



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

January 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

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I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a happy new year. Yes 2020 was an odd year, one I hope is never repeated but at least with the vaccine on the way there is some hope for the future. With a bit of luck we'll all be back together again by the autumn.

I would also like to express our thanks, on behalf of all the members, to Mark Daly who has done a marvellous job at organising and judging the monthly competitions. The monthly competitions are a lifeline for many members and encourages them to get out to the workshop and make something that interests them. They also help to keep the Chapter together

during these tough times. Well done Mark.

As there was no competition or meetings for that matter in December the newsletter will be quite thin this month but I have tried to put something together. To this end I need more of you to contribute something to the cause. Anything of interest to woodturners will do. Perhaps you can send me some pictures of your workshop with a few words telling us how long you've been turning, how long you spend turning in the average week, the type of objects you like to make and a photo of yourself to go with it. In the meantime we all need to stay at home and keep safe until this thing is all over.

Who won the monthly competition in January 2011? Answer on page xx



Advanced



Experienced



Beginners



Artistic

All Those Shavings



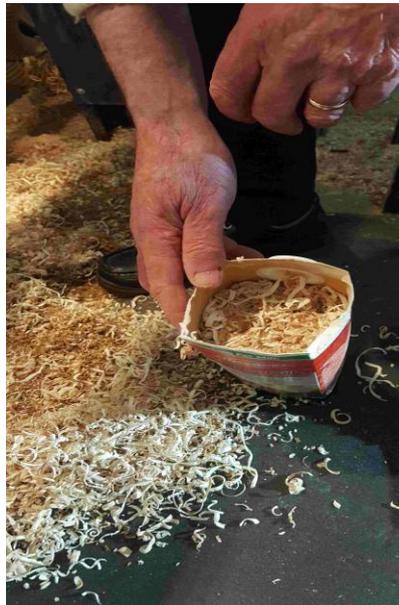
Ever wonder what to do with all those wood shavings? You can of course use them as a garden mulch, compost additive or perhaps for animal bedding but they can also be used to make fire logs.



As we tend to light an open fire in the winter evenings and must then of course buy in fuel, I came up with the idea of using old milk and juice cartons. Most households will have several of these Tetra Pak type cartons heading for the recycling bin on a weekly basis. These burn well and give off a lot of heat when filled with all those

keeping the workshop safe and tidy.

The best shavings are the long curly ones typically created while bowl turning. Avoid too much of the light dusty stuff as they won't burn so well. The trick is simply to pack the shavings in a tight as possible, pressing them down as hard as you can then crimping the



useless shavings. top of the carton to seal it.

Once the cartons are rinsed out I store them in a corner of the workshop and then fill them as shavings become available. It's also a great way of

Once it is lighting, the cartons burn well when placed at the back of the fire. Used like this, they supplement the coal and logs very well. It is important that once you put it on the fire it should not be moved as this will usually cause it to burst and the filling to fall apart, dampening down the fire like slack.

I make about two hundred a year, storing them up through the summer months. This saves money, keeps the workshop tidy and of course helps keep us cosy in the winter.

Brendan Kelly



Glenn Lucas on Conkers Live

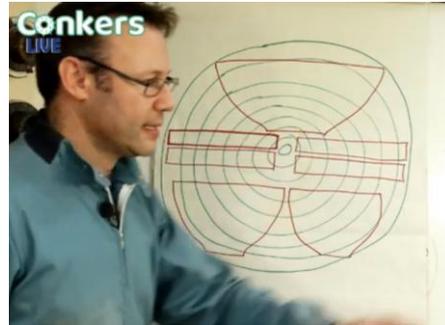


Glenn Lucas was the guest Demonstrator on Conkers Live on Monday the 11th Jan. Conkers Live is hosted by Chestnut Products and features live broadcast on Youtube from some of the best woodturners globally. The broadcast was watched by 500 people and featured an online chat service where questions could be asked as the event proceeded.



After a short tour of his new workshop and training room, Glenn got down to the business of the evening. His project was a 12" platter from flamed Irish beech. The blank he used was a quarter sawn piece with the grain travelling in one direction from the top to the bottom, giving a nice figured pattern.

Because the grain is uniform a platter from quarter sawn wood is much less likely to warp. Other parts of the log are more suitable for salad bowls as you can see from the photo below.



Glenn started by attaching a faceplate to one side of the blank. He says he has a preference for faceplates over a screw chuck as he finds the grip more stable and even. Once mounted on to the lathe, he brought the speed up to 850 rpm and proceeded to round off the edge with a 5/8 inch bowl gouge ground to 55 degrees.

He showed us a good tip he uses with his student when using a bowl gouge to true up the edges of a piece: See photo below.



Using a marker he put a red line down the flute of the gouge, the trick being you should not be able

to see the line if you are holding the gouge correctly while truing up the edge. He then went on to true up the face of the piece with a pull cut from the centre.

Glenn likes the base of his platters to be roughly 2/3 the overall width. Once he marked out this measurement on the base he then pencil-marked the thickness of the rim. The idea here is that it marks out the wood to be removed between the two lines to form the shape of the underside. He then went on to cut out the underside in a concave convex concave pattern using both pull, push, and shear cuts..



