



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

July 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.

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A word from our chairman.

Now that winter is behind us and we are all very busy with the garden, I hope you will find some time for going to your shed or studio to do a bit of turning. Very often you will find that your shed is cooler than the outside. I find it good to go out and find a piece of timber that I have forgotten that is in a bag in a corner. Who gave me that and what do they want made from it? And slowly it will come back to me.

I'm having good fun with the doctor and the sample stool. The reaction that I get from people is great. I was in the line for my second jab and in front of me was an ex nurse who had a good laugh when she saw my little stool come

out of the bottle. (Not sure what all this is about. ED)

One of the questions I get asked quiet often is when are we going back to normal. I think we might have a new normal for a while, how long that will be I do not know. The scout hall is closed so that will have to open first, but the most important thing is when will you, the members, think it is safe for you to come back in the group. Let me know what you feel and when you think it will be right for you to come back. Give me a ring or message to let me know what you're thinking.

I would like to see more pieces for the competition which we will

let you know about through the newsletter. The next competition will close on the 17th of July so get your entry in by then. Again it's an open competition so anything goes. A photograph of your piece should be emailed to brendanrivendell@yahoo.com on or before 17th. Don't forget to include the category and something which shows scale. (ruler or a pen)

By the way, what a great job Brendan is doing on the newsletter all this time. Let us all help him by sending him some more articles or interesting photos for him to include.

John

June competition Results: Our guest judge this month was Mark Daly.

It's nice to be back in the judging chair this month. I really enjoy taking the time to mull over the various entries across all categories. Well actually, that's not quite accurate, as this month we don't have anyone from the beginners cohort. This may be due to the nice weather but could equally be that our beginners could be protesting that they haven't had an opportunity to move up a division. Certainly the quality of

what we have seen over the last year and a bit would suggest that many of you would deserve it.

Starting off this month we have two entries in the experienced section. Vinny Whelan and Brendan Kelly. Standing at just under 4 inches tall Vinny has turned a lovely bud vase. I am not sure what the wood is, could it be chestnut although Vinny may correct me. Nice simple lines show

the natural beauty of the wood. Cedar is not the most common variety presented in our competitions, however Brendan Kelly has presented a lovely platter, which highlights the reddish colouring and wide grain, typical of this wood. What stands out for me is the branch intersection with its dark almost crack like line. A treat for the person who turns this piece upside down.



Brendan Kelly



Vinny Whelan

A little bit more competition in the Advanced category: Seven entrants and we will kick off with Joe O'Neill. Joe's two pieces are a great example of a functional project and the ultimate example of the gift that keeps on giving. As we see all the young fledglings exploring our gardens, this bird feeder gives us the choice of admiring the woodturning and the wildlife.

Cecil Barron has entered this fine Cherry bowl. The back-story however is tragic, as the tree has lay for the past 14 years before Cecil recovered its corpse. The story goes that it was killed after a collision with a combined harvester. It is assumed that the tree was stationary at the time. The identity of the driver has been withheld on the advice of my solicitors. As can be expected, after such a long time lying in the field, the wood had become quite rotten. Cecil tells me that along with careful turning it is held together with superglue, prayers and three dowels.

Tony Hartney has turned a very nice bowl. He thinks that it is Lime, it sits at approximately 8 inches and would be a very nice piece on any table or sideboard.



Joe O Neill



Cecil Barron



Tony Hartney



James Nolan has found a smashing piece of Burr Elm and found just the right project for it. A stylish little box, it stands at approx. 3 inches high by 2 inches wide.



James Nolan

Paddy Finn is keeping with the box theme, turning a lovely piece of Cherry. It is safe to say that the lid and the base could be considered self-assembly, however they didn't come from IKEA, (just the pencil shown for scale).



Paddy Finn



Michael Fay

Brendan Phelan closes out the Advanced category with a tea light - mushrooms on a log. This piece catches my eye for the textures and layers. It somehow reminds me of the honeycomb chunks, we used to get as children, (how I have any teeth left is beyond me).



In the Artistic category, Cecil Barron is keeping with the theme of tea lights and this time he is lighting a candle in memory of that same piece of Cherry he presented in the advanced section.

Joe O'Neill keeps on rolling with an Oak sphere. This is one project that I have to admit I would find very challenging, however it looks like Joe has achieved the perfect curve.

Brendan Phelan



Joe O'Neill

Cecil Barron

Brendan Kelly has turned an Urn with lid. This fine piece of Spalted Beech has wonderful patterns and Brendan has done a good job of aligning the lines between base and lid.



