



# Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

December 2019



The AGM took place on Saturday 2nd November

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### Chairperson's Address

I would like to welcome you all to this AGM. Before we start I would like to spend a few seconds thinking of those who are not here today especially those who have passed away in the last year.

I would like to thank all the committee for all their work over the last year. There are also a lot of members outside the committee without whose help the chapter would not run as well as it does.

I would like to thank the following – Jackie, Michael Fay, Rich Varney, Tony Hartney, Mike Simms, Graham Brislane, Eamonn and Mags Boland, Sean Earls, The Saturday Demonstrators and those who stay behind to clean up.

I wish to thank the Scouts for the use of the hall.

A special thank you goes to the

Wednesday demonstrators, some of whom had their arms twisted to demonstrate. Just to let you know we might be calling on you again next year.

2019 was a good year. We got our new lathe and thanks to Pat and Michael we got a new house for it. It has made life a lot easier for all except those of us who are not in the height range of Pat Walsh and Malcolm Hill. The rest of us need to get a step up to do our turning – I blame it on the wheels.

The one blip in the year was the seminar in May. We had a very good demonstrator in Pat Carroll but even so we had only 42 people in attendance and only 20 of those were from our own Chapter. There were people from all over the country but our own members were missing. Something needs to be done, what it is I don't know, so could we have some suggestions please.

It is great to see a lot of new members joining the Chapter. Some of our old members are not attending anymore and we need to find out why.

The competitions went well this year and congratulations to all who took part, especially to the winners of each category. I would like to see a lot more members taking part in the competitions. Remember the pieces that you put into the competitions may inspire others.

Special thanks to Brendan Kelly for all the work he has done on the web site and the monthly newsletter, which is the best newsletter in the country.

Finally, I would like to encourage more people to put their names forward for the committee because with change comes growth.

Thanking you,  
John Doran, Chairman

## Secretary's Report

It hardly seems a year since our last AGM, time flies when you are having fun. Our monthly attendance and our membership has continued to increase through the year. If only the attendance at our annual Seminar had reflected this it would have been perfect.

After our last AGM our December meetings saw Joe O'Neill equipped with Fez or Flowerpot, demonstrate at the Saturday and Wednesday meetings. This set the scene for our meetings through the year where we had a variety of demonstrators on Saturdays including the following:

January - Irene Christie who showed us what to do with leftovers and logs gone too far. She created statuettes from the leftovers and mushrooms and birdhouses from the logs. Very interesting and creative, items my grandchildren loved when I tried them.

February - Michael Fay who despite problems with the lathe produced an excellent demonstration showing how to make a jewellery and earring stand. This sounds simple but in the hands of Michael this becomes a fine work of art. The 80 odd attendance on the day were proof of the interest in the skill of Michael Fay and he didn't let us down.

March - Rich Varney treated us to an insight into musical notes and how to produce them in woodturning. Rich produced a 3D musical note box which I believe the note to be a crotchet. This was a very tricky project but the skill of Rich and his presentation was excellent and produced a beautiful

finished box.

April - Willie Edwards showed off his lathe skills by producing a lidded hollow form, a spatula, a Candle holder and a door wedge. We were spoiled for choice as Willie produced excellent woodturning and very useful items.

May - Our demonstrator for the Seminar was Pat Carroll and he kept us on our toes as he gave a very interesting presentation and demonstration. Pat produced a hollow form Vase which he sprayed and stencilled carefully showing us how to do all the processes involved. His second item was a hollow form decorative piece using cutting and spraying techniques which produced a very nice piece.

June - Kieran Reynolds gave a demonstration of very fine and delicate wood turning. He produced a goblet that was so fine we were enthralled at how he turned items so thin. At any stage a wrong cut and the whole thing was gone but in Kieran's hands this wasn't going to happen.

July - Pat Walsh showed us John Malone's method of turning a perfect sphere. Pat made this demonstration look so easy and his presentation was excellent. We were mesmerised by the method but more so by the results - a perfect sphere. John Malone's skill is being passed on to the right person in Pat.