The centre of the base was then cut slightly convex. While marking out the size of the recess, Glenn stressed that the diameter should be suitable to enable the chuck to grip the piece while the jaws are completely circular. That is, the chuck almost closed. This provides the best grip without damaging the edges of the recess and also enables the recess to be shallower, which makes the platter less chunky. To cut the recess, he used a modified square scraper, angled

to the same angle on his chuck, leaving the centre slightly convex.

At this point he was ready to sand the underside of the piece. For the demo he decided to wet sand to reduce the dust created. Using Chestnut oil he sanded through the grits from 180 to 400 at a speed of 500 rpm, buffing up afterwards with a paper towel. Normally after the oil has dried in, usually overnight, the piece would be denibed with 400 grit.

After the break, Glen removed the face plate and mounted the platter on to the chuck. Using the 5/8 inch bowl gouge he started to hollow out the face of the platter. At a speed of 1200 rpm he went on to level off the face before hollowing out, getting deeper towards the centre. Moving on to a 3/8 bowl gouge Glenn rounded the edge of the rim and moving in about 1 1/2 inches created a half bead.

Moving in from the half bead, Glenn hollowed out the centre of the platter and used a callipers to ensure 8mm was left at the bottom of the platter. After a quick lesson in sharpening, Glen finished off the centre of the platter using a negative rake scraper.



Some more wet sanding, moving through the grits, and the job was done.

After the demo there was a Zoom conference where people could chat and ask questions.

Our thanks to Glenn and Chestnut Brendan Kelly

Products for a very entertaining and informative evening. Conker Live will again take place on the 4th February. If you haven't tuned in so far I recommend you do. It's the closest we'll get to a live demo for a while yet.

Predicting the Weather

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with the reading signs from the natural world around the Great Lakes. In truth, neither of them had idea about how to predict the coming winter.

However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief rang the National Weather Service. 'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

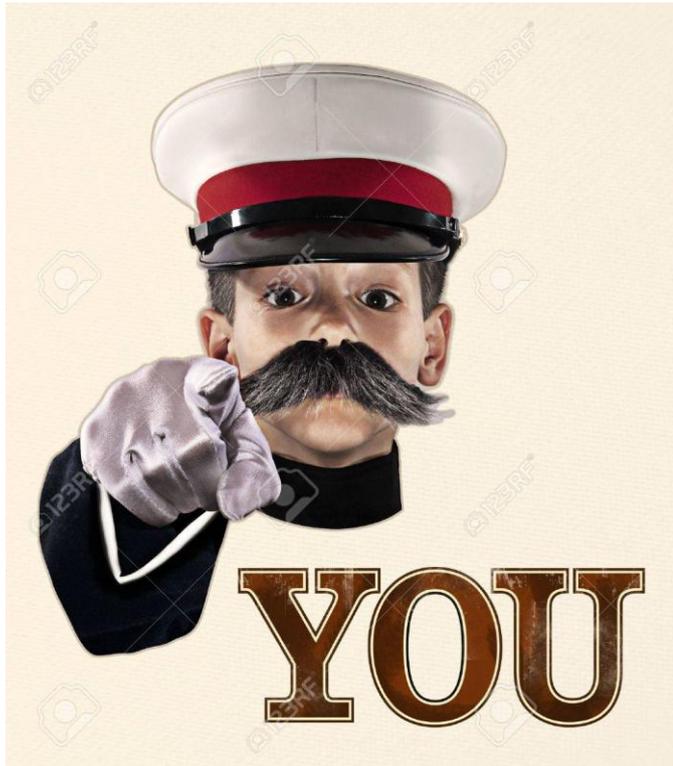
A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked. 'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him. As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find.

A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans are collecting wood like crazy.'

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. 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.

The winners in January 2011 were.



Advanced: Henry East



Experienced: Rich Varney



Beginners: Peter Curran



Artistic: Frank Gallagher

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In Memory Of



Charlie Ryan passed away on the 23rd of December last. A long standing and well loved member of the Chapter. Sadly missed by his wife Bernadette and daughters Jennifer and Maria. Our deepest sympathies.

We also learnt recently of the death of Lorcan Dunne. He passed away on the 31st December last. He rarely missed our monthly demonstration and attended our last one in March 2020. Our sympathies and condolences to his daughters, Mary and Laura and sons Peter, Declan and Rónan. May he rest in peace.



John Holmes
12th December 2020

John passed away peacefully at home, and it was with great sadness that I heard of his death from his daughter, Audrey.

It was Nora Castle, one of our lady members, who first introduced me to John in 2001, at a chapter meeting in Terenure College. This was John's first time to attend one of our meetings, and he immediately joined, and became one of our great chapter members.

In 2002 John became our competition secretary, and carried out this roll with great success. He was also so very helpful to our new members.

As our exhibitions had fallen by the wayside, John and I had a chat to see about getting the exhibitions running again. To do this, we needed the help of 4 other members to work with us, and when we had our other members, we had our first meeting in John's home on 30th June 2003. The exhibitions proved to be a great success and they were a great fund raiser for the Alzheimer's Society.

John will definitely be missed within the guild and the Dublin chapter, by all who knew him. He was a talented woodturner, but was also a very gifted artist.

May he rest in peace.

Frank Gallagher