



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

July 2020 (Another Lockdown Edition)



As you are probably aware, due to the outbreak of Covid-19 all meetings of the Dublin Woodturners Chapter have been cancelled until further notice.

Please check both your email and the Chapter website (<http://www.dublinwoodturners.com>) regularly for updates.

The monthly competition for July will again be held online. This will be an open competition with all entrants submitting a photograph of their piece for judging. So get out to the workshop and make something.

Points awarded will NOT count towards the annual awards however all items entered WILL be eligible to be entered in the normal monthly competitions when they resume.

Send a photo of your work by email to Mark Daly at mark@eninserv.com by Friday 3rd July. Include the category (Advanced, Experienced, Beginners or Artistic). Also include something in the photo to show scale (possibly a ruler or pen).



The virrus Continues

The Wood Wide Web by John O Neill

Inside this issue:

The WWW	P. 1
June Results	P. 3
Demonstrators	P. 12
Competition Pieces	P. 12
Trade Stands	P. 12
Leader Board	P. 13
Still Looking for The Pig	P. 13
Woodturning Magazine	P. 14
Editor's Appeal	P. 14

What's this WWW thing?

The WWW started about 450 million years ago. It was rediscovered by a french man Noel Bernard in 1899, in the French forest of Fontainebleau, that some unknown species of fungus was necessary for the germination of orchids.

There appeared to be a symbiotic relationship between fungi and plants. In the years since much research has been done and mycorrhizal fungi have been indentified as the fungus involved in this relationship; there are over 10,000 varieties.

Mycorrhizal literally means fungus

root. The plant provides the fungi with carbohydrates (glucose and sucrose) and the fungus provides the plant with nutrients. Without the fungi we wouldn't have a healthy plant. This mychorrizal network underground forms the original WWW, the Wood Wide Web.

This relationship is a two way one, plants get nutrients from the fungi but can also provide nutrients back down to the fungi for transport to another plant, the fungi will do anything for the sugar fix!

Plant roots overlap and nutrients can be passed between plants.. Older and larger trees act as a hub



for this transfer to smaller trees who may be in need of some assistance; these hub trees are referred to as Mother trees.

Suzanne Simard, a professor of ecology in British Columbia, found that when bears eat salmon they normally retire to a nearby tree to feast. Not being the tidiest of eaters, they tend to litter the ground with bits of salmon. This flesh contains a type of nitrogen which does not occur in the plant world, it originates in the sea. The tree absorbs the decaying salmon including the nitrogen. Studies have discovered that this very same nitrogen can be detected in trees some way from the bank of the river. It has been passed from tree to tree using the mycorrhizal network, the wood wide web.

Mother trees appear to take care of young uns around it, passing food to them in times of need. They even give more help/food to their own children. There is cooperation between tree species, Birch will help out its Fir neighbours, Sycamore will give Beech a dig out if required. This may seem strange to us as we all learned about Charles Darwin and the survival of the fittest, no

mention during my schooling about the wood wide web and mother trees. Picture below is of a 'family' of 7 trees, possibly 2 planted, the rest naturally grew there.

This area of science is relatively new but gathering pace. It has implications for how we deal with climate change and is the basis for organic growing. The traditional



method of timber logging, go in and cut everything in sight leaving a wasteland behind, we know now to be the wrong way to do it, probably not news to a lot of people! Instead we should be harvesting what we need but leaving the mother trees intact as they will organise and facilitate the recovery of the forest.

Trees are said to be communicating together using the mycorrhiza in the process, not communicating in the same way as us but still transferring information and materials. Trees appear to cooperate to ensure survival for all. The ability of trees to 'communicate' and warn each other can be done above ground also, trees can take action to

protect themselves. An extract from Richard Attenborough's 'the Life of plants'.

"The African acacias, well-protected though they may be by their thorns, use distasteful chemicals in their leaves as a second line of defence. Furthermore, and most remarkably, they warn one another that they are doing so. At the same time as they fill their leaves with poison, they release ethylene gas which drifts out of the pores of their leaves. Other acacias within fifty yards are able to detect this and as soon as they do so, they themselves begin to manufacture poison and distribute it to their leaves.

Wouter Van Hoven, a zoologist from Pretoria University, documented the death of kudu (antelope) in an area where they were restricted in movement during a drought. He found that the kudu died due to chemicals released by acacia. He also noticed that giraffes, who could roam freely, browsed only on one acacia in ten, avoiding those trees that were downwind."