August - We had a demonstration of different methods of sharpening. John Doran, Michael Fay and Pat Walsh showed the different methods that they use and they talked about other methods available as well. These demonstrations were of great

benefit to the likes of me whose sharpening skills are not great and gave me enough knowledge to have the confidence to practice how to sharpen my own chisels.

September - We had Charlie Ryan give a very entertaining and skilful demonstration of a party popper cannon. This demonstration included the turning of all parts including the cannon, chassis, axel and wheels. Everybody present enjoyed Charlie's laidback and entertaining approach and above all his wood turning skills.

October - Roger Bennett gave as stated in the newsletter a master class in patience and skill. His turning is so fine it is breath-taking and his patience for the intricate patterns of silver dots was hard to believe. A true master at what he loves to do.

Our Wednesday demos were a little hit and miss due to not enough people volunteering to demonstrate. We had some great demonstrations from the following at our Wednesday meetings:

Joe O'Neill,  
Tony Hartney,  
Colum Murphy,  
Sean Earls,  
Paul Murtagh,  
Tony Lally,  
Peter Mulvaney  
John Doran.

Some of the above demonstrated twice during the year and they all produced and demonstrated great skills and items. It is unfair to leave the burden on a few, so volunteers are needed if not to demonstrate but to help in some way to contribute to the chapter. I would like to thank all those who demonstrated and helped out through the year it was much appreciated.

It is important that people realise the effect that entries in competitions has on other members. I can speak as someone who has continually entered the monthly competitions. When as a beginner you needed help to understand why your piece had fallen down where you were going wrong. It was only when I asked Stephen Coffey where he thought I had missed out that he pointed out what he would have marked me down that I realised where I was going wrong. Also to see entries from more experienced turners inspires those of us starting off to aspire to their level. So more entries please.

In January Mary Mooney of Alzheimer's Society received a cheque from Cecil Barron for funds raised through the year. She thanked everybody for the donation and invited members if passing Rose Cottage to drop in for a cup of tea and a scone.

In July, Seamus Carter was awarded by the members the honour of becoming only the fourth life member of the Chapter to date. Congratulations to Seamus a well deserving recipient and here's to many more years of being a member of our Chapter. We also had another new member in July, Pat Costigan's new guide dog Parker who got a lot of attention on the day.

In August the Wednesday meeting was our annual trip to John Doran's workshop which as usual was a great day with great demonstrations. During the demonstrations we received refreshing ice cream wafers and when the demonstrations were finished we were treated to tea, coffee, buns and biscuits with all the hospitality of John's home. Thank you John.

In October we had the honour of being addressed by Seamus Carter who thanked the assembly for the honour of his life membership. This was received with great applause by everyone present.

I would like to thank Brendan Kelly for his work on the Newsletter and the Website. The newsletter is great to read and the articles he has put into the newsletter are both interesting and give great information on different subjects. We need more of these articles from members.

Next week on 7th November we have 25 members travelling to Seamus Cassidy's work shop for a full day of demonstration and lunch, let us hope we all have a great day and that in the coming year we can organise more of these trips to help bind the chapter together. **(Editor's note: See page 7 for full report)**

Remember that this is your

Chapter and without your help and volunteering it will not achieve all we want for it.

Tommy Hartnett - Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

Vincent Whelan presented the Chapters accounts for the period October 2018 to September 2019. **See full accounts on page 12.**

The election of committee members then took place. The follow members were duly elected.

Chairperson: John Doran:

Vice Chairperson: Joe

McCloughlin

Secretary: Tommy Hartnett

Treasurer: Vincent Whelan

Competitions: Brigie de Courcy

Membership: Mark Daly

Wednesday Demos: Colum

Murphy

Library: Frank Maguire

Exhibitions: Paul Murtagh

Newsletter: Brendan Kelly

Brendan Phelan was also elected.

