - (Scout Hall)

Demonstrator: Irene Christie
Competition: Box

Sat 1 September - (Scout Hall)

Demonstrator: Pat Carroll
Competition: Hollow Form

Fri 28 September to
Sun 30 September - (Killarney)

IWG National Seminar 2012 at the Malton Hotel, Killarney

The effort that John puts into this day is considerable. Not least of all, he cleared out his new shed (above) to be used for registration. Our thanks go to John and his Family. Also to all who helped on the day, particularly the demonstrators: Jack Kearney (pen making), Peter Mulvaney (router), Adrian Finlay (carving) and Willie Edwards (bandsaw).



Notes from the Chairman

I am sure that most of you have been looking at the Football and the weather for them was the same as here. For woodturners the weather does not matter so much as we can be in our workshops making shavings and spinning wheels etc. (How are your spinning wheels coming along?) My team is making progress on our Shetland upright wheel. (My thanks to Sean Ryan for making several copies for us also to "Woodworkers & Hobbies" at Mount Tallant Avenue donated the wood.

There was no snow or rain in Orem when I attended Utah's 32nd Woodturning symposium in May. Having met lots of well-known turners there over the years it was nice to meet them again and renew acquaintances.

The last time I attended this symposium in 2010 they made an award to me at the banquet a special chisel engraved to mark my support for over 22 years. Time sure flies and it was a surprise to me that I had been there so many times.

I wish to thank Mike and Jennie Mahoney who always made me welcome at their home in Provo/Orem They are be moving to

Sacramento to live after the Symposium. It was always a good get together at Mike's home for the many friends and demonstrators over the few days during the seminar. It will be sadly missed next year .

My thanks to Tom & Becky Edwards with whom I stayed at Chula Vista and also Nan Bushley at Fallbrook San Diego who also drove the 700 miles to Utah and back with members of the San Diego chapter .She also had a good influence in getting Mike Mahoney into wood turning.

I am always overwhelmed by the hospitality and kindness of our American woodturning friends. Some of the San Diego chapter members have ventured to attend our seminars over the years and even demonstrated here . More of their members will be coming next year to our seminar in Sligo, please God.

A reminder to all who have not booked yet for this years National Seminar in Killarney to do so now .

The Exhibition at Tallaght Hospital was a great success and my thanks to all who manned the stall and our special thanks goes to Frank



McGuire for his organizing and smooth running of the exhibition during the three days.

A special appeal to all members ,If you can suggest ways that we can improve our meetings, or who you would like to see demonstrate or topics covered, let me know . Is there something you would like to see changed to the way we are running our meetings ? Please give to any member of the committee, but do write your suggestion down on paper.

My thanks to Joe McLoughlin for standing in for me while I was away.

Joe O'Neill
Chairman, Dublin Chapter.

The Wicker Man

Danny McGeever combined woodturning and wicker work to produce an unusual bowl at the May meeting. There was much to take in, but thankfully John Owens stepped in to take notes

Today we were very privileged to have Danny McGeever a retired woodwork and woodturning teacher from Sligo. Danny had all the gifts a woodworking teacher should have.



I was told once, what makes a good teacher in transferring knowledge to their students. First you tell them what you are going to do , then tell them what they are doing and then tell them what they have done. Danny, who has been a teacher since 1970, did this to a "tee" and kept our attention focused for every moment of the demonstration.



So to start with Danny showed us a Sycamore bowl about 9-10 inches in diameter. This was already rough turned. Danny proceeded to remove from the top of the bowl a ring (1/2" Approx) which he did with a pointed divider made from a hacksaw blade.



Having removed the ring from the bowl, he used a plastic template with twenty two markings on the edge of same measured on the top rim of the bowl to receive 3mm width dowels. This is the part which requires perfect precision as the holes for the dowels have to be in exact line with the ring with the bowl and the bowl itself



Danny had a novel way of making the dowels (if only I had known this years ago). With a heavy piece of metal about 1/4" deep and a foot long he had bored a number of small holes of different diameters, from 1/8" diameter up to the required size. He then forced a square narrow piece of wood about



the length of a tooth pick through the required hole. This took the corners off the wood, which then came out the other side a perfect round dowel. (ideal for making ladies wooden hair clips)

He diverted here to tell us of a Jim Carney he knew who could do the whole side of a bowl with a skew chisel!



Having hollowed the bowl he then used a large scraper to finalise the inside of the bowl with emphasis on the importance of using the tool at an angle lower than the tool rest, thus helping to prevent "dig ins".

When I asked the best speed to use at this stage I was told "Medium to rare well done!"

Danny also had the experienced hand of rolling the chisel from edge to centre giving a perfect curvature to the centre of the bowl and avoiding that uneven bit at the base which I can never get rid of.