For further reading check Suzanne Simard on web and youtube.

Peter Wohlleben, a German forester who has written extensively on the subject.

John O Neill



Who were the winners in July 2010. Recognise any?

Answer on page 12.



Advanced



Experienced



Beginners

June Online Competition Results

The restrictions continue however there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. Lets hope it's not an oncoming train. June has hit us and while the weather is still very good, we are seeing a little less sun and therefore needn't feel guilty about retiring to the shed for some more turning.

The beginners section this month has been well represented. John O'Neill has turned a very nice vase. While I have to admit not being overly keen on much in the way of colouring, I really like the smooth matt finish on the inside, which contrasts with the beautiful natural spalting of the beech. The proportions and crisp line of the vase wall stand out. Ronnie Butler has unlocked the secret of the ring, with this shallow bowl. A trip to his locksmith (pre-lockdown) bagged him a hand full of brass shavings. The result is a very attractive piece indeed. Michael Quinn blows us away with this cannon. I am taken by the choice of woods. They provide for a very nice colour contrast. Each component is turned and each has its own techniques. This piece is a great project to help hone many of the elements of wood turning. What would really top this off would be a pyramid of cannon balls stacked to the side. Now that would be a challenge. Mike Sims takes my first choice this month. His tiered box is very elegant. The closed box, in itself looks very well, with a smooth matt finish, however it's when we get to see the inside that the turning really stands out. The attention to inside and outside diameters and the beading at the neck of the upper tray, each adds to the fine turning of this piece.



Mike Sims



More Beginners Entries



Ronnie Butler



John O Neill



Michael Quinn

This month's experienced entries sees Brendan Kelly brighten up the house with some summer flowers in a vase. The vase is smooth finished and well proportioned. The flowers provide the colour with a very natural looking texture. I suggest that the natural look is harder to achieve that may appear at first sight. Vinny Whelan will brighten our evenings up with his lamp. It is a solid specimen of spalted beech. Sean Earls has turned a shallow sycamore bowl with parallel sidewalls. I like the beaded inner rim and the finish applied to the wood. This month it is John Doran's Bowl that stands out for me. The grain is very nice and the bowl would look great on any table.

Experienced Section

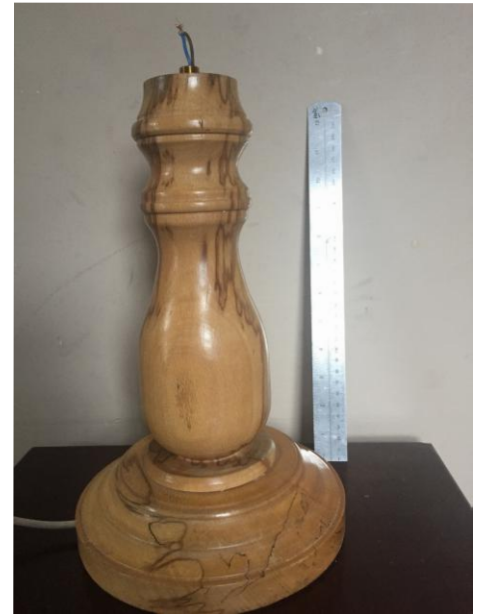


1st John Doran



Brendan Kelly

More Experienced Entries



Vinny Whelan



Sean Earls

Advanced Section

In the advanced section, Joe O'Neill presents a selection of pens. The variety of colours, styles and profiles give us a great reminder of the options available when turning pens. This entry could be a reminder that when lockdown is over, Joe will be running another pen masterclass, or else, it might be preparation for an imminent autobiography. What a read that would be!

John Duff presents a very nice trio

of candle sticks. If you haven't tried your hand at turning a set like this, it is a well worthwhile exercise. Proportioning the height is the easy bit, however turning equally matched profiles at different lengths takes practice. Paddy Finn is hanging with the birds. Any bird would be happy to call this home. It's a great combination of woods, interesting grain patterns and warm colouration.

Last month, I joked that if the

lockdown continued, we might end up cutting the legs off chairs so that we didn't run out of turning stock. Well Cecil Barron has gone a step further, five miniature turnings made from bone. These pieces remind me of something from an archaeological museum. I bet he didn't resort to the 2 inch roughing gouge.