There was a proposal put to the meeting by Tony Hartney that multiple entries be allowed per persons for the monthly competitions with the best marked piece only up for consideration. A lively discussion ensued with many members contributing. When the motion was put to the floor it was

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## Chapter Contacts.

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**Vice-Chairman:** J. McCloughlin  
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**Membership:** Mark Daly  
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**Competitions:** Cecil Barron  
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**Books & Video:** Frank Maguire  
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DWT.Library@gmail.com

**Exhibitions:** Brigie De Courcy  
087 9258766

**Audio/Visual:** Open

**Wednesday Demos:** Colum Murphy  
087 255 7665

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defeated.

With the bussiness of the day completed we broke for tea, afterwhich we had a short First Aid emergency response course given by Paul Byrne.

Paul demonstrated the technique of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CRP) on dummies he brought along for the purpose. He encouraged members to practice on the dummies before going on to show us the correct way to use a defibrillator if one is available. . He then told us that Stroke was the 3rd biggest killer in Ireland but many lives can be saved by acting FAST. FAST stands for:

- F**ace: Has their face fallen on one side. Can they smile?
- A**rms: Can they raise both their arms and keep them there?



**S**peech: Is their speech slurred? where a person is choking.

**T**ime: No time to lose, Ring 999. Our thanks to Paul.

And lastly he demonstrated the Heimlich Manoeuvre which is used



The annual awards for the monthly competition were made during the AGM.

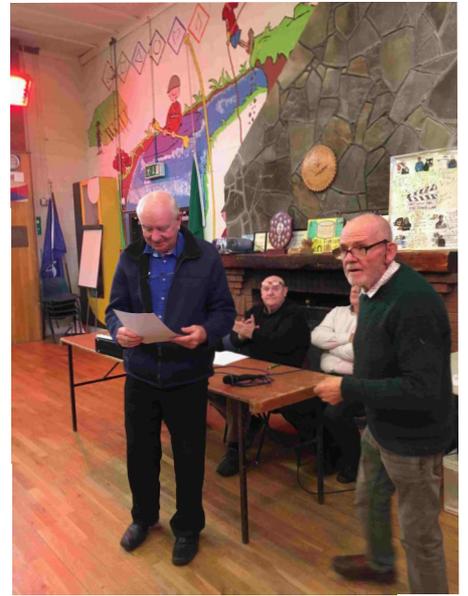
The winners in the Advanced section were:



1st Colum Murphy



2nd Tony Hartney



3rd Paul Murtagh

The winners in the Experienced section were:



1st Brendan Phelan



2nd Tommy Hartnett



3rd Kevin Milton

The winners in the Beginners section were:



1st Brendan Kelly



2nd Vicent Whelan



3rd Brigie DeCourcy

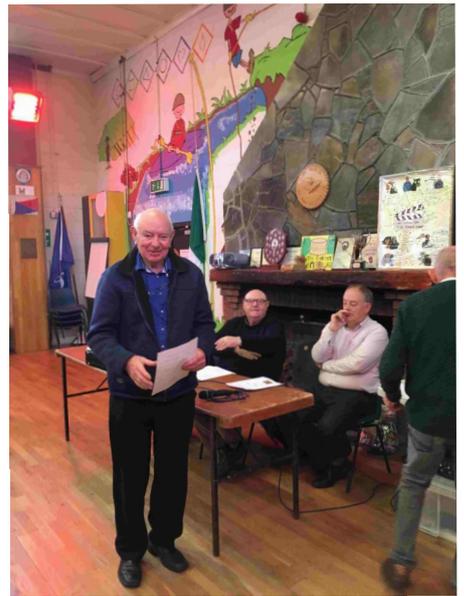
The winners in the Artistic section were:



1st Brendan Phelan



2nd Colum Murphy



3rd Paul Murtagh

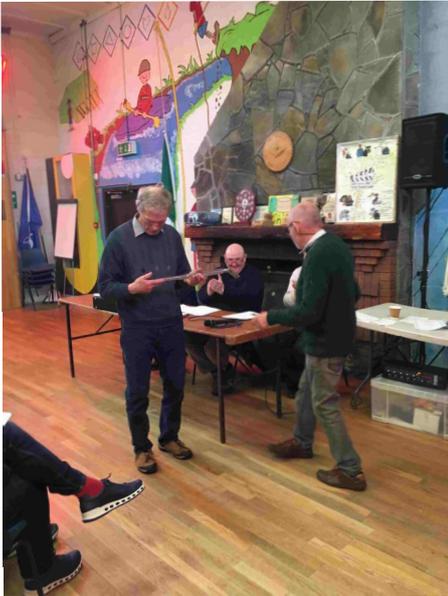


Do you remember this teddy bear?

It won the Advanced section in the monthly competition in December 2009.

Do you know who made it? (Answer on page 11)

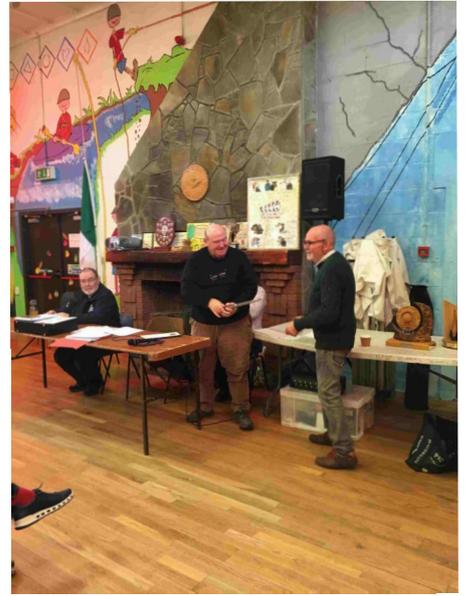
There were no entries in the Experienced or Beginners section that month.



Open Competition: 1st Jonathan Wigham

At the AGM this year we held a special open competition where all entries went to the Chapters' stand at the Tallaght Library Craft Fair in aid of the Alzheimer Society.

There was also a raffle held for all members who contributed a piece.



Raffle Winner: Tommy Hartnett

## Visit to Seamus Cassidy's workshop Wednesday

Twenty four members turned out for the trip to Seamus Cassidy's workshop and showrooms in Co. Meath situated along the banks of the Boyne in an idyllic rural landscape. Seamus has been a professional wood turner for over twenty years making much of his living through commissions, craft shows and of course demonstrations.



On arrival we were greeted by Seamus and Mary who provided us with tea, coffee and freshly baked scones. Once we were fed and watered Seamus started by telling us that he would not be concentrating too much on finishing in order to show us some of the pieces he finds most popular at craft shows.

He started with a salt and pepper set on a stand which he normally makes in batches of ten or twenty. He makes them in both Walnut and Cherry but finds the Walnut tends to sell better particularly at craft sales. Starting with a Walnut blank mounted in the lathe he drilled a hole down the centre to the required depth. He would normally drill out a dozen at a time as doing them singly is too time consuming. He likes a modern cone shape so he quickly set about completing the outside. He then sanded down through the grits and finished with three coat of Melamine Lacquer. He uses Melamine Lacquer because it dries quickly and many coats can be built up in a short time. Seamus uses glass inserts with chrome plated sprinklers to complete the set. He finds the sets with the glass inserts sell better than those with a simple sprinkler attached. The end product is then presented on a stand and makes an ideal gift for many occasions.



Seamus went on the mount a

3x3x10 inch piece of Ash between centres to make a ladle. After turning to round with a roughing gouge he marked out a sphere at one end. At this point Seamus experienced some mechanical difficulties. The lathe he was using started to vibrate and then stopped altogether. Luckily enough Seamus had five more lathes to hand and one was quickly pressed into service. Continuing on, Seamus completed the sphere and went on to shape the handle. After mounting the piece in a homemade jig, he split it along its length on the band saw. One half was then mounted on yet another homemade jig with the aid of some hot melt glue before hollowing out the centre. After some light sanding Seamus passed the finished ladle around the audience.



