



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

December 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 Online Competition will be Back for January 2021.

The monthly competition will again be held online in January. 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 Saturday 9th of January. Include the category (Advanced, Experienced, Beginners or Artistic). Also include something in the photo to show scale (possibly a ruler or pen).



A Few Words from our Chairman.

Christmas is coming fast with all the things we did last year, all the people who would be coming to visit us and the things we will be doing in the new year.

I hope one of these vaccines will open up our world again and we can get back to normal, our old normal, because it was not a bad normal.

Inside this issue:

Chairman's Address	P. 1
November Results	P. 2
Editors Appeal	P. 7
Jokes	P. 7
Colouring Master Class	P. 8
John Holmes	P. 10
Mike Sims	P. 10
Blast From The Past	P.11

Well things did not work out as we would have wanted it to be. The meetings together in the scout hall, the competitions, the fun meeting with everyone and learning how someone else did a piece that I was trying to do but when it was explained it became so easy.

I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, safe and a good Christmas and a new year where we will all be looking forward to all things that are good in our world and this pandemic will be a thing of the past.

I would like to thank everyone for all their work and help all last year.

Well that is our lot for this year but I am looking forward to all those things being back for us on the first Saturday long before we are thinking of Christmas next year.

Have a good Christmas and new year. Keep in touch with as many as you can.

John Doran

Results of the November online competition

It's nearly Christmas..... Our competitions are not fully aligning with the traditional monthly format and to be honest, we missed a chance to dedicate a competition to Christmas ornaments & decorations as we typically have done at the chapter meetings each December. I had expected a larger entry level, especially since the re-introduction of lock-downs and the return of autumnal weather, however it looks like many of you had other distractions, keeping you away from turning competition pieces. Hopefully those distractions still involve a trip to the workshop and a spin of the lathe.

There were no beginners' entries at all this month, which is surprising as our beginners have been very active in previous competitions. While I would like to see our beginners well represented, I also think that many of the entries in this category over previous months would have been better placed at experienced or even advanced levels. Indeed, had the competitions been at the monthly chapter meetings, many would surely have been in for a division change. I would like to encourage any members who were new to us just before COVID to try their hands and get some pictures in. It's a great way to challenge yourself.

The experienced section was represented by Brendan Kelly and Sean Earls. Brendan has turned a pâté server, 10 inches across, made from Ash with a tidy box-centerpiece. I like the lid over the ceramic jar. As with food, sometimes good woodturning is enhanced by presentation and this certainly is. While Brendan's piece is certainly tasty I was taken by Sean's Beech Brothers. These three bowls are turned from a single

plank, which narrowed along its length. Any of the bowls individually would be nice, however the trio, side by side demonstrate some of what I like most about turning. First off, we have three beautiful, but quite different spalting patterns, each unique and intriguing to the eye. The second thing I noticed was the form factor; a wide diameter, shallow bowl with a gradual sloped wall; a medium diameter with a steeper wall; a small diameter where the wall is slightly bulbous and the wall thickness narrows at the upper edge. Each of these bowls has a different function and while I imagine a tasty salad in the large bowl, I think of scooping up a fist full of peanuts



Brendan Kelly

from the smaller of the family. Form and function are nicely displayed and I trust that the finish would equally standup to close scrutiny if we could pick them up for a closer look. Sean did say that the heavy spalting made for some difficult turning and that he needed to carry out some repairs prior to finishing. Looks like a job well done.



Sean Earls

In the advanced section, I received seven entries. Each quite different and certain to make picking a winner very difficult. Joe O'Neill must be planning to bake a cake. With sustainability, the buzzword in so many industries, Joe has used recycled oak and (so far at least) hasn't put a finish on it. Paddy Finn has turned a sycamore plate. The straight grain is complemented by the crisp clean parallel wall bead that runs around the edge. I would love to see another angle of this piece as I am certain I am not doing it justice.

I have said it many times, but it is worth saying again, Jonathan Wigham manages to pick up and finely turn some beautiful specimens of wood. This time it's a burl Elm hollow form, contrasting with a base and throat of Holly. As always, a joy to the eye. Cecil Barron has chosen to turn a bowl. In this case, the contrasting colours come from the sapwood. Cecil hasn't been able to identify the wood species (surprisingly), so if anyone knows, answers on a postcard please to....



Joe O'Neill



Paddy Finn



Cecil Barron



Jonathan Wigham

Everyone seems to be looking for a way to brighten the place up these days and Tommy Hartnett is certainly working on it with his vase and flowers. A colourful selection that won't fade anytime soon, the vase made from Ash is elegant and somewhat understated, leaving room for the Yew, Pine, Walnut, Maple, Mahogany and Laburnam flowers to take centre stage.