Brendan Kelly

Tony Hartney has been turning a range of very nice pendants. Two have brass insert, while one more has dye and brass. The last has Milliput epoxy.



Our last entry for this month is by Colum Murphy. Colum has turned a Walnut Bowl with Textured Rope edging. This is a beautiful piece, where both the wood pattern and roping, create a timeless piece.

Tony Hartney



That wraps up the June entries. It looks like the next few weeks, may offer some nice weather, however I am hoping that this won't stop you getting into the workshop and turning some pieces for our next competition. Keep up the great work and stay safe!

Mark.



Colum Murphy

Who were the winners of the monthly competition ten years ago?
Answers on page 13.



Advanced



Beginners



Artistic

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Editor's Appeal

WE NEED YOU!



Many thanks to John O Neill for contributing an article to this month's newsletter

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.

Conkers Live with Ronald Kanne.

Another great evening's entertainment from Chestnut as they continue their live demonstrations on YouTube. Over 400 people logged in on the night to watch Ronald Kanne make a small box with a threaded lid.

Ronald started with a 4x4x4 inch piece of quarter sawn Sycamore mounted between centres on the lathe. He cut a tenon at both ends of the block 55mm in diameter. Going to the band saw he split the block into pieces with the lid part being approximately half the size of the base part.



Mounting the base part on to a chuck and rounding it down he went on to cut another tenon at the tailstock end. This tenon is where the thread will later be cut and therefore need to be parallel with bed of the lathe, as opposed to a normal dovetail tenon. At this point Ronald introduced us to a special thread cutting jig consisting of two parts. A cutter which is mounted on to the headstock. Mounted on the tailstock is the guide part which

holds the chuck and of course the work piece. The work piece being held at the correctly adjusted distance and angle for the thread to be cut.



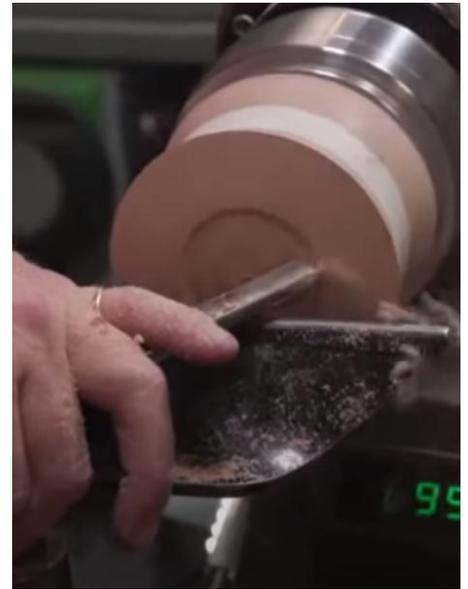
Ronald carefully aligned the tailstock end to ensure it was parallel with the lathe bed. With the lathe running at 2000rpm he slowly turned the adjuster on the jig to bring the piece into contact with the cutting wheel. Proceeding slowly he made the first light cut of the thread. This was repeated until the desired depth of thread was achieved.

Next he mounted the lid part onto the lathe, faced it off and rounded it. He carefully measured the size of the thread he had cut earlier and cut a recess into the lid to accommodate it.



Mounting the thread cutting jig back on the lathe, Ronald again ensured the piece was parallel with the lathe bed. Once more he slowly turned the adjuster on the headstock to bring the piece in contact with the cutter and proceeded to make several light cuts until the correct thread depth was achieved.





A final bit of sanding and waxing and the job was done. All that was left was to finally adjust the length of the thread in order to line up the grain and of course part-off the base. Ronald was told to finish up by 10pm. Of course being the even efficient Dutchman he finished at 10pm exactly. Unfortunately it was 10pm Dutch time.

Many thanks to Ronald and Chestnut Products for another very entertaining evening.

Brendan Kelly

Now with both internal and external threads complete it was time to see if they actually screwed together. Success first time (I think he's done this before). Time now to move on to hollowing out the inside of the box. Obviously great care must be taken not to damage the thread. He said some people prefer to hollow out the box first before cutting the thread, both work equally as well, it's just a matter of choice. Interestingly, to help in the hollowing out Ronald has fitted a strip of LED lights to the underside of the toolrest.

After a little sanding he applied a little wood wax. Ronald then screwed the lid on to the box and proceeded to concave shape the side of the box before shaping the lid and removing the tenon. In order not to be working against the grain and risk tear-out Ronald reversed the lathe and faced off the top of the lid, working from the centre to the opposite side. An interesting technique.



