



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

October 2013 Volume 3 Issue 45



Inside this issue:



◀ *Eugene Grimley was our demonstrator in August. Pacelli's report is on page 3.*

In September Tony Rea from the Down Chapter made a burr bowl. Report on page 5.



Michael Fay stood in to collect the winner of the artistic competition's prize in Sligo. Competition News and photos from both the Seminar and our own chapter competitions are on pages 2, 4 & 6.



◀ *Joe Laird with Joe O'Neill as the Dublin chair competed in the Seminar Chapter Challenge, page 2.*



Riding the Bevel

Back in August, a sunny Wednesday afternoon at John Doran's provided the backdrop for our workshop. Our normal venue of the Scout Hall was unavailable that day. I arrived in Blessington late, but just in time to find the assembled members tucking into ice-cream wafers on John's patio.



The workshop demonstrator was Vinny Whelan, performing before an audience for the first time.



It all made for a very pleasant afternoon. Thanks to John for having us and Vinny for stepping up to the lathe.

It was great to see many of you in Sligo last weekend. I hope everyone who went had a good time. Fortunately we had a number of members left behind in Dublin to help make our participation in the St Maelruin's Festival a success.

After six years and 45 issues of reading my drivel, I think it is maybe time that you all had break and our chapter newsletter had a change of editor. A computer is probably a must for this job, but you do not have to be an expert by any means and can pick up many of the skills you need as you go. There is a regular supply of excellent material from Hugh and Pacelli and lots of support from the committee. The newsletter requires 3-4 hours work per issue and I have found it very rewarding.

I'll be continuing as the IWG Journal editor so you will not be completely free of my musings.

I'll be more than happy to give as much or as little assistance as required to the new editor. If you are interested and would like to discuss it further feel free to contact me.

Varn.

Coming Soon

Wed 7 October - Workshop (Scout Hall)

Sat 2 November - AGM (Scout Hall)

Demonstrator: To be arranged
Competition: Bring Items for Tallaght Fair

Wed 6 November - Workshop (Scout Hall)

Thu 28 November to
Sat 30 November
- Tallaght Library Christmas Craft Fair

Sat 7 December - (Scout Hall)

Demonstrator: Joe O'Neill
Competition: Christmas Item

News Flash: Tallaght Christmas Craft Fair

The Tallaght Library Christmas Craft Fair will take place on Thursday 28th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th November 2013, times Thursday and Friday from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm and Saturday 10.00 am to 4.30 pm.

I would gratefully appreciate it if everyone would donate a piece for sale for our most worldly cause, the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. Again I would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely all those who generosity donated items in the past.

The craft fair is also open to members to sell their own pieces if they mark on the items the price for same. We will also be demonstrating at the fair. Finally, we need members to man the tables for the times indicated above and I will take names and times members can help out on the first Saturday in November.

Paul Murtagh.

Notes from the Chairman

This year's seminar in Sligo was a great success and it was nice to see a good attendance from the Dublin Chapter. Congratulations to Allison Hurst and Seamus McKeefry on their awards in the seminar competition. I was disappointed to see so few chairs in the Chapter challenge [as was I. Ed.] but our's got runner up along with the other few. Next year the chapter challenge is for a traction engine so we should get cracking now and start planning our entry.

The AGM is just upon us and it's your chance to make a difference. If you have a proposal suggestion do write it down and either give it to any committee member or email it to us. The entire committee step down at the AGM and any member is eligible to stand for any position on the committee. Do consider whether you would like to put your name forward and help to run the chapter.

Our one day seminar has to be organised for next May and should you have a preference of who we should invite to demonstrate for us, please tell any member of the committee as we

have to act quickly to book our demonstrators. We have just purchased a new Jet lathe and, at a later stage, our other NOVA will need to be upgraded. The Record DML will be sold to offset the cost of the new lathe, so if you are interested let the committee know during or before the meeting on 5th October.

I was asked at the Annual Seminar if the Dublin Chapter would be interested in hosting the 2015 seminar. We would need to act quickly as the deadline is the end of October. It is in your hands and all suggestions will be looked into by the new committee.

I wish to thank Seamus Carter and Cecil Barron for looking after our stand at St Maelruins Flower Festival at Templeogue last weekend, while many of the rest of us were in Sligo. They did the chapter proud. Thanks also to many members who showed up to give a hand. We are very fortunate to have many willing members to offer their services for the many events we run over the year and their efforts are greatly appreciated.



Our next big event is at the Library in Tallaght and we need lots of good turned items to display and sell event. This showcases what the Dublin Woodturners can do. Go on now and get turning.

Dublin City Radio 103.2FM have invited the chapter to do a programme about their craft and I am looking for any member who would like to be part of this. Let me know if you would like to be on the radio show.

As you can see there is lots of activity in our chapter and we have been contacted by many people who would like to join our club.