Michael Fay has turned a natural edge bowl, the pattern of which reminds me of the phrase "If a tree could tell its story". Needless to say Michael's finish allows nothing to stand in the way as we examine the stunning lines and scars that paint its picture. Which brings me to Brendan Phelan's most unusual bowl. As with Michael, Brendan's workmanship is impeccable. However this piece is another example of the natural art within the wood that we turn. In Brendans case the pattern was eye catching initially because it looked artificial, until we appreciate that this is completely natural and more than a little intriguing. I would love to see an image of the blank prior to turning. I have no doubt that the preparation and lathe-mounting were not left to chance.



Tommy Hartnett



Michael Fay



Brendan Phelan

Brendan has also turned one of the six Artistic entries. With a distinctly Irish theme this piece has a nice selection of contrasting woods, while demonstrating his texturing skills. Tommy Hartnett is just Plum with this 10"x9"x7" crotch section with matching Plum tea lights. Now, I know I said we missed an opportunity for the Christmas feeling, however Brendan Kelly may well have come to our rescue, as his tea lights have a somewhat angelic look to them. As always Brendan's turning looks flawless. Simple details such as the twin burnished lines on the satellites match really nicely with the twin connecting arms to each.



Brendan Phelan



Brendan Kelly



Tommy Hartnett

Jack Kearney has turned a lovely lidded trinket box. The base is Sapele, while the lid is Ash with an African Blackwood finial. Another of our entrants sure to catch our eye is Colum Murphy. This Chestnut Burl with Elm inlay is a real eye catcher and a piece that belies the difficulty that I suspect was involved in turning it.

Cecil Barron is back and it's magic. Eleven Mushrooms to be precise. Not for the first time, Cecil provides us with great material for a wood identifier chart. Rather than listing the species I will instead leave you have a go. You can fill in the blanks by referring to the running order provided by Cecil.

Another competition down and almost the end of another year. I have really enjoyed the timeout reviewing your entries while at the same time gaining inspiration. Let's do it all again in January. Saturday the 9th seems like you should have ample time to get the New Year off to a good turning start and I am certainly looking forward to seeing what arrives in my email tray. Hoping we all get back to normality in 2021, in the meantime Merry Christmas to you and all your families.

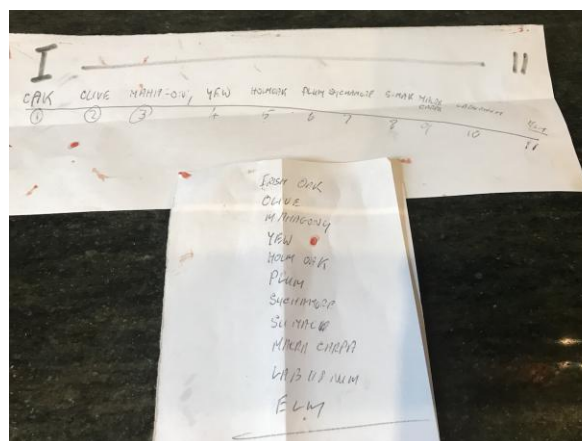
Mark



Jack Kearney



Colum Murphy



Cecil Barron

I still need articles for the newsletter. With no meetings or demos it's getting difficult to find interesting content.



So over the Christmas can some of you go on Google and research a topic of interest to wood turners. Here are a few possible candidates.

Hard Vs Softwood
Best Irish wood for turning
Great trees of the world
The Lebanese Cedar
Wood turning through the ages.
The Californian Redwood
African Woodturning
Georgian stair spindles
Glues and their uses in wood turning
Gouge sharpening techniques.

You can probably come up with many more.

I don't expect the Gettysburg address, just a couple of paragraphs will do. I need your support.

I had a problem with my computer yesterday, so I called Eric, the 11 year old kid next door.

Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he was walking away, I called after him, "So, what was wrong?"

He replied, "It was an ID ten T error."

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless asked, "An, ID ten T error? What's that?"

Eric grinned... "Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?"

"No," I replied.

"Write it down," he said, "and I think you'll figure it out."

So I wrote down: "ID10T"

And I used to like Eric, the little bastard.



Even firewood is done with 2020.



Colouring Master Class with Martin Saban-Smith



With no chapter demos since last March I was delighted to hear that an online live demonstration was being organised by Patrick from the Carpentry Store. He lined up Martin Saban-Smith to give a practical demonstration of some of the colouring and finishing products he makes and markets under the name of Hampshire Sheen. Martin is a respected professional woodturner who, unhappy with some of the finishing products available decided to make his own. The result was the Hampshire Sheen range. The demonstration was well attended with 57 people logging in.

Martin's demonstration was on colouring so he started by going through his range of colours, grouping them in complimentary sets depending on their position on the colour wheel. Each set based on a colour themes such as Ocean Deep, Autumn Glory, Fiery Sunset amongst others.

Martin had a pre-prepared bowl blank in the lathe which had been

turned on the outside and was ready for sanding and colouring. He emphasised that the piece should ideally have some figure in it as the dyes will accentuate these. He started by power sanding the outside of the bowl down to 400 before starting to apply some colour. The first colour he used was black which he applied to the figured area of the piece using a paper towel in a circular motion. Sounds odd I know but as figured wood absorbs more dye than the unfigured wood, the piece can be sanded back to remove the black from the unfigured area, leaving the figure highlighted. Once dried with the help of a hot air gun Martin started to sand back the piece. Interestingly enough he started with 400 grit and if that does not remove enough of the black he goes up to 320 or 240.



