



# Dublin Chapter Newsletter

December 2014

## A few words from our new Chairman – Bob Finley

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for wanting me on the committee (even though nobody else wanted to do it :-)).

I would also like to make a few suggestions:

1: Each of our monthly meetings should be started off by asking for any suggestions. I have heard some people comment or complain about things in the club, but they never seem to say it loud enough to be heard at the front. If they are asked, they might answer. I know this can get out of hand if allowed, but I think we can handle it and we might get a better feel for what others want from the club.

2: We should also place a suggestion box at the back of the room or in the hall.

3: A few times during the year, we should consider having 2 short demos, instead of one long one. This would encourage more people to give a demo who otherwise may be discouraged by having to fill 3 hours. This was my biggest worry for my pen-making demo and I am sure I could have done it in half the time easily.

There are more, but I guess I better not push my luck. :-)

I got the impression from comments made to me on Saturday that wild and wonderful things are expected of me, but I don't think a boat load of changes all at once are a good idea. So I will try to keep them to a minimum. I do believe though it is our job to try to make the club a pleasant experience as possible for everyone.

Having said the above, I also have to say that I have greatly enjoyed the last 2 years, learned a lot more than I could have on YouTube, and I have always been happy with the way the club has been run.

Feel free to phone me any time.  
Bob Finley - 086 832 3730



T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care. They'd been worn all week and needed some air!



## A Bud Vase – Charlie Ryan

The demonstration on the day of the AGM was to produce what Charlie described as a bud vase. This adaptation of a previous competition piece, featured a small clock set into a rounded wooden centre piece, which in turn was supported in an outer wooden ring by two pieces of vertically held copper tube; one at the top, and one at the bottom of the outer ring. He would have liked to use glass tubes, but he had so many to choose from that he could not find any of them! The whole assembly stood on a foot fixed at the bottom of the ring. Atop the ring, a cup or vase is fixed (to complement the foot) which rests on the top of the upper copper tube. The bottom of the upper tube can be sealed with solder, for example, so that water can be accommodated with a short-stemmed flower. Alternatively a wooden flower can be turned for this. See the photo of a vase that he finished previously.



But firstly: health & safety. Charlie emphasized the importance of wearing a complete face-mask when turning to protect the face, and particularly the eyes. He also stressed the hazards of not wearing a dusk mask, particularly

when sanding. A mask is essential to keep the lungs and nasal passages clear.

Starting with a blank disk about 25cm diameter and 5cm thick and chucked in a recess on the back, Charlie proceeded to explain that both the outer ring and the rounded centre piece to house the clock would be produced from this one piece of timber (God willing!). He also described how he had already drilled two diametrically opposed holes in the disk which were the same diameter as the copper pipe. He had drawn a line across the face of the disk and used set-square to get that line vertical on the base of his pillar drill. He had drilled a 16mm hole through the diameter of the disk at its centre thickness. He had also previously squared off and finished the face and edge of the disc which was spinning true when chucked for the demo. The chuck face would be cleaned up during the demo.

Charlie first parted out the outer ring from the disk. The thickness of the outer ring and the point at which you start the parting cut is up to yourself. He started 20mm in from the disk outer diameter, and he took care not to be too macho when the ring comes adrift from the still-spinning blank in the chuck. The depth of the cut can be easily checked as you proceed. When parted, the outer ring was put aside, to be finished later.



Leaving what would become the rounded centre piece in the chuck, he set about making a recess for the clock. Knowing the clock's dimensions Charlie stressed the need to make the cut parallel and he uses the natural lines of the lathe bed to line up the chisel, as he did this. Satisfied that the clock was a good fit, he set about rounding the outer edge of the centre piece. Here he described a cunning trick to make the rounded part round. He suggested making a pencil mark around the centre of the outer disk surface before beginning to remove any material. This is useful when the final rounding requires that the piece has to be reversed in the chuck. The pencilled centre line gives one a better feel for where the middle of the curve should be when you have to do this in two separate steps.

It was at this point that Charlie described his reliance on a relatively few simple tools. For example, he reckoned that he uses a 3/8 inch spindle gouge for 90% of his work. He also favours a sharpening jig. That way he consistently gets a 45 degree bevel on all his chisels.

Now, with the recess for the clock and the first half of the rounded edge complete, the blank can be reversed and held by the chuck in the clock's recess. The back of the rounded centre piece can be finished. That is, the outer edge can be rounded and the chucking point tidied up. The tidying up could entail the removal of the chucking recess (or a suitably artistic shape made), or as Charlie showed in his completed piece, the accommodation of a coin recessed into the back. So if you have any old Krugerrands that you are not sure what to do with . . . . .