Brendan Phelan has turned an urn. This piece combines a classical shape with contrasting wood colours while highlighting the

More Advanced Entries

interesting grain patterns. The inset centre of the lid as an alternative to a finial gives this piece a far more practical look, rather than simply ornamental. This month's entry from Jonathon Wigham joins his previous entries in the section 'beautiful woods'. Whether Jonathon spends hours choosing his raw material or simply has an eye for picking out interesting cuts, the result is a stunning pattern. Over the last couple of months reviewing the competition entries, one of my take away tips has been to let the wood do the talking, concentrate on the finish rather than lots of fancy details.

It is at this point that I am glad that I am typing my report rather than speaking it. David Sweeney has turned a dodecahedron lamp. Made from pine and walnut, this piece is one of those feats of engineering that makes the mind boggle.

Michael Fay takes top place this month. When I look at this piece, I jump between the choice of wood, the precision cuts and delicate touch required when there are exposed corners rotating at speed on the lathe. When your eye is drawn to the lid and inside of the box, it is easy to miss that it sits on four toes, rather than two feet.



1st Michael Fay



David Sweeney



Joe O'Neill



Cecil Barron

More Advanced Entries



John Duff



Jonathan Wigham



Brendan Phelan



Paddy Finn

Artistic Section

The artistic section has kept me busy this month. Partly due to the number of entries, but mostly due to the quality and variety of pieces. Sean Ryan has turned two pieces in miniature. The first is a vase with flowers and the second is a delicate table on three feet. This looks exquisite; the top is detailed with inlay and a high gloss almost French polished finish typical of a full size table of its era. Sean Earls, helps us navigate the troubled waters we find ourselves in, with a light house and pair of port and starboard candles on natural edged boats. Sean tells me that the wood is some birch from the firewood pile. Mike Sims may be following the lead of others by preparing for his autobiography. This highly decorative pen with inset Celtic rings looks like it would add to the pleasure of writing.



Mike Sims



Sean Ryan



Sean Ryan



Sean Earls



Frank Maguire



Cecil Baron

Frank Maguire has been motoring along with his Model-T, although he has opted for an attractive two tone, rather than the black that Henry Ford offered. Cecil Barron has turned a trio of nested bowls with a lid. Maybe you may argue that one is a box, but either way I'm sure we will agree that the wood choice and turning are top class.

Brendan Phelan has turned a fine vase with inset rings. As can be expected from Brendan, the finish is smooth and crisp. In my opinion Brendan has a subtle style that doesn't over do the embellishments, but rather leaves the wood do the talking. He reminds me of a theatre stage lighting designer who once told me that when the audience started to notice his work, he knew it was time to turn it down.



Brendan Kelly



Brendan Phelan

Brendan Kelly has turned a very nice pedestal box with finial lid. In contrast to some of his previous entries of modern design, this piece appears to have come from his antiques repertoire.

My final two are Colum Murphy and Jack Kearney. In my opinion both of these pieces have an element of fun in them. Colum hides the complexity of turning spheres behind the charming face of a barn owl. The hats have an amazing ability to change the creature from undertaker to artist to convent school pupil. Each with a somehow French feel to them. I also like the way that the head can rotate in a similar manner to an owl in the wild. On the other hand Jack finds brightness in what should be a macabre image of three witches.

Of note is the wood chosen for the head, a contrasting sapwood, and hardwood mix. Each of the witches appears to have an individual character, created by the differing shape and sizes of their heads and also the choice of eye size. So just like an Owl sitting on the fence or the riddles of Macbeths witches, I will pose two winning scenarios. Colum has turned a wonderful piece with not much room for error but Jack has turned a piece that I just love looking at.Your Call!



Joint 1st: Colum Murphy



Joint 1st: Jack Kearney



Other View: Colum Murphy

The entries this month have given me much food for thought. I like that many of the pieces are small and would be quite suitable for even a modest lathe. I also noticed that many of the entries were accompanied by coins as a way to indicate the size of the piece. I can't help wondering though, if this has anything to do with the fact that we have all been using far less cash these days and maybe the odd Euro is sitting on a sideboard rather than in our pockets.

I am looking forward to seeing what you have in store for me in July. As always it is a pleasure to take some time admiring the fruits of your endeavours.

