

# Dublin Chapter Newsletter

March 2018



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"Resinates". - P1.

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## February Demo - Tom Murphy *Resinated* with Everyone.

Tom Murphy is a very interesting man. He has a degree in mathematics and science and all of his knowledge is brought to bear on his hobby of woodturning.

This no doubt contributed to his first place in the beginners section of the turning competition at the National Seminar also eventually winning Turner of the Year, in his East Central Chapter. He explained that he would be doing very little turning in his demo, and would be working with resins.

Starting with a cracked piece of lilac branch about 200MM long (8"), sawn square to each end, he fixed squares of high-density polyurethane using



## Upcoming Events:

- Next DWT Meeting - 3rd March.
- March Sat. Demonstrator - David Sweeney.
- March Wed. Demonstrator - Colm Murphy.
- May Seminar - David Lowe.



hot melt glue, placed so that the branch was absolutely level and the split in the wood was on top. The wood had to be level because the resin is a liquid and it would not fully fill the crack in the blank. The resin can be dyed and coloured with different materials that can be added for effect and colour. Flakes of gold and silver leaf, shavings of interesting woods, can be added. The most important thing is eliminating all air bubbles when mixing the two-part epoxy. Tom explained how a pressure chamber worked in clearing air bubbles from the resin. It is wise to save and not waste any left over material. It costs 200Euro per gallon! You can make a mold from silicone rubber to save the surplus in the shape of a bangle (say) for future use or a bottle stopper or for pen blanks. The opportunities are endless. Immersing very spalted beech in the substance will make it workable. It turns like timber, sands well and polishes to a high finish using superglue. We were given good instruction in applying a superglue finish and much more. We were reminded that superglue produces an energy and gives off heat and paper used for applying the glue can ignite so, it must be carefully disposed of.

The mathematics of form in relation to bowl shape was explained. In the past we always looked for a pleasing shape well balanced etc.etc. but it was always nebulous, never adequately explained. Tom explained to us on this occasion. By using a piece of chain borrowed from a lady and holding one end in his left hand and the other in his right hand and changing the distance between his hands, the resulting catenary curves were perfect shapes and he drew a graph to show how to repeat the different shapes.

During the morning he mounted a prepared blank between centres and



## Who was winning 10 years ago?

Pictures of Competition winners ten years ago this month. Recognise any of them?

Answers towards the back.



Advanced



Experienced



Beginners

turned off the bark and created a 50mm spigot to fit his chuck, to show how well the combination of wood and resin turned. I know that a lot of the systems and techniques demonstrated and explained today are new to me, however, all questions were very well answered and explained. I am always grateful to our demonstrators for their selfless sharing of their skills and it is one of the benefits of being a member of such a great organisation like The Irish Woodturners Guild.  
Peter Mulvaney.



**Chairman:** Joe McGloughlin  
087 2610803  
DWT.Chair@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Renee Kennedy  
087 2211513  
DWT.Secretary@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Vincent Whelan  
087 760 4918  
DWT.Treasurer@gmail.com

**Vice-Chairman:** Peter Mulvaney  
087 1254264 / 01 280 2745

**Membership:** Mark Daly  
087 9484051  
DWT.Membership@gmail.com

**Competitions/W/shops:** Tommy Hartnett 086 8284178  
DWT.Competitions@gmail.com

**Books & Video:** Paddy Finn  
087 9801142  
DWT.Library@gmail.com

**Exhibitions:** Tom Carolan  
085 1924480

**Audio/Visual:** Open

DWT.Video@gmail.com

**Newsletter:** Mike Sims  
087 989 8793  
DWT.Newsletter@gmail.com



MY HIGH SCHOOL SHOP TEACHER



**David Lowe** has been arranged for the Chapter's May 5th Seminar. A seasoned woodturner from Scarborough, N. Yorkshire, he can be found on the Register of Professional Woodturners (UK) and on Facebook at: -

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/davelowerpt/about/>



## Demonstrators 2018

### Saturday

January - Christy Glynn  
February - Tom Murphy  
March - David Sweeney  
April - Kirsten Doherty  
May - David Lowe  
June - Willie Edwards