Although Charlie didn't do this due to time restraints, one would now sand and seal the rounded centre piece before de-chucking.

Next, the foot and the bulb vase were produced from a second piece of timber to be turned between centres. Charlie firstly made the foot. As you can see from the photos, it is about 6 cm tall with a broad base tapered to a small spigot that will fit into the 16mm hole in the bottom of the outer ring (if a ring can have a bottom!) The end that fits into the outer ring should be at least the width of the ring or smaller - that way it looks more elegant. Check the fit in the outer ring before parting off the foot at its base. One would sand and seal the foot before the parting is done.



The bulb vase or cup is similarly produced from the remaining blank. However the blank first has to be drilled through to (eventually) accommodate the copper tube –

16mm. At this point, it is worth mentioning that the cup can be made either way around. However, it is less hassle to have the rim of the cup turned furthest for the chuck – that is, with the base of the cup nearest to the chuck. The vase is thus turned as if it were a mini-bowl. Charlie turned the inside of the cup using a bowl gouge, and the outer surface with a spindle. Again, as the outside is made, check the diameter of the end spigot against the internal diameter of the hole drilled in the outer ring that will accommodate it. The vase is parted off from the blank, after being sanded and sealed.

In the final step the outer ring is finished using a jamb-chuck made from MDF. Charlie showed us how to adjust the face of a jamb-chuck that he had brought along part-finished, in order that it could accommodate the outer ring. The inner diameter of the outer ring is fitted into a step turned on the face of the jamb-chuck. This is a delicate turning exercise that should be done gradually with constant checking to see if the outer ring fits. Should the fit be generous, one can use tissue paper to fill the gap. When the outer ring is a good fit on the jamb-chuck, the rear face of the outer ring can be finished taking light cuts with a spindle gouge. The face of the ring can now be sanded and sealed while still in the chuck.



All that remained was for Charlie to assemble all the pieces. Although he hadn't the time to sand and seal the piece, it still looked well and we could imagine it finished when he compared it against one that he had prepared previously. Thanks Charlie.

Ed.

### Why Enter the Competitions

The main parts of our monthly meetings consist of a demonstration and the judging of the competition. The competition is divided into four levels; beginners, experienced, advanced, and artistic. It lasts throughout the year and culminates with the annual awards at the AGM.

Why should you put a piece into the competitions? Well there are several reasons to enter. You could be turning something that you have not tried before; you may be trying to do it as well as you can, so it will improve your turning. At the start of the year a list of different turning projects will be listed for each monthly competition so that you have time to pick the projects that you like. However, you will get the most improvement if you try all projects. Of course, the main reason that you should enter the competition is that you will not get asked to be a judge for that month's competition!

At the AGM I announced that several members moved up from their previous levels to the next level (promotion at last!) Michael Jordan moved from Beginners up to Experienced; Seamus McKeefry and Bob Finley moved from Experienced up to Advanced.

Congratulations to all of them, and I hope that it will encourage you all to put your competition pieces forward next month.

John Doran.

**Useful Links** - Interesting and useful items related to wood.



### **Jurassic bark: ancient Irish trees brought back to life**

Down towards Gougán Barra, where the remote wilds of west Cork meet the gentle slopes of the Lee valley, Ted Cook's home seems like a relic from a forgotten era.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/jurassic-bark-ancient-irish-trees-brought-back-to-life-1.1971695>

## Editor's Note

This is the point in the Chapter's cycle where things get organised for the coming year. The committee has changed; there is a new editor for the newsletter; etc.. An important activity at present is membership, and Michael Clarke is hungry for your money and your details. Please make sure that you get them to him smartly and that your phone numbers and (if you have them) e-mail addresses are up to date. This year I would like to maximise the use of email for the newsletter distribution.

Having had time to reflect, after my first issue, I would like to ask a simple question – are we happy with the newsletter? Does it need more, less, or is it just right? I will always report on the demonstrations and the competitions. But any additional things are driven by suggestions from members. So think about this and let us know any thoughts at the next meeting or by email.  
Ed.

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Sadly we have to announce that one of our older members Michael O'Keeffe passed away this month. Michael was a great artist and woodturner/cabinet maker and a great friend. May he rest in peace.

## Competitions 2015

JAN - Goblet (Adv. - 2 rings)

FEB - 300 X 80 X 80.

