

Dublin Chapter Newsletter

January 2014

Last months discussion about what should be considered in the Artistic section of the competitions was really interesting. It was great to hear so many opinions. "What is Art" is a subject which has been troubling the art world since the invention of the camera. There isn't any clear answer but the discussions about it can be lively and fascinating. I thought the answers from the floor were fun and informed. If the art world comes up with a definitive answer I'll be sure to let you know.

Our three F's. Form, Function and Finish, are the supposed criteria that competition pieces are judged under.

I would suggest that judging between a series of plates is relatively easy compared to trying to judge the artistic section. Assuming that the plate is in actual fact a plate, the function area of the judging can quickly be dispensed with. The form area is largely left to intuition. Most people don't understand why they instinctively choose one piece over another. They just know what they like. What their mind has most likely done is assessed the piece through their filters of shape, weight, thickness, feel, type of wood etc. The one area we're conscious of judging under is finish, which is of course fault finding. We examine a piece for scratches or patches in finish. This isn't a mean thing to do, it's a way of finding a winner. I remember Mark Baker complementing our selection of pieces for judging. He was particularly impressed with our courage in showing our work, leaving it open to criticism from our fellow turners. What I absolutely love about the competitions is the variety. I would never have thought about most of the approaches on view on any given month. I usually have to ask a more experienced turner how a piece was held in place etc.

My own route to the competitions table was via John Doran constantly nagging. Coupled with that was Rich Venery's good idea of entering half of the competitions for the year (excellent New Years resolution). Then I was very cheeky and constantly asked other turners to crit my pieces for me, most notably Cecil Barron. Every critic was terrified in case they offended but all were very tactful, positive and exceedingly helpful with ideas and advice.

Since Christmas is just behind us many workshops are jammed with the left over Christmas wrapping, extra furniture removed from where the Christmas tree was standing etc. I know its cold and dark but the hardest bit is that first step toward the workshop. The wonderful feeling when something has worked and looks lovely is well worth the effort (we'll not mention the other times when something is flung against the wall by the vicious lathe and ends up in tatters on the floor following that one last finishing cut!)

Alison

Future Events

Wednesday Meeting 2pm,
Scout Hall, Orwell

jan	Joe O Neill
feb	Stephen Coffy
mar	Owen Furniss
apr	Paul Murtagh
may	Vincent Whelan
june	Seamus Carter
july	Michael Fay
aug	John Doran
sept	Charlie Ryan
oct	Cecil Barron
nov	Jonathan Wigham
dec	Willie Edwards

Other Notices

Membership fees are due now. Please bring payment to the meeting on Saturday. Optional insurance is available. Contact Michael Clarke, our new membership secretary.

Those wishing to subscribe to the "Woodturning" Magazine published by GMC Publications in the U.K at the special Guild rate, can bring payment of €45 to Graham Brisbane on Saturday.

Don't forget to join our expanding library for the year to access all the latest releases in books and DVD's.

Contact Information

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Competitions

Jan	Box with Lid
Feb	Pedestal Bowl
March	Two Napkin Rings
April	Tea Light Holder
May	Open
June	Clock
July	Egg Cup and Egg
Aug	Plate (Advanced Two matching)
Sept	Salt and Pepper Set
Oct	Segmented
Nov	No Competition
Dec	Christmas Item

Competitions

Every month our meeting consists of two parts [1] our demonstration and [2] the competition. The competition is divided into 4 sections, advanced, experienced, beginners and artistic. It lasts all year and we have overall winners at the end of the year. Why should you put a piece into the competition? Well there are many reasons to enter, you will be turning something that you might not have turned, you will be trying to do it as good as you can so it will improve your turning. At the start of the year we set out the different projects for each competition so that you have time to pick the projects that you like but you will get most improvement in your turning if you try all projects. Of course the main reason that you should put in a project in the competition is so that I will not be able to ask you to be a judge for that months competition.

John Doran



Chairmans Address

Hopefully you all had a great Christmas and New Years celebrations. In the Dublin Chapter we've given ourselves the task of becoming better known. We have an "in" into radio. We hope to get some newspaper coverage and maybe even some more TV. I'd like to ask each and every member to give us a hand. Can you make a conscious effort to inform at least 5 people about the guild and what it does this year? You never know, you could be introducing someone to a wonderful new hobby. Or make someone into a buyer of our work.

I wish to wish all our members a Prosperous New Year.

Joe O'Neill

Q: What's the most useful and useless thing in your workshop?

A: The surprise answer to this question is my new led light with magnetic base. It's astonishing what a good light will show up.

