



# Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

April 2021 (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.

## Editor's Comment

Another lockdown edition and I hope you are all keeping well. At least there is light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully we will all be back together before the end of the year.

Don't forget to include the category and something which shows scale. (ruler or a pen)

Another date for your diary is Monday April 12th for the next Conkers Live online demonstration. This time the demonstrator will be Stewart Furini. For those of you who have not logged in so far it is well worth it. As the demos go out live on YouTube there is no special software required, simply click on the link I will send you on the day.

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The online competition is continuing for April. Pat Walsh and Brendan Phelan are currently fighting it out at the back of the bicycle sheds to decide which one gets to be the judge this month.

Entries this month should be sent to:

**[brendanrivendell@yahoo.com](mailto:brendanrivendell@yahoo.com)**

*Brendan*

on or before the 17th of April.

## March competition Results: Our guest judge this month was Joe O Neill.

Just one entry in the beginners section and one winner, Michael Quinn.

The square bowl was turned from a piece of walnut, Michael is not sure what the sphere is. He found it in Tymon park after a storm in 2013 .



Who won the monthly competition in April 2011? Answer on page 6.



Advanced



Experienced



Beginners



Artistic

There were three entries in the experienced section.  
A five inch Beech bowl from Brendan Kelly.  
Two Ash bowls from Sean Earls which remind him of his hurling days.  
A Walnut bowl from Vincent Whelan.  
Joe selected Vinny Whelan as the winner.



1st Vincent Whelan



Sean Earls



Brendan Kelly

A bumper crop in the advanced section this month with 9 entries.

Jonathan Wigham presents a pedestal for holding drinks while sitting by the fire, warmed by all the scrap wood from the workshop. It has a maple base, yew stem and poplar top.

Cecil Barron shows his Mahogany table lamp. He picked up the leaded glass shade last Christmas twelve months and at last got round to turning a base for it.

Tony Hartney shows us his Laburnum vase.

Paddy Finn sent in his garden dibber.

A fine mushroom from Brendan Phelan.

Sean Ryan was scraping the bottom of the wood pile and come up with some walnut off-cuts and a lump of 2"x 2" from Woodies and used them to create this piece.

Michael Fay sent in a stunning piece of Thuya Burr and Ebony, with a blue gemstone.

John Duff showed us his Cherry pedestal bowl.

And Finally James Gallagher show off his 10 inch vase.

Joe's first place goes to Michael Fay.



Michael Fay



Brendan Phelan



Tony Hartney



Jonathan Wigham



Cecil Barron



James Gallagher



John Duff





Paddy Finn



Sean Ryan

Finally for the Artistic section, here we had 6 entries.

Cecil Barron starts us off with a Cocobolo triangular box with silver inlay on the base and lid.

Sean Earls gives us a simple sewing box from sycamore. In Ireland in the thirties and forties dress making and needle work of every kind was the order of the day in all houses. This Sycamore sewing box is a reminder to us of the skilled industry found in most households during that period.

Brendan Phelan sent us an unusual square edged bowl.

Colum Murphy entered a bowl from eucalyptus turned and carved while green. Remounted when dry, foot removed before being hand sanded and finished with 3 coats of danish oil.

Brendan Kelly's 'Blue' bowl is from Leyland Cypress.

John Duff shows us his pedestal bowl. He said the timber had so many defects and unusual colours that he drew a tree as camouflage and sprayed the inside gold, yet he managed to keep the natural edge.

And the winner chosen by Joe is Cecil Barron.



Cecil Barron

These were the winners of the monthly competition in April 2011.



Advanced: Michael Fay



Experienced: Sean Egan



Beginners: Noel White



Artistic: Cecil Barron



Brendan Kelly



Brendan Phelan



Colum Murphy



John Duff



Sean Earls

Many thanks to Joe for his great work in judging the competition. Don't forget the April online competition which will be judged by either Pat Walsh or Brendan Phelan. The closing date is April 17th.