MAR - Salad Bowl

APR - Gavel and Base

MAY - Open

JUN - Table Lamp

JUL - Box with Lid

AUG - Pen

SEP - Segmented/Laminated

OCT - Clock

NOV - No Competition

DEC - Toy

What did Mary Poppins ask Santa for?

Supercalifragilisticexpealishnowshoes!

## 2014 Awards

The AGM saw the presentation of the following awards. Congratulations to the winners and all

Artistic - Cecil Barron



Beginners - Frank McCarthy



Experienced - Seamus McKeefry



Advanced - Cecel Barron





Part of the Dublin traction engine group with the plans and some finished work. To see the winners at the National Seminar use this link:-

<http://www.irishwoodturnersguild.com/drupal/Challenge2014>

Our friends at **The Carpentry Store** sent us an update on some of their upcoming events. Unfortunately, they were all before the publishing date for the newsletter. But there is some news below and a link to their website.



#### News

Glenn Lucas has just launched the latest DVD in his Mastering Woodturning Series. This DVD tackles one of the most important aspects of woodturning – Sharpening Techniques. We have plenty of copies in-store or you can buy on-line.

[http://www.thecarpentrystore.com/index.php?dispatch=products.view&product\\_id=30196](http://www.thecarpentrystore.com/index.php?dispatch=products.view&product_id=30196)

Please visit **[www.thecarpentrystore.com](http://www.thecarpentrystore.com)** for updates and further information or join us on Facebook. We hope you can join us for one or more of these events.

Yours sincerely,  
Noel and Patrick Fay.

*P.S. Keep an eye out for some wonderful deals over the coming weeks. Treat yourself and try something new.*

Our mailing address is:  
The Carpentry Store, Unit D4, M7 Business Park, Newhall, Naas, Kildare, Ireland.

#### A few more Christmas Oldies

Q: What do you call Santa's little helpers?

A: Subordinate Clauses!

Two snowmen were in a field. One turned to the other and said "I don't know about you but I can smell carrots!"

Did you know that Santa is not allowed to go down chimneys this year? It was declared unsafe by the Elf and Safety Authority.

## Dublin Chapter Collecting for Alzheimer's at Tallaght Library.

Once again the Chapter was at the Tallaght Library to sell work to raise funds for the Alzheimer Society. The Library provides the space at no charge and demos were carried out as well as selling work that was donated by members.

Thanks go to Paul Murtagh for organising our presence, and also to all the members that donated work and showed up on the day. The photo at right shows Paul Murtagh, Peter Mulvany and Paddy Finn (and a potential customer?).



Following are some pictures of the work donated.



### One More!

Q: What Christmas song is hidden in the alphabet:

A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z?

Answer: *JOHN (, , ou)*

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

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

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

**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 third Thursday of every month from 7:30-10pm at Castleknock College.  
www.craobhuigdeag.org

**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

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## **“Woodturning” Magazine.**

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12 Issues, Commencing Issue Number 273    December 2014.

Posted / Delivered to your door.

### **New Chapter Members.**

For those new to the Chapter, the “Woodturning” Magazine, is published by GMC Publications in the U.K.. As a Chapter we get a good Bulk Order price, compared to individual subscriptions, and even far better than buying locally in your newsagent.

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**Subscription Cut-Off Date:            Friday 12th December 2014.**

The 12th December will be the final date for acceptance of payments. Any received after this date will not be accepted, and will be returned. Last year orders went on until March / April, but this will not happen again. If you want it, ORDER IT NOW.

If you are late, you will have to order it yourself, at a higher cost.

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**All Members who want the Magazine:**

Print out the attached Application Form, and fill it out in block capitals, in full.  
This includes all members who have got the magazine in the past.

Return the Application Form with payment to me as soon as possible. All my details are listed at the end of the form.

Payment can be made by Cheque or Cash.  
Cheques to be made out to Graham Brislane. (not the Chapter or the Guild)

I will be accepting payments at our Chapter Meeting, Saturday 6th December.

Applications with cheques can be posted to me. (Please do not send cash via post).  
I or the Chapter cannot be responsible if it gets lost or stolen.

Applications with Cash or Cheques can be hand delivered to my house.

If you have any questions, please just give me ring, or send an email.

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### Methods of Payment:

Cash: Pay directly to Graham Brislane.

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Any questions, contact: Graham Brislane,  
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Rathfarnham,  
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Phone: 01-4941 963

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