After the break Danny inserted the small dowels he had made earlier into the holes he had drilled in the bottom section of the bowl. Danny said that it is better to drill the holes for the dowels with a drill press. If you have not got one use a drill guide. He noted that it was important to leave the dowels tapered at the top to make fitting of the rim of the bowl later an easier task.

With the Dowels all in place and protruding from the bottom part of the bowl, Danny produced a hank of Willow rods that he had left steeping over night. There were five



different weaves one could do through the protruding dowels. I found this interesting as I have not got a clue about basket work.

When you start you just intertwine one willow rod to and fro around the upright dowels. Then you start with the second piece of willow, one ahead of the next dowel and continue right around the bowl. Since some of the willow rods taper more than others you start with a wide stick on top of a narrow one and so on ad infinitum.



With the willow, woven around the dowels toward to top, Danny finished by placing the round ring on the top of the dowels. His earlier precision technique paid dividends as all of the pieces fitted perfectly and the bowl was complete.

I did not find the morning passing and I am sure there were many other wood turners that would have got more out of the demonstration than I did. Thanks and well done to Danny for a great Saturday Morning.

John Owens
photos by Hugh Flynn, John Owens
and Rich Varney

Competition Results and Standings

Artistic	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Cecil Barron	95	13	13	13	15	15	11	15
Frank Gallagher	22			9	13			
James Gallagher	15	15						
Malcolm Hill	22		15				7	
Henry East	15			15				
John Owens	22					13	9	
Peter Mulvaney	11	11						
Paul Murtagh	11			11				
Pieter Maanen	16				11		5	
Joe O'Neill	15	9					6	
Pat Walsh	7			7				
Seamus O'Reilly	28						15	13
Graham Brislane	13						13	



Cecil Barron
(Artistic - May)



Seamus O'Reilly
(Artistic - June)

The May and June competitions were hotly contested as always and on both months the Judges had a hard task in placing entries. Congratulations to the winners.

Sadly we do not look likely to break last years fantastic record of entries this year, but please keep making items for the competitions and bringing them in, there is no better way I know of to improve your work than by seeing how it competes against your peers.



Henry East (Advanced - June)

Competition Photos
by Hugh Flynn

Christmas Item
Bowl With Pedestal
Open Competition
Goblet with Captive Rings
Laminated Turning
Open Competition
Natural Edge Bowl



Henry East (Advanced - May)

Advanced	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Owen Furniss	66	15	6		15	13	6	11
Cecil Barron	63	9	13	11	9	7	9	5
Willie Reville	62	11	9	7	13	11	5	6
Henry East	58		15	13			15	15
Pat M. Walsh	33		5	15			13	
Joe O'Neill	30	5	5	6		9	5	
Tony Hartney	30		5	5	11			9
Frank Gallagher	24	7		5	5		7	
David Sweeney	20		11	9				
Seamus Carter	20					15	5	
Seamus O'Reilly	20	13						7
Peter Mulvaney	15	5	5	5				
Michael Fay	13							13
Michael McNamara	12			5	7			
Albert Sloane	11						11	
John Holmes	10		5	5				
Paddy Finn	10				5		5	
Tony Lally	7		7					
Rich Varney	6	6						
James Gallagher	6				6			
Malcolm Hill	5		5					
Graham Brislane	5						5	



Paul Murtagh
(Experienced - May)



Willie Edwards
(Experienced - June)

Experienced	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Alison Hurst	79	9	15	15	7	7	13	13
Pacelli O'Rourke	66	15	9		15	9	9	9
Paul Murtagh	66	6	7	7	13	11	15	7
Noel White	55	13	11	11		13	7	
Willie Edwards	54		13		11	15		15
Peter Curran	26				9	6		11
John Owens	25	7		13	5			
Frank Maguire	23			6	6		11	
John Doran	11	11						
Sean Egan	9			9				



John Sheeran (Beginners - June)



John Sheeran
(Beginners - May)

Beginners	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
John Sheeran	90		15	15	15	15	15	15
John Duff	39		13	13	13			
Pieter Maanen	37			11		13	13	
Pat Costigan	20					11	9	
Eric Durkin	11						11	

Flower Power

Pacelli O'Rourke reports on the June demonstration, which saw Chris Lawlor follow the theme of the carved bowl he made in "Craftmaster" with a piece inspired by a daffodil.

Not surprisingly, Joe McLoughlin introduced Chris as "Our T.V. Star" in a reference to his appearance on the "Master Craft" series earlier in the year. Indeed he brought with him the stunning piece he had made in the course of that series.