The idea here is to remove the black from the harder parts yet leaving it in softer figured parts. He noted the need to be careful here not to allow the wood to heat up as this will seal the fibres and prevent the uptake of more colours.

Next Martin added some Ruby dye. The general rule is that darker colours should be added first leaving colours such as Honey and Yellow until last. Again Martin applied the dye with a paper towel



in a circular motion using the pads of his fingers and avoiding any hard edges.

Next Martin used Flame Yellow and applied it to the gaps left



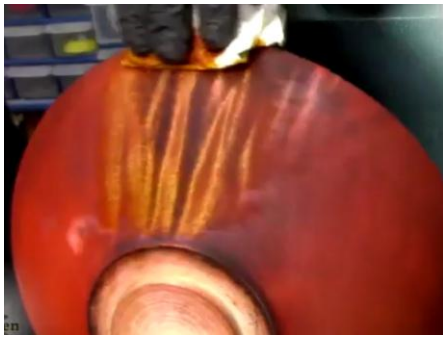
between the Ruby, blending it in where the colours meet.

That's the first coat of colour done and once dry, a second coat is applied for a more vivid effect. After more drying with the hot air gun, Martin lightly sanded (400 grit) around the figure to accentuate it.



Care is needed here as too much pressure will cause too much to be removed or the surface to be scratched.

The next step was to apply the Honey dye over the areas of the figure just sanded.



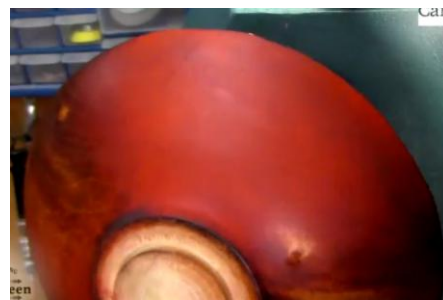
After another drying secession it was time to apply some thinned sanding sealer.

Martin emphasised that more attention needs to be paid to the most absorbent figure area and of course the end grain. The sealer should be applied in several thin coats, wiping off each time with a paper towel to prevent pooling.

This can take up to four or five coats to properly seal the piece. It is very important to allow the sealer to dry between coats. Some colour will of course be removed

during the process but this tends not to be an issue.

Once the last coat of sealer is



completely dry we can move on to the finishing.

Using a paper towel Martin started the lathe and gently buffed up the surface. After looking closely at the piece to ensure that the surface was as required, Martin went on to burnish the surface with some shavings.

Hampshire Sheen Gloss finishing wax was then applied. Martin pointed out that very little is needed to produce a deep gloss. Start with about a quarter of what you think you might need on a

paper towel. Rub all over the piece while turning the lathe by hand as you go. Several coats can be applied one after another and when the wax starts to 'grip' on the towel your ready to buff. Build up thin coats and finish your work slowly. Too much too soon and it simply won't work.

Spinning the lathe Martin buffed



the piece with a paper towel being careful not to apply too much pressure as this will cause the piece to burnish and loose some of its gloss finish.

Our thanks to Patrick from the Carpentry store and of course Martin for a very entertaining and informative demonstration.



In Memory Of John Holmes

Dr. William (John) Holmes (Deansgrange, Co. Dublin) passed away peacefully at home on December 12th, 2020 in his 92nd year, after an active and fulfilled life.

Beloved husband of the late Hazel and loving father of Audrey, Linda, Zandra, Roy and the late Jean. Sadly missed by his daughters, son, sons-in-law Adnan, Werner and Tim, daughter-in-law Ingrid, grandchildren Omar, Tatjana, Ciara, Emily, Christinne and Laura, extended family and friends.

John was a long standing member of the Dublin Chapter and served on the committee for many years. He is remembered as a true gentleman, never without a smile on his face. He will be sadly missed by all at our monthly meetings.

Goodbye Dublin Woodturners.

This is to let you know that I am finally leaving the building!
After two years of telling people that I am leaving this island, all the pieces have fallen into place and I am on my way.

Reflecting on the last twenty years or so since I started woodturning, my first and only teacher was Christien van Bussel. After that my education was more informal. A chat here, a video there, many failures, and the occasional invitation to visit a fellow turner's workshop all helped in that respect. In 2015 the late Gerry Ryan gave me an open invitation to use his workshop, which I did for a year or so. To this day, I do not have a workshop in Ireland, and I will always be grateful for that generosity.

So, this is to say thank you to all my woodturning friends and acquaintances who have accompanied me on my journey so far. It will continue in my new home, as there are several woodturning clubs where I plan to settle in southeast England.

So goodbye and it was nice to know you.
Mike Sims.

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Blast from the past.

Some old photos of the work party laying the new path to the stores. Send in by Cecil Barron