Mark Daly



Other View: Colum Murphy

Trade Stands 2020	
Jan	The Shed
Feb	The Hut
Mar	The Carpentry Store
Apr	Cancelled
May	Cancelled
Jun	Cancelled
Jul	Cancelled
Aug	Cancelled
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	Open (online)
May	Open (online)
Jun	Open (online)
Jul	Open (online)
Aug	Open (online)
Sep	Fruit (Advanced: two pieces)
Oct	Wall Hanging with Texturing
Nov	AGM
Dec	A Christmas Item

Demonstrators 2020		
	Saturday	Wednesday
Jan	Adrian Finlay	Vincent Whelan
Feb	Rich Varney	Paul Murtagh
Mar	Pat Walsh	Jonathan Wigham
Apr	Cancelled	Cancelled
May	Cancelled	Cancelled
Jun	Cancelled	Cancelled
Jul	Cancelled	Cancelled
Aug	Cancelled	Cancelled
Sep	Frank Fitzpatrick	Brendan Kelly
Oct	Colum Murphy	Brendan Phelan
Nov	AGM	Cecil Barron
Dec	Joe O Neill	Joe O Neill

The winners in July 2010 were.



Advanced: Michael Fay



Experienced: Tony Hartney



Beginners: Mark Daly

Current Competition Positions

Current Competition Positions													
Beginners													
Name	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
John O'Neill	15	15		15									45
Ronnie Butler			15										15
Experienced													
Brendan Kelly	15	13	15	15									58
Vincent Whelan		15	13	13									41
Advanced													
Brendan Phelan	15	15	15	15									60
Tony Hartney	13	13	7	9									42
Paddy Finn	11	6	9										26
Tommy Hartnett	9	11	11	11									42
William Edwards	7	5											12
David Sweeney		9	13	13									35
Cecil Barron		7											7
Frank Maguire		5											5
John Duff		5											5
Artistic													
Colum Murphy	15	13	15	15									58
Brendan Phelan	13	15	13	13									54
Cecil Barron	11												11
Seamus O'Reilly	9												9
Tommy Hartnett	7	11	9										27
Frank Maguire	6												6
Rich Varney			11										11

Still looking for this pig.



I had an email from Jack Hutchinson recently who is trying to find out who carved this pig. He came by it when in 1986 he bought the contents of a restaurant called Solomon Grundys which operated in Suffolk Street, just off the bottom of Grafton Street. From there it went to a restaurant in Ballymena Co Antrim which closed in 2010.

Jack recons that it was carved between 1978 and 1986 and is about 4 foot wide by 2 and 1/2 feet high and about 4 inches thick weighing approx 1 cwt or about 50 kilos. Jack still has the pig in his possession and would love to get in touch with the original carver.

If you recognise it please email me with the details at DWT.Newsletter@gmail.com.

Woodturning Magazine

Woodturning Magazine – Subscription Renewals.

Firstly, I would like to thank everything who has ordered the magazine for their patience as things were a bit delayed due to the Covid 19 position we all find ourselves in.

Next, a big thanks to members of the Committee who helped pass on the message to members, reminding them or letting them know that subs were due. This was a great help in gathering the money in. They also deserve a clap on the back, for taking the time to ring us all around every couple of weeks, just to see that we are all doing OK.

The Magazine has been ordered on 15th June, so by the time you read this, you should have started receiving a magazine or magazines if your sub ran out before now. If any member does not receive an issue, or is missing an issue down the line, can they let me know. If Mags are going missing, it is better for me to know, and I can chase for replacements. As well as this if deliveries are getting bad, GMC have in the past changed the way magazines are shipped, and if I know the numbers going missing, it helps in getting them to change to a better service.

If anyone has any questions please contact me on:

Ph: 01-4941 963

Mob: 087-2914 770

gbrislane17@gmail.com

Graham Brislane



Editor's Appeal.

I need a constant supply of interesting articles for the newsletter.

If you come across anything which may be of interest to other woodturners or would like to pen an article yourself please let me know at DWT.Newsletter@gmail.com

Anything considered, articles, craft shows or demonstration you have visited, turning tips, funny stories, jokes, cartoons.

Chapter Contacts.

Chairman: John Doran
087 6393081
DWT.Chair@gmail.com

Secretary: Tommy Hartnett
086-8284178
DWT.Secretary@gmail.com

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

Vice-Chairman: J. McCloughlin
087 2610803

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

Competitions: Brigie DeCourcy
087 9258766
DWT.Competitions@gmail.com

Books & Video: Frank Maguire
01 8346854
DWT.Library@gmail.com

Exhibitions: Paul Murtagh
087 1331292

Audio/Visual: Tony Hartney

Wednesday Demos: Brendan Phelan

Newsletter / Web Master: Brendan Kelly
086 3748183
DWT.Newsletter@gmail.com