Finally, I'm away today so I wish to thank Joe McLoughlin for standing in for me.

Joe O'Neill

Chapter Challenge

Despite the disappointingly small turnout of only five chairs in this year's chapter challenge at the National Seminar it was good to see that our chapter was represented.



Our chair was made by Joe O'Neill, Vinny Whelan, Stephen Coffey, Eamonn Boland and Frank Dempsey. The winning chair was from the Sligo chapter (congratulations to them), but ours held its own and looked great in the entrance foyer of the Radisson Blu Hotel along with the other entries.

Dublin Winners at the National Seminar

Congratulations to Alison Hurst and Seamus McKeefry, who kept the flag flying for the Dublin Chapter at the National Seminar in Sligo. Alison picked up first place in the Artistic Competition and Seamus took both first and second place in the Novice section.



Alison Hurst's artistic winning piece



Seamus McKeefry's box won the Novice Category in Sligo



Seamus's second placed bowl



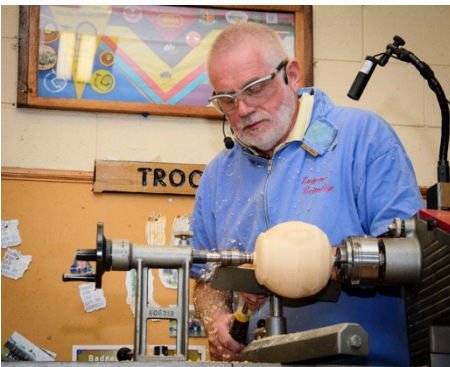
Seamus collects his prize from Joe Laird

Spherical Clock

At the August meeting, Eugene Grimley was our demonstrator, in the front row, as ever, was our reporter, Pacelli O'Rourke.

Once again, we had the pleasure of attending a demo by one of our Ulster Chapter friends. I almost said "watching" but of course like all effective demonstrators Eugene likes nothing better than to field questions as he goes along.

So, an impressive 150mm (6") cube of spalted beech is mounted to be formed into a sphere. Firstly he rounds it to a cylinder, but with a bowl-gouge rather than the customary roughing gouge as he prefers the solidity of the former. The ends are squared off with the parting tool and diameter checked with callipers.



Eugene is very methodical, so he divides the diameter by four, and inscribes three equidistant lines each side of the centre line. He now carefully begins to 'slice' the piece bit by bit up to each line in sequence giving a series of steepening straight angles (i.e. no rounding yet). At this point the piece is reversed and the operation repeated.

The next stage is to mount the piece 'side-on'. For this he again measures the diameter and sets the dividers to a radius of half that length, now he 'walks' the dividers marking the point of the third step. This will be diametrically opposite the first point. The piece is now re-mounted side-on, and a thin parting tool used to scribe the 'cut - to' points. This operation is done exactly as was the initial stage of shaping. He forms a spigot at the tailstock end and reverses the piece. He now completes the rounding process.

For fine tuning, Eugene would suggest a very sharp square-end scraper, Out of regard for our lungs he just does enough sanding to



make his points: "large pieces — not strips, working over the whole surface (but not the spigot!) continuously". Finish is a matter of choice, but he is fond of sanding sealer and wax polish.

Creating the Clock Insert Recess

The piece is mounted on the spigot. The insert is measured with the callipers and this diameter transferred to the surface of the sphere. Be very wary as you get near the required diameter and remember, you are removing twice the material you might think. The depth of the recess is not critical except that it needs to be greater than the insert. For reverse chucking to remove the spigot, the recess serves as an effective expansion hold.

As he is proceeding, Eugene is making very interesting comments like "Every piece of wood you turn is practice material" and "If you never take a chance you'll never get there". On design; "I don't do design — sketch your ideas so you can see.." Also; "Use cheap timber before you possibly wreck more expensive stuff". Common sense or what?

Eugene holds his gorgeous clock aloft: "Ok, now what can I do with that?" He rummages in his bag and shows us some base/stand ideas. Truly, the only limit is your imagination!

Extra Time

With the time remaining, Eugene showed us a couple of brilliant ideas for making 'fun' items for the kiddies (his chapter makes these for local hospitals). Deal is fine for any of these items. The first of these are racing cars; turned four at a time! Basically the set up consists of a central square piece on a

screw chuck. Around its four sides are four paper-jointed pieces, projecting a little beyond the ends of the centre-square. Once turned and prised apart these four pieces are the bodies of your four racing cars, only requiring four small wheels and a small sphere/ball to represent the driver's helmeted head.