July - Michael Fay  
August - Willie Creighton  
September - Irene Christie  
October - Graham Whitty  
November - AGM  
December - Joe O'Neill

### Wednesday

January - Paul Murtagh  
February - Michael Fay  
March - Colm Murphy  
April - Sean Earls  
May - Tony Lally  
June - Willie Revielle

July - Noel White  
August - Sean McMurrow  
September - tbc  
October - Malcolm Hill  
November - tbc  
December - Joe O'Neill

## Competitions Pieces 2018

Jan	- Platter	Jul	- Egg Cup and Egg
Feb	- Set of napkin Rings	Aug	- Box with Lid
Mar	- Picture or Mirror Frame	Sep	- 6" X 2" X 2"
Apr	- Candle Stick ( s )	Oct	- 6 Buttons
May	- Open	Nov	- No Competition
Jun	- Pedestal Bowl	Dec	- Christmas Item

### Trade Stands at the Saturday Meetings for 2018.

Jan - The Wood Shed	Jul - Open to Members
Feb - The Carpentry Store	Aug - The Hut
Mar - Open to Members	Sep - The Wood Shed
Apr - The Hut	Oct - The Carpentry Store
May - The Wood Shed	Nov - Open to Members
Jun - The Carpentry Store	Dec - The Hut

## Feb Competition Entrants

Artistic - 1



Advanced



Artistic - 2



Experienced



Beginners



## Feb Competition Winners



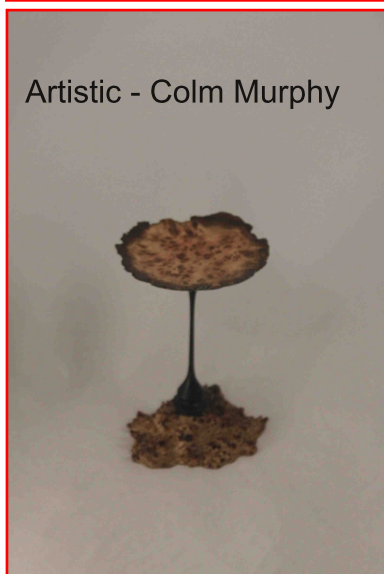
Beginners - Brendan Phelan



Advanced - Paddy Finn



Artistic - Colm Murphy



Experienced - Colm Murphy



Who were the winners 10  
years ago - Mar 2008



*Adv: Michael Fay*



*Exp: Colm McIntyre*



*Beg: Stephen Harborne*

## Current Competition Positions

<b>Beginners</b>													
Name	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Tommy Hartnett	15	13	13										41
Brendan Phelan		15	15										30
Brendan Kelly	13	11											24
Tony Carolan	11		9										20
Renee Kennedy	9		11										20
<b>Experienced</b>													
Name	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Colum Murphy	15	13	15										43
Patrick Costigan	11	15	11										37
Michael Jordan	13	11	13										37
<b>Advanced</b>													
Name	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Tony Hartney	15	11											26
Cecil Barron	11	13											24
Paul Murtagh		9	11										20
Frank Maguire		7	13										20
Pat Walsh		15											15
Paddy Finn			15										15
John Duff	13												13
Sean Ryan	9												9
William Edwards	7												7
Joe O'Neill	6												6
<b>Artistic</b>													
Name	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
Cecil Barron	15	15	13										43
Colum Murphy	13	13	15										41
Paul Murtagh		11	7										18
Tommy Hartnett	11												11
Adrian Finlay			11										11
Seamus O'Reilly	9												9
Brendan Phelan			9										9
Robbie Dowdall			6										6



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phone: (216) 371-8600 / e-mail: ft@funnytimes.com



The following 2 pages are a copy of handouts from Tom Murphy's demo at the February Meeting where he demonstrated the use of resin (amongst other things).