After an enquiry from a member of the audience, Seamus showed us the grind which he uses on his bowl gouges. The grind was deeper cut on the left wing. He said this gives him more support and reduces the tendency to run at acute angles by providing an extra bevel.



After a lovely chicken salad lunch we all assembled in the workshop again for part two.

Seamus mounted a 10x5 inch piece of Ash on the lathe and showed us how to make a laced plant holder. He first turned the outside into a rough cone shape and cut a spigot at the tailstock end. Reversing the piece in a chuck Seamus hollowed out the inside.

I should mention at this point that the Ash he was using was wet timber. This is important for this



piece as Seamus wants the edge of the cone to split as it dries. For this to work he needed to pay close attention to the wall thickness. Too thick and the edge won't split where he wants it to, too thin and the edge will split everywhere. Once thinned down to the correct thickness Seamus drilled two ¼

inch holes, one opposite the other, 1½ inches from the top edge. He drew a pencil line from the edge of the rim down to the holes. This line marks the saw cut for the split. He then drilled three lace holes on either side of the line repeating the process on the opposite side of the

pass around the finished plant holder. After another tea break we chatted for a while before Seamus produced two three legged stools. One with a flat seat and one with a concave seat.



After several people tested both out they all agreed that the curved seat was more comfortable. Seamus went on to show us how he concaves the finished seat. As Seamus makes a lot of three legged stools he has made yet another jig to hold the finished stool in the

With just 30 minutes to go Seamus made a set of three bowl (yes 3 in a ½ hour). The bowls were slightly different in size and were therefore stackable one inside the other. They were made from three different woods and finished with liquid paraffin. Seamus said the three bowl sets were a very popular item at craft fairs and make an ideal gift. It was a very enjoyable day.

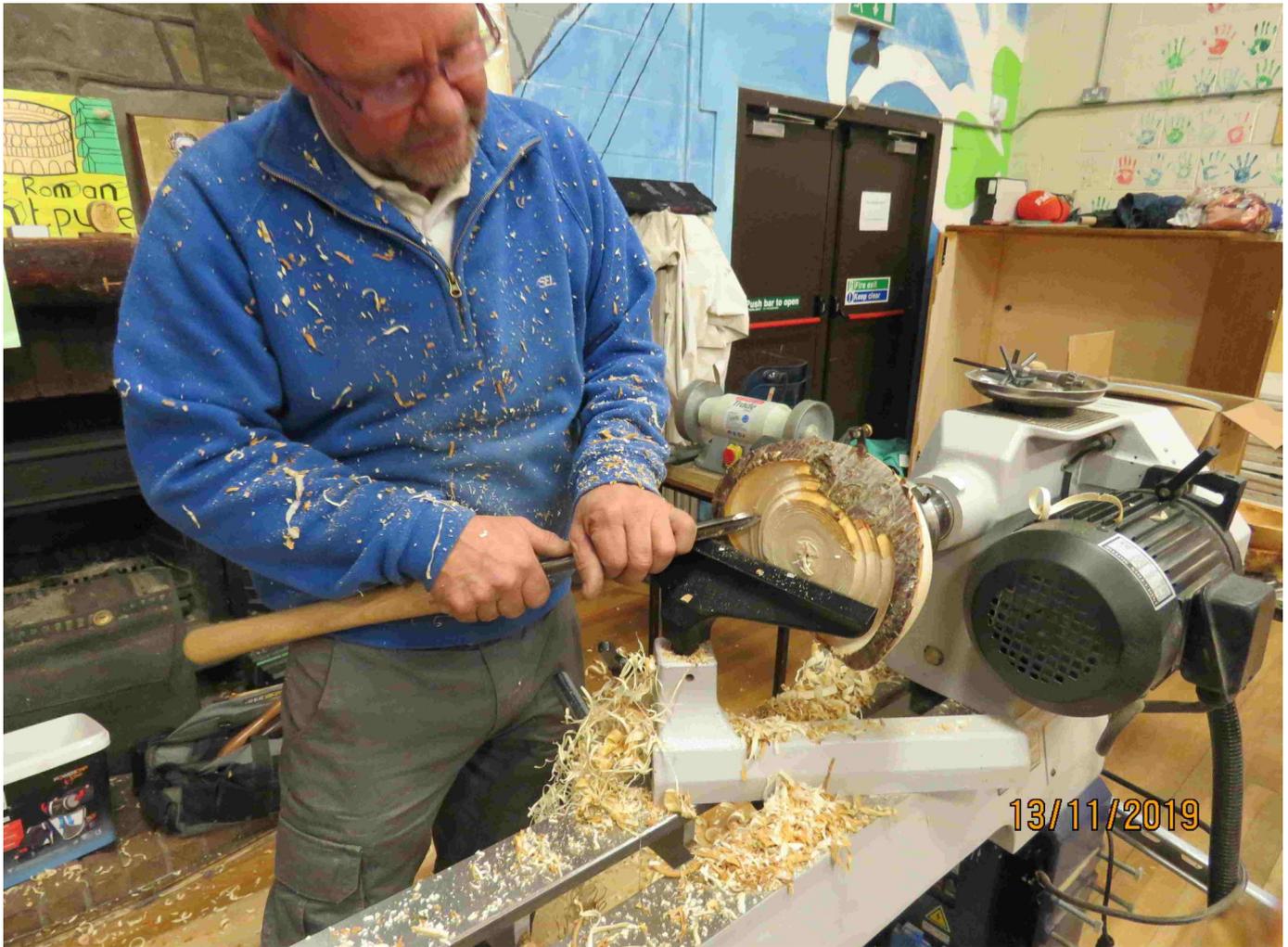
rim. After cutting along the marked lines with a small saw, the rim was then masked with duck tape to restrict the splitting process as the bowl dries because he doesn't want them too big. Reversing the piece again in a jam chuck Seamus removed the spigot and finished off the end. By this time the rim had dried sufficiently to remove the masking tape and reveal the splits. After lacing up the bowl with some leather laces, Seamus