The most useless tool in the workshop has got to be the decorating elf. I thought I'd use it all the time, have only done so a couple of times and don't like the way it tears out endgrain. Non woodturners are amazed at the patters but turners notice the tearing. I can't understand all the promotions for it.

A: Cheap sandpaper. I nearly always end with scratches that are next to impossible to remove. They must use a sharper and oddly sized sand or something.

A: Dust extractor. I have one that can be set for 2, 4 or more hours, so I can go off for dinner and when I come back the air is clear. I can vacuum the filters every now and then and it reduces the amount of times I have to replace the filters.

A: Heaps of bottles and jars of finishes. I can't remember why I bought some of them. I'm sure they've gone off anyway.

A: Sharpening jig. Without it life would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Woodturning Classes

Joe O'Neill offers classes on Tuesday and Wednesday AM & Thursday Evening.
Telephone: 087 623 0162
Email: rudyperudy@yahoo.com

Woodturning Classes

Joe Laird woodturning Studios.
Half-Day, Full-Day, Evening and Weekend classes available
Ph: 01 825 8079 / 087 269 8027
www.joelairdwoodturning.com

Woodturning Classes

John Doran offers flexible times for classes in both woodworking and woodturning in Blessington.
Ph: 087 639 3081
email: johndoran@eircom.net

Woodturning Supplies

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

Woodturning Supplies

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

For Sale

Santa came early to Owen Furniss and he's prodly working with a new shiney, bells and whistles lathe. He's offering his DML lathe for a mere €100. An ideal lathe for a beginner or as an extra lathe for polishing mops.
Ph: 087 252 2637

Joe O'Neill made a napkin ring and holder plus a candle stick for quick Christmas present ideas.

Pacelli O'Rourke was on hand to take notes.

Item a) Napkin Rings and Holder

Last year at the pre-Christmas demo, Joe wore his Santa hat. This year he 'produced' an old red Fez-with-tassel, reminiscent of the late loved Tommy Cooper.

And so to business. . Joe had already completed four napkin rings so he turned the final two for the demo. He puts up a spindle about 225mm (9") long . This is a mandril to hold each ring-blank for shaping. From about the mid-point it tapers out toward the headstock so that it provides jam-traction He recommends drilling the ring-blank before rounding to reduce the risk of splitting. The diameter of the hole will be such as to accommodate a linen napkin firmly. He prefers the profile of each ring to differ from its fellows (well-meant cries of 'cop-out!' from the floor!).

Having strung on a ring-blank Joe rounds it with the roughing out gouge. Obviously it is essential to traverse toward the larger end, otherwise traction will be lost completely. The overall outer diameter of the ring should be consistent among all the rings, so keep a callipers to hand and check both ends of the ring, as the eye will tend to follow the taper! "Don't be aggressive with it," advises Joe. Somehow I was not surprised when he produced a boning knife to clean up the ends!

The first profile is two half-beads with a cove in the middle. Sanding would now be done before the ring is removed from the mandril ("wind' it on one way and off, the other.")

To form the second ring he produces the Sorby Spindlemaster (Mixed feelings from the 'congregation'). The business end of the tool is in effect a fluteless gouge. So, is it really a scraper? Joe likes it.

At this stage he shared with us an enigmatic anecdote about a pig ... (Tommy Cooper lives!) The profile of the second ring is two coves each side of a bead.

For sanding the inner surface of the ring, Joe mounts a slotted spindle in which the abrasive is housed then wrapped around. The ring itself is hand held. He cautions not to apply finish to the inside as it may become slippery and compromise the function of the item.

The Spindle.

This is the vertical pole around which the six rings will be stacked. Other than practical considerations, such as that this must be longer than the height of the stacked napkin rings, every aspect of dimension and design is for personal choice. Joe's blank is about 300mm (12") long by 38mm (1½") from ("Recycled an old bank"!! Now there has to be a joke there!). The spindle/pole is turned to a uniform diameter with an ogee type finial on the topmost 38mm (1½"). On the bottom end a tenon is formed for insertion into the base.

The Base.

This blank is a piece of mahogany about 100mm (4") by 38mm (1½"). It is held on a screw chuck.