Vacuum Pump and Chamber: [www.hvacstore.co.uk](http://www.hvacstore.co.uk)  
Vacuum/Oven Resin: Cactus Juice or Packrats Resin <http://packratwoods.uk/>

Copper/Titanium bangles and ring  
Source: [www.bangleguy.com](http://www.bangleguy.com)

Premade Resin Blanks:

Bangles: [www.bangleguy.com](http://www.bangleguy.com)

Pens: [www.nvwoodwerks.com](http://www.nvwoodwerks.com)

Me: (If you want resin blanks of a particular wood/colour let me know we'll work out a price).

Epoxy Resin:

Name: Gedeo's Crystal Resin Clear

Source: [www.specialistcrafts.ie](http://www.specialistcrafts.ie)

Or

Name: Alumilite Clear Cast Resin

Source: [www.metalclay.co.uk](http://www.metalclay.co.uk)

Alumilite powder, dye and Metallic Pearl Ex:

Source: [www.metalclay.co.uk](http://www.metalclay.co.uk)

Mould material:

Name: Oomoo Silicone Rubber from Smooth-On inc

Source: [www.grs.ie](http://www.grs.ie) or Amazon.com

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#### *Making Resin blanks*

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Pour the resin together in the recommended ratio, for Gedeo Crystal Clear that ratio is 2 Resin for 1 Hardener by volume. For Alumilite that's 1:1 by weight

Mix until it becomes clear and then mix for about the same time again. Make sure to mix every part of the mixture but don't whip it into a froth!

For Crystal Clear, leave for 30-45 minutes and then add any powder you want to add for colouring.

For Alumilite mix the powder in immediately.

Mix gently again, try not to get airbubbles added to the mixture, but ensure that the powder has mixed thoroughly and is not clumped in lumps still.

Pour into the mould and then add the wood chippings, seed pods etc as desired. Do this in this order to avoid getting air trapped under the wood if you put the wood in first.

Leave it to cure in the mould for 30 hours (Crystal Clear) or 15 hours (Alumilite). Ideally don't turn it for a few days.

#### Caution:

Epoxy Resin is very friendly to work with compared to other kinds of resin but it has some safety concerns.

Always wear lung protection when turning resin. Have your dust extractor going even when roughing and leave it running afterwards for a while. Hoover up the dust when you are finished too.

Resin liquid and hardener are non-toxic before mixing and when fully cured but partially cured resin is dangerous to turn and sand. Always make sure it's hard, not sticky or tacky before turning or sanding. It's also a sensitizer meaning the more you are exposed to it unsafely, the more reaction you will get from it. (Similar to exotic woods).

Full cured resin is hard like PVE plastic. The top surface of resin will remain sticky for a day or two (this is by design as it's for bonding to another layer of resin if you are layering it). But when its fully cured, its good and hard and not sticky.

Resin does NOT like other liquids, especially water, when curing. Moisture in your moulds can stop it fully curing, even a humid/damp environment can cause it to cure poorly. If you are using ink dyes, use them sparingly or the batch won't cure.

#### Vacuum stabilising.

Vacuum stabilising is intended to replace the air in a piece of wood with the resin its submerged in. This is done by removing the air above the solution and using the differential in air pressure to force the air in the wood out as bubbles.

This resin will NOT cure at room temp, it needs to be fired in an oven for at least an hour at 100 C.

The bonus of this method is that the remaining resin can be drained off and used again.

The vacuum is pulled to -30 and maintained until the bubbles stop coming out. The trick is that the wood needs to be left sit in the solution for at least a day, ideally several.

The chamber and pump can be got from HVACStore on Amazon (or HVACSTORE.CO.UK)



## Woodturning in Northern Spain

Once again, I attended the woodturning event in the charming village of Vilafames to witness demonstrations from two excellent woodturners. Romuald Clemenceau from France made a textured hollow form, a painted hollow form and a flower, and Adrian Pena from Galicia made an artistic piece and a thin-walled vase.

Attendees were encouraged to bring along pieces that they had made for display and entry into a competition; there was a stand selling pens; and a general woodturning equipment sales stand.

An interesting two days and if space allows, I will provide a more detailed article later. Meanwhile, here are a few photos of the event.

Mike Sims.



Above, Romuald Clemenceau makes some pieces including textured hollow forms and a flower.  
Below, Adrian Pena makes an artistic piece and a painted vase.