## Chapter Contacts.

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Philip's project for the night was an earring stand made from three pieces of Sycamore for base, stem and top. The top piece was 120mm in diameter by 34mm thick, the base 93mm by 34mm and the stem 117mm by 30mm square.



He mounted the top piece on to a screw chuck. Spinning the lathe at 1500rpm he faced off the piece and cut a spigot which would allow him to complete the underside later. Reversing the piece onto a chuck he rounded off the edges and cut a second spigot on the face. As this will be the top piece it is necessary to lighten it down to avoid the end product being top heavy, so he turned a concave shape from the spigot to the outer edge. At the outer edge he cut a flat lip to accommodate the holes required for the earrings. He then finished off the piece with a round nose scraper.



The next task was to drill a series of 24 equally spaced holes around the circumference. If your lathe has an indexer built in you're on to a winner, however as many of us use older lathes without this facility Philip showed us an alternative method using a homemade indexing disc with 24 holes predrilled, mounted on the headstock and held in place by the chuck. A wire stay is then mounted on the lathe bed holding the disc in place. Moving the stay to the next hole will revolve the work piece 1/20 of a revolution.



In order to ensure that the holes are drilled straight Philip showed us another homemade jig which fits into the tool post. This can be made from metal or a scrap piece of wood. The wooden version wears out quite quickly but that's fine if you only need one occasionally.

Once the holes were drilled Philip finished off the piece with a light sanding moving through the grits to 400.

As this was the underside, he then reversed the piece again in the lathe (remember he has a spigot on both sides) and finished off the top, cutting a dish in the centre

which is useful for holding stud type earrings and backs.



After a short break, Philip mounted the second piece of Sycamore, the base, onto the lathe. He turned it round and faced off what will be the underside of the base. Philip pays great attention to the underside of any piece because the first thing any woodturner who picks it up will do is to turn it over. He cut a recess on to the base and finished it off with a scraper.



Turning the piece over it was now time to tackle the top part of the base. He cut a cove shape from centre to the edge ensuring not to remove too much wood as the base needs to be quite weighty. Philip then sanded the piece before adding some detail to both the edge and the centre. Sanding before the detail is added helps to keep the detail crisp.



Another great demonstration, many thanks to Philip and Chestnut Products for a very entertaining evening.

The next Conkers Live is on Monday April 12th when the demonstrator will be Stewart Furini.

*Brendan Kelly*

With the top and bottom now finished it's now time to complete the centre column. Philip mounted the 30mm square piece between centres and turned it round with the roughing gouge. He cut a bead on both ends and went on to add a nice shape to the centre piece. No strict rules here, just whatever you fancy but remember to leave an 8mm nub on each end to fit into the base and top.

To put the complete piece together Philip mounted the base in the chuck and glued the stem to the base, lining up the grain carefully and using the tailstock to apply

pressure and align the piece. Once the top was glued in position the piece was complete.



## WE NEED YOU!



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

So over the lock down can some of you go on Google and research a topic of interest to wood turners.

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

A selection of old photographs sent in by Joe O Neill.  
All of these are before my time but some of you might recognise someone you know.







Joe also sent in this piece written by Robbie Dowdall (aka the blind turner).

### Love For His Craft



Majestically both hands and wood blended together and if one was to look closer, the age of time had carved out unique lines in the ancient wood and the old mans hands, so as to give their own unique story. Hard hands that were knotted with callouses, gave proof to his craft, as he skilfully peeled away the rings of years through the ancient wood. To look one would not help but think time was standing still to look at such perfection at work but yet again be transported back in time to the old mans youth, such was his dexterity and mastery. Spinning, spinning, spinning, the old oak was beginning to change through the cataract eyes, as knots and ridges were skilfully turned into smooth and delicate features without losing its unique presence of age. As shavings flew, revealing hidden patterns of grain and earth's colours, the wood began to take shape through the talent of the man's hands and love for his craft. To watch it is like meditation, as here there is no discrimination of colour time or age, but just perfect harmony and unconditional respect and love for ones craft of wood turning. Truly perfection at work.