Colouring and racing numbers can be added for effect. Not surprisingly, Eugene proclaims "My first love was making wooden toys." The second of these is a delightful little duck. So, first a blank of about 150mm (6") x 50mm (2") square is rounded and a spigot formed at the tailstock end. Now a scrap piece, containing a well off-centre recess to suit the first piece is chucked and the first piece inserted with tailstock support. This will form the neck and head of the duck, while a return to centre position allows the body to be formed; a small hole in the front of the head to take a cone shaped piece for the beak, and voila! Anyone for duck?

It was a most enjoyable morning, not only watching Eugene work, and listening to his practical words of wisdom, but feeling that sense of 'rolling creativity' which he continually exudes. Perhaps the following quote, one that should never be lost, is nearest to his own heart;

"It's all about enjoying yourself".



Eugene most generously donated his sphere-clock for an 'Alzheimers' auction where it raised €35.

Many thanks, Eugene.

Pacelli O'Rourke
photos by Hugh Flynn & Rich Varney

Competition News

Advanced	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Michael Fay	125	15	15	15	15	15	11	11	15	13	
Willie Reville	87	9	5	6	5	11	5	15	9	9	13
Paul Murtagh	71	6	11	13	6	5	5		13	7	5
Seamus Carter	59		5			5	5	7	11	15	11
Tony Hartney	58	11	6	5	11	6	5			5	9
David Sweeney	54		13	9	13	13	6				
Joe O'Neill	50	5	5	5	5	7	13			5	5
Pacelli O'Rourke	43	5	5			5	5	6	7	5	5
Albert Sloane	42		7		5	9	5	5		11	
Henry East	39				9		15				15
Michael McNamara	35		5	5		5	5	9			6
Cecil Barron	29		9		7		7			6	
Pat J. Walsh	28	7	5	7			9				
Malcolm Hill	22		5	5						5	7
Pat M. Walsh	21		5	11							5
Seamus O'Reilly	18	13	5								
Tony Lally	18							13		5	
Paddy Finn	10				5	5					
Frank Gallagher	5	5									
James Gallagher	5		5								
Owen Furniss	5						5				
Graham Brisbane	5										5
Experienced	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Noel White	116		15	15	13	15	15	15		13	15
Sean Mc Morrow	113		9	13	15	9	13	11	15	15	13
Willie Edwards	51		11	9	11	11					9
Frank Maguire	49		7			13		7		11	11
John Owens	29					7		13		9	
Jonathan Wigham	26		6	11	9						
John Sheeran	13		13								
Pat Costigan	9							9			
Beginners	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Seamus McKeefry	148	15	15	13	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Bob Finley	89		9	15	13		13	13	13		13
Tony Newsome	24		13	11							
Vinny Whelan	20			9							11
Luan Alton	13	13									
Ronnie Butler	13									13	
Jim Warren	11		11								
Mick Quinn	11									11	
Artistic	Total	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Alison Hurst	118		15	15	6	15	13	15	15	13	11
Seamus O'Reilly	63	15	13		9				13		13
Paul Murtagh	57	13			13	11				11	9
Cecil Barron	52	9	9			13	6				15
Sean McMorrow	48		7	6	11			13	11		
Pat J. Walsh	37	11		11			15				
Joe O'Neill	33			5	5	9				9	5
Bob Finley	30				15				9		6
Henry East	28			13						15	
Malcolm Hill	16			9	7						
John Owens	12				5					7	
John Holmes	11		11								
Michael Fay	11						11				
Tony Hartney	11									6	5
Willie Reville	9						9				
Luan Alton	7	7									
Willie Reville	7			7							
David Sweeney	7						7				
John Sheran	7										7
Tony Newsome	5			5							
Stephen Coffey	5						5				
George Madden	5										5



Henry East (Artistic - August)



Seamus McKeefry (Beginners - August)



Henry East (Advanced - September)



Seamus McKeefry (Beginners - September)

Burr Bowl

September's demonstration saw Tony Rea make a Burr Bowl. Pacelli O'Rourke reports.

For the fourth time this year we were privileged to have a demonstrator from the North of Ireland, on this occasion in the guise of Tony Rea of the Down Chapter. The area around the podium began to look like 'burr city' as Tony put down a large number of bowls and hollow vessels for viewing.



Firstly he showed us how he creates a seating for his heavy duty 3 prong drive. That is, to gently stroke the angle grinder back and forth to flatten out an area of pips. When marking for circularisation he uses a disc of hardboard. He now mounts an already circularised blank between centres.

Levelling/balancing the rim of the bowl is something Tony takes great pains with. An otherwise stunning bowl can become less satisfying by being even a little lopsided. He places some masking tape across the top of the toolrest and marks where the two opposite points will pass.

By changing the position of the blank on the tailstock end these two pairs of points can be got to coincide. This means that the end product will be a balanced bowl. Tony shows a number of his homemade tool rests, designed to reduce tool-overhang to the maximum.

He now begins creating the outside form. He likes to pull-cut, but cautions 'let the bevel rub without cutting, then roll the gouge till you see the dust'. He now retests for visual balance and forms a spigot at the tailstock end.