Today's item was along the same lines, with a hemispherical central bowl section which appears to come 'through' the wide rim which itself is sawn and carved into the form of over and under lapping petals. Since the allotted time was far less than that required for the whole process, Chris already had the underside fully turned, including a spigot for mounting in the scroll chuck. He also had a second piece which already had the pencil lines for the petals drawn, and a number of them cut to shape on the band saw.-



Turning the Rim and Bowl Interior

The blank Chris started with was of beech about 300mm (12") in diameter, and originally around 100mm (4") thick. This was mounted on the spigot with the hole for the original screw-chuck facing the tail-stock. This allows the tail stock to guarantee 'true' mounting. Firstly Chris trued up the face. He prefers a pulling shear-cut, using a bowl gouge with finger nail grind. Beware of tearing grain! At times it may be the lesser



of two evils to use a bevelled push cut. Square-on stance, with tool-handle to hip and legs apart, helps toward good, even, control of cut.

Callipers are used to make sure that the diameter of the emerging bowl is exactly the same as when it comes to the underside of the rim, thereby selling the illusion that it had come 'through' the rim. The protruding edge of the central bowl section also creates a pleasing break between itself and the carved rim. Also, it satisfies Chris' constant search for "a different look".



As to the geometrics of the petals, Chris uses a flower- picture template of the pattern. After that it is a case of using the indexing facility on your chuck/lathe (if you have it!) Chris 'raised the bar' here by alternating over and under-lapping petals. Clearly you need to be in a calm, collected and unrushed mood for this kind of work. More about carving later. For now the task is to bring the rim thickness down to 20mm (3/4"). This is marked with a pencil. For stability, it is best to leave the hollowing of the centre section till after dealing with the rim. Again the pull-cut is preferred. Check for thickness often, remembering you need to accommodate two levels of petal. Get the tool rest close and parallel to the wood using hand or finger as a

guide. Very sharp tools are an absolute necessity. Try to get into a nice, slow, even pace. Regarding tools, Chris uses Record, Henry Taylor and Sorby. He finds the latter best for edge-holding and finish.

For crispness at the point of meeting between rim and bowl Chris uses a spindle gouge. The height of the bowl-top from the wide rim is reduced to about 6mm (1/4"). He urges a very light touch and very close tool rest position for final cuts to the rim surface. Check with straight edge for flatness. A square scraper can reduce ripples but beware the old enemy: torn grain.

Hollowing Out

The challenge here is to have a hemispherical inner profile matching that of the outside. Clearly this also means even wall thickness.



The flute of the gouge is pointing in the direction of the cut, pivoting on the tool rest. The cutting edge needs to swivel in ever widening arcs to achieve the desired end. Eventually, this will mean leaning right across the bed, with the tool engaging the wood almost at right angles to the lathe-axis. The left hand has the job of maintaining the central pivotal point. Chris advises meticulous checking of depth, with finger-feel/callipers to ascertain uniformity of wall-thickness.

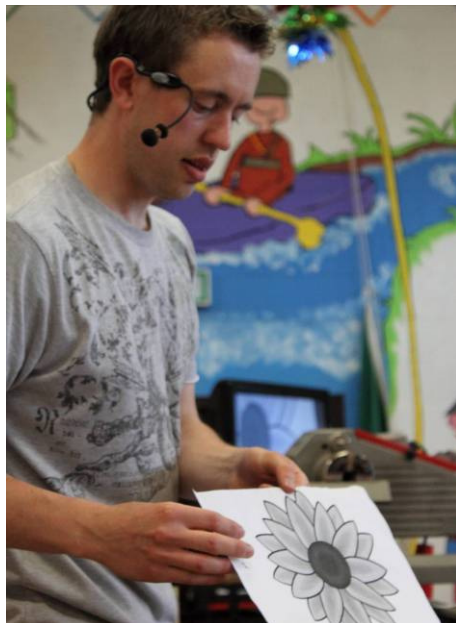
At this point a short discussion began about optimum speed in out-of-balance situations. Chris suggests the 'bottle test', ie. place a bottle of water, (definitely not vodka!) on the lathe bed. When it begins to vibrate you're going out of balance, so drop the speed back.

Sanding

Chris wisely suggests making a judgement as to what grade you might best begin with. It is only adding problems if you start with 80 grit which will produce its abrasive damage, when your tool-finish would allow a 120 grit start. He is relatively new to power-sanding and recommends it, but keep the abrasive moving.



Also on convex surfaces try applying a sanding block back and forth to overcome ripples. At this point, Chris mounted his other, partially carved bowl, which is of ash, to demonstrate his approach to carving.



Carving the Petals

He moved this piece — still in the chuck — to his “super jaws” vice-bench. Chris’ carving



mentor, Adrian Finlay, asked “Do you number the petals so you don’t get confused as you are carving?”

The retort: “Well, I’m not as old as you, so . . .” (laughter in court!)