lathe. It was made from glued sections of MDF turned to a cylinder. Seamus likes to leave the dishing of the seat to last as it gives a nicer finish to the end grain of the legs which protrude through the seat.



## November Wednesday 13th

As the usual Wednesday meeting was taken up by our visit to Seamus Cassidy another meeting was scheduled the following Wednesday. The demonstrator for the day was Colum Murphy.



Colum started his demonstration by mounting a piece of Cherry, complete with bark, in the lathe. He had previously drilled a 1" hole to recess the 4 pronged dead centre to provide extra security. Once the tailstock was in place Colum went on to turn the basic shape of the outside of the bowl. Halfway through he adjusted the piece in the tailstock so as to have an even amount of bark on both sides of the rim of the bowl. After cutting a spigot Colum reversed the piece onto a chuck. He then used a parting tool to mark out the internal size of the bowl being careful not to remove too much from the rim. He removed the tailstock from the lathe in order to get a better angle at the edge of

the bowl, then continued to hollow out the centre. As the piece of Cherry was only cut the previous week Colum said he would now leave the bowl to dry out for a few months before finishing.

Colum then mounted a rough cut Eucalyptus bowl which was now ready for finishing. After the finishing cut on the outside, the bowl was reversed onto a remounting jaws chuck. Colum tidied up the spigot for use as a foot but cleverly angled the bottom of the spigot so that it sat slightly lopsided on the table. This instantly made a ordinary bowl into an artistic piece.



Colum had a bowl where he had inadvertently burst through the bottom. Not wanting to waste the piece He drilled a 3" hole with a hole saw in a pillar drill and then glued in a 3" piece of wood with a spigot at one end. Colum mounted it on the lathe and started to turn out the inside of the bowl where the patch protruded. He successfully turned the bottom of the bowl then went on to finish the piece and remove the spigot. The result was a very interesting bowl made form two woods.

drilled a hole in the centre to accommodate a tea light. He quickly went on to shape a cove on both sides. After he was happy with the shape Colum used a wire brush on a hand drill to bring out the grain. He said this allows dyes to take and produces a nice grainy coloured effect.