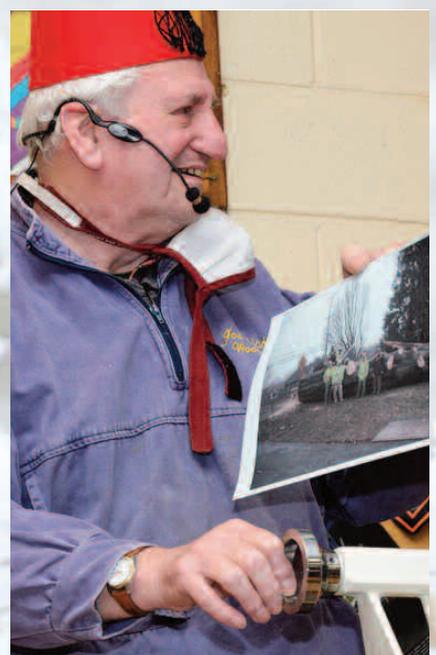
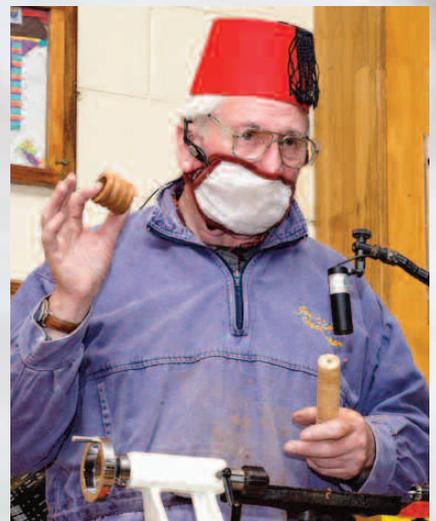
Interestingly, Joe is using an Aldi bought (Shh! Not a word to Lidl!) keyless chuck with a homemade handle, which can take a variety of unhandled gouges. Face and edge are cleaned up and levelled off, and a tenon formed at the tailstock end, The piece is now reversed for shaping the profile. This becomes a slight ogee, reflecting the finial on the upright spindle. A hole is drilled to take the spindle tenon. Be very cautious as you near the required diameter when fitting. If it turns out loose, Joe suggests making a few light cuts with the skew to raise some grain and provide a useful key for adhesive.

Item b): Candle Holder.

The blank is a 75mm (3") cube of mahogany pre drilled to accept a candle-insert. It is held between centres with a steb centre drive. Rounding is done with roughing out gouge. The face is cleaned up. Profile is now formed. "You can design it as you go along. Play around with it."

The item is sanded and finished, the insert fitted. The base can be sanded off the lathe. Then it merely remains to insert a candle and enjoy the glow! Thank you Joe, for your demo and your seasonal jollity

Pacelli O'Rourke.



Competition Results

Christmas Item
December

Advanced

Cecil Barron	15
Pacelli O'Rourke	11
Seamus O Reilly	13

Experienced

Seamus Mc Keefry	15
Bob Finley	13
Jonahtan Wigham	11

Beginners

Michael Jordan	15
George Madden	13

Artistic

Bob Finley	15
Cecil Barron	13
Seamus O Reilly	11

1st place = 15 points
2nd place = 13 points
3rd place = 11 points
4th place = 9 points
5th place = 7 points
6th place = 6 points
All entries = 5 points



Michael Jordan - Beginners



Seamus McKeefry - Experienced



Cecil Barron - Advanced



Bob Finley - Artistic

Useful web sites to look up...

www.dublinwoodturners.com

Our own website run by Owen Furniss. It contains all the up to date information about our guild, including upcoming events, items for sale etc.

www.woodturner.org

Official site for the American Association of Woodturners. Amazing amount of informations and a huge gallery section from american turners.

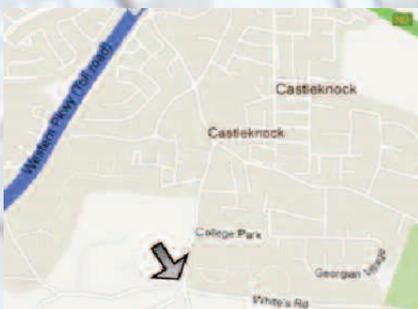
www.woodturningonline.com

Lots of free projects including plans and instructions, both in article form and video.

woodturningvideos.weebly.com

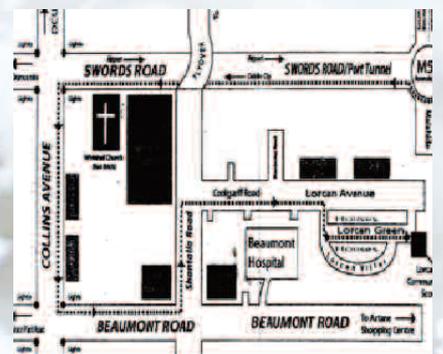
Great site for listing of woodturning videos. I don't like that you must have a google and you tube account first.

Other Chapters



Dublin 15 Chapter meet on the third Thursday of every month from 7:30-10pm at Castleknock College.
www.craobhcuigdeag.org

Other Chapters



Dublin East Central Chapter meet on the second Saturday of every month from 2pm in Lorcan Green Scout Hall.
www.eastcentralchapter.com
086 824 1470