Chris uses a set of about 12 gouges from shallow to deep fluted profile, with at least one which is skewed. He advises carving at an angle rather than head on into the wood. Gouges need to be gimlet sharp, so that only light taps with the mallet are required. At one point he used a Japanese knife “Always wear gloves when using the knife.” He also made an interesting point concerning the need for a different frame of mind when you are carving as opposed to turning. Obviously the latter is a lot faster the former, so you need to adjust mentally to a more patient

Continued on Page 8

Tallaght Hospital Exhibition Report

We had another great three-day show in Tallaght hospital, 11th to 13th June, raising a total of €1,310 for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. Eighty-seven items were sold for €1,251 and there were donations of €59. This great result was due mainly to the fourteen guild members who contributed items for the sale. We had some really top-quality pieces on the table and a big thank you is due to Pat Walsh, Jack O'Rourke, Henry East, Malcolm Hill, Jack Kearney, Albert Sloan, Chris Hayes, Gay McGrane, Peter Mulvaney, Gerry Ryan, Rich Varney, Cecil Barron, Michael Fay and Graham Brislane. Some items came in during the show - apologies if I have left your name off the list. A special thanks to Pat Walsh who handed in a big box of more than thirty pieces. Display items were also provided by Gay McGrane, Chris Lawlor and Adrian Finlay. Of course the exhibition could not happen without our loyal band of helpers who took turns on the tables. Many thanks to Adrian Finlay, Tony Beatty, Michael Fay, Jack O'Rourke, Ronnie Butler, Liam McGarry, Chris Hayes, Lorcan Dunne and Joe O'Neill.

The exhibitions are our link to the outside world where

we can put our work on display, discuss the craft of woodturning with the public and occasionally recruit new members for the guild. We had a steady flow of visitors admiring the items and finding out all about woodturning. Most people were delighted to discover that all the items were produced right here in Dublin, often from native trees.

Once again our facilitator in the hospital arts office, Esther Nyambura, was most helpful in providing the space and all the assistance we needed during the three days. We hope to be back there next year.

Thanks also to our trade sponsors who provided items for the spot-prize draw – The Hut, McQuillans, and Goughs. Support your local suppliers; they are better value overall.

Our next outing will be the craft fair at Tallaght library for three days, 29th Nov to 1st Dec 2012. Our table is already booked so that gives us five months to prepare. An item from each member would be great and what better way to while away this long wet summer.

Frank Maguire

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Flower Power

Continued from Page 6

attitude. Otherwise you could get quite frustrated.



Time was beginning to run out at this point, so Chris did not have the opportunity to do as much carving as he would have wished. However, we did see him get a nice rounded form on the individual petals, curving downwards toward the top point. Regarding finish, he would lean toward Danish oil.

As a chapter we are rightly proud of Chris Lawlor. He is a meticulous and enthusiastic young craftsman with an obvious openness to new ideas and new techniques to master.

Thanks, Chris, for introducing us to the daffodil bowl.

Pacelli O'Rourke

photos by Hugh Flynn and Rich Varney

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Many other items and timber

All will be at meeting on 1st September.

Queries to:

Michael Fay 01 4974579 / 087 6681345

Cecil Barron 01 8461666

Woodturning Classes

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

Telephone: 087 623 0162

Email: rudyperudy@yahoo.com

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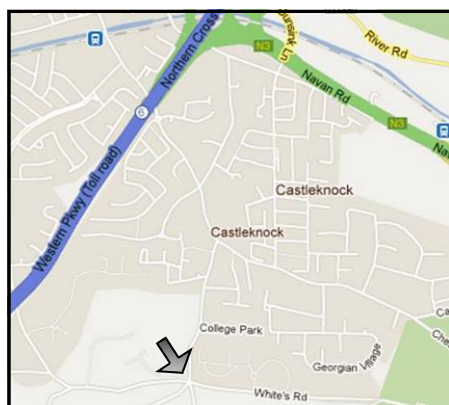
The Woodshed

11 Lowtown Road, Templepatrick, Co Antrim. BT39 0HD

Tel (from ROI): 048 9443 3833

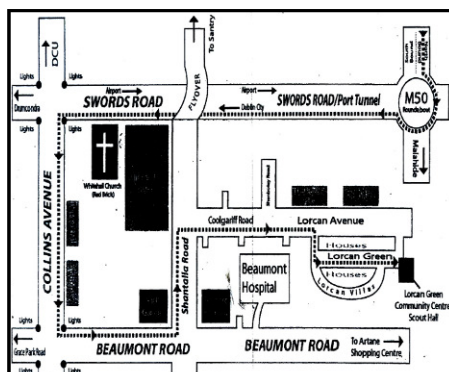
Email: enquiries@wood-shed.com

www.wood-shed.com



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

www.craobhcuidgeag.org



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

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☎ 087 623 0162

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Owen Furniss

☎ 087 252 2637

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