Colum went on to mount yet another piece on the lathe, this time a walnut bowl. Running the lathe at 300 rpm he used a knurl tool to cut a textured ring around the outside of the bowl and also along the rim. This provided an effect which lifts the bowl beyond the ordinary.

Many thanks to Colum for a very busy and interesting demonstration.



Colum then mounted a piece of Ash on the lathe with a screw chuck and with a forstner bit,

The teddy bear which the advanced competition in December 2009 was made by: Seamus O Reilly.



Demonstrators 2020		
	Staurday	Wednesday
Jan	Adrian Finlay	Paul Murtagh
Feb	Rich Varney	Vincent Whelan
Mar	Pat Walsh	Jonathan Wigham
Apr	Eugene Grimley	Pat Walsh
May	Seminar	Rich Varney
Jun	TBA	Colum Murphy
Jul	Peter Lyons	Tony Hartney
Aug	Christine Van Bussel	Tommy Hartnett
Sep	TBA	Brendan Kelly
Oct	TBA	Brendan Phelan
Nov	AGM	Cecil Barron
Dec	Joe O Neill	Joe O Neill

INCOME		2018	2019	EXPENDITURE		2018	2019
IWTG MEMBERS		€ 4,320.00	€4,788.00	LIBRARY			€ 50.00
MEETINGS				IWTG MEMBERS		€ 2,791.00	€ 3,084.00
SATURDAY		€ 2,290.00	€2,215.00	DEMO FEES		€ 730.00	€ 730.00
WEDNESDAY		€ 837.00	€840.00	SCOUT HALL		€ 1,560.00	€ 1,560.000
ALHEIMERS		€ 110.00	€150.00	SATURDAY TEAS		€ 860.00	€ 797.00
SEMINAR		€ 1,655.00	€1,425.00	WEDNESDAY TEAS		€ 80.00	€ 62.00
SATURDAY RAFFLE		€ 95.00		DVD BLANKS ETC		€ 38.00	€ 76.00
LATHE			€727.00	ALZHEIMERS		€ 110.00	€ 150.00
IWTG		€ 20.00	€60.00	MISC/COM		€ 716.00	€ 574.00
TOTAL		<b>€ 9,327.00</b>	<b>€10,205.00</b>	SEMINAR		€ 1,301.00	€ 995.00
CASH IN BANK		€417.00		BANK FEES		€ 58.00	€ 55.00
PETTTY CASH		€637.00		LATHE + Tools			€ 3,143.00
CHEQUES-		€130.00		IWTG		€ 120.00	€ 160.00
GOODS		€510.00		WEB SITE		€ 124.00	€ 101.00
		€1,434.00		PRIZES		€ 400.00	€ 400.00
				MAGS		€ 490.00	€ 536.00
				TV X 2			€ 470.00
				Balance @ 01/10/18		€4,172.00	
				INCOME		€10,205.00	
				EXPENDITURE		€12,943.00	
				Balance @01/10/2019		€1,434.00	

Trade Stands 2020	
Jan	The Shed
Feb	The Hut
Mar	The Carpentry Store
Apr	The Shed
May	The Hut
Jun	The Carpentry Store
Jul	The Shed
Aug	The Hut
Sep	The Carpentry Store
Oct	The Shed
Nov	The Hut
Dec	The Carpentry Store

Competition Pieces 2020	
Jan	A Tea Light Holder
Feb	Off Centre Turning
Mar	Laminated Table Lamp
Apr	Cup and Saucer
May	A Plate (Advanced: two matching )
Jun	300x80x80
Jul	A Spinning Top
Aug	A Bowl
Sep	Fruit (Advanced: two pieces)
Oct	Wall Hanging with Texturing
Nov	AGM
Dec	A Christmas Item