All turning requires extremely sharp cutting tools. Turning burrs tends to dull a tool edge sooner than most. In a word on grinding Tony

says 'I don't go in for fancy jigs'. Part of his dislike of jigs is that with them you will get an identical cutting profile each time you go to the grinder, thus militating against developing your own sensitivity to exactly the shape you want to end up with. I reckon after more than fifty years turning he surely knows what works and what doesn't!

So, the piece is removed, the chuck, with gripper jaws ("fantastic for wet timber") is fitted and the piece reversed onto it. I thought he gave a wonderful and simple tip when he said to take the chuck-with-piece off the headstock so you can look at it in its natural (i.e. vertical) position, without the distraction of bed bars etc. He now completes the external shaping, stroking the wood with very gentle pull-cuts.

At this point Tony spoke of his 'blacktop' series, and showed how he creates a bead about a $\frac{1}{3}$ of the height of the outside, using a small skew chisel, then textures the enclosed area with a Sorby texturing tool ('or you could use an Abortech'), then scorching or otherwise ebonising this area for example using a nail and some 000 wire wool submerged in vinegar. If it seems desirable, he would match the outside black area with the same on the inside. Always, the quest is for the quality of 'difference' in the finished piece.



Hollowing.

First the cautionary word: especially with wet wood, "re-tighten the chuck-hold!"

The cut is from rim to centre, the handle of the bowl gouge swung in a shallow

downward arc and rolled over to the right when removing material from the very centre. As the hollowing proceeds toward the bottom of the piece, Tony begins to deploy some of his homemade, curved toolrests for maximum tool control. He cautions: "When you're getting near the end of hollowing never let the gouge leave the timber."

At the very final stage of hollowing, Tony changes to a gouge with an almost 90° bevel which allows him to go right across the bottom. In fact at this point he deploys a very long handled swan neck hollowing tool, complete with elbow support (concerning which he urges extreme caution as you can give yourself a serious elbow joint injury!)



The use of a depth gauge, which can be as simple as a tight-fitting length of dowel going through a flat piece of stock which spans the rim (see photo above), is a must to avoid possible calamity at this point. Let final cuts always be feather-light.

Sanding & Finishing.

Sand through the grits to about 400. Tony's preferred finish is sanding sealer and Danish oil (for spalted beech) or betimes, Danish oil alone, as many coats as appear necessary.

It really was a most enjoyable and informative morning with Tony. On top of that, he kindly donated the piece for auction by our resident auctioneer-chairman, Joe O'Neill. So €55 was raised for the Alzheimer's Society.

Thank you and well done, Tony.

Pacelli O'Rourke

photos by Hugh Flynn & Rich Varney

Competition News



Sean McMorro
(Experienced - August)



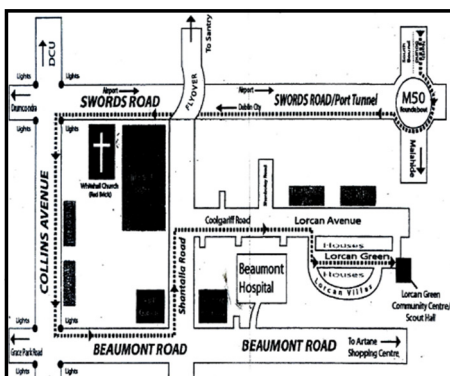
Seamus Carter (Advanced—August)



Cecil Barron (Artistic - September)



Noel White
(Experienced - September)



Dublin East Central Chapter meet on the second Saturday of each month in **Lorcan Green Scout Hall** from 2 pm.
Tel: 086 8241470
www.eastcentralchapter.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 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

2013 Committee

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✉ DWT.Chair*

Secretary: David Sweeney
☎ 087 688 1402
✉ DWT.Secretary*

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

Vice-Chairman: Joe McLoughlin
☎ 087 261 0803

Membership: Owen Furniss
☎ 087 252 2637
✉ DWT.Membership*

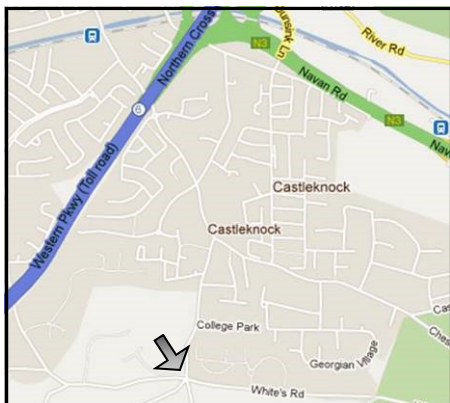
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* When sending e-mail to the "DWT" addresses, add "@gmail.com" to the end of the email address given e.g. DWT.Newsletter@gmail.com.



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

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