The Project by John O Neill

We all have a dream or itch that may have been annoying us for years but have successfully managed to avoid getting sucked into that dark hole. Not me auld mate Jim Schofield from Blessington. Jim didn't even bother to read the memo that we all got advising us not to scratch the itch, instead he has decided to go for it and build an ocean going boat with the intention of racing it across the Atlantic.

Also for some of us retirement provides us with the ideal opportunity to start dealing with items on our bucket list. A new lathe, a few woodturning lessons and various trips. Jim has filled his time building the boat. Actually as he says himself, this was the perfect lockdown project, he couldn't go anywhere except his shed and there was always plenty to do in there, the project filled his days.



Overview sketch on wall of shed.

This involves building a boat capable of sailing across the Atlantic. The boat is Class Globe 5.80 designed by a guy called Janusz Maderski. He designed an ocean going boat which can be built by the DIY enthusiast. Detailed plans are available to purchase. There are agents around the world who will provide you with a kit required to build the boat. The boat is 5.8 metres long. Jim has built smaller boats in the past, including a currach but this is on the next level. The aim is to take part in a transatlantic race from the Canaries to Antigua in November of this year.

Jim obtained his kit from Fynne Boat Kits based in the Lake district, UK. A full set of instructions is available from the designer and it's estimated that 500 hours of work will get you on the water, probably a bit optimistically on the low side of what it really takes to build. A CNC cutter is used by the supplier to cut the 25x9mm plywood sheets and this gets the

most out of them, all panels are marked with a number which is the same as in the plans. The plywood is Okoume marine ply (waterproof), it has a very high strength to weight ratio, made from wood of the okoume tree, the core can be made from poplar or pine to give it added strength. It is very popular as a boat building material. The solid wood 'stringers' are mainly made of Douglas fir and are provided with the kit, plywood can sag or bend so these stringers add strength.

First problem he encountered was that his shed was too short to accommodate the finished boat, solution, build on a little extension to front which can be removed when boat exits the building. As he says himself, when you come upon a problem and you're working on your own its up to yourself to solve it, such was the life of the lone boat builder during lockdown.



Temporary extension at front of shed.

During construction, Epoxy is used to strengthen joints, seal the wood and finishing, total of 5x25Kg barrels of epoxy are required to complete the project. Warning ! I don't know all the nautical terms for different parts of boats, but I'll try my best! The plans detailed how to construct the various section of the boat, there are a number of watertight compartments involved.



Detail plans.

I won't describe all the components of the boat, too many to cover in one article.

To start, eight frames were constructed, then a strong back or jig was put together on the garage floor. Uprights supported the frames and a laser was used to align all frames, both on the waterline height and center line. Any mistake here, even a few millimeters, would produce a boat that was not symmetrical or balanced.

The hull was built upside down and then turned to work on the inside and topsides.



Hull under construction and near finished shape.

The rudder is one piece of teak, from Clarkes Joinery in Blessington.



Transom under construction.

Accuracy was extremely important and a laser measuring tape was used throughout to ensure accuracy.

The hull required complex construction techniques. Plywood had to be bent to shape and clamped while the epoxy set. The bottom of the boat is two layers of ply, the front or stem was made of two layers of 22m Douglas Fir and everything was wrapped and sealed with up to three layers of fiberglass cloth, impregnated with epoxy. This was a very complex job.



The man himself holding rudder.



An exterior coating is applied to the outside of the vessel. This coating is made using a mixture of epoxy and a low density powder, the process of applying the mixture is called fairing. Fairing refers to the filling and shaping of low areas so that they blend with the surrounding areas and appear 'fair' to the eye and touch. He tried this out himself but an executive decision was made and a local plasterer was press ganged into service who completed the job quickly, The surface then had to be sanded down to produce a smooth surface, 80 grit sandpaper does the job, dust mask and ventilation definitely required for this job!



Hull section post fairing.

Holes are drilled oversize, filled with epoxy and bolts inserted and tightened before epoxy cures, this makes for a watertight seal.



Each boat given an identification plate, Jims is boat 57 of class Globe 580.

There are stabilisation boards on the back called dagger boards, these provide a counterforce to the sails. He made these himself plus the mounting brackets, Brackets are made of epoxy, two are required. One long bracket was made and cut in two to produce the two required brackets.



Dagger board and bracket.

Finally, the trips which are planned.

The boat will be transported to northern Portugal or possibly northern Spain (Bilboa) and sailed to Portugal, this to occur in October.

Then there is a qualifying race to the Canary Islands, this to prove that you can sail across an ocean, a mere 500 mile trip.

Next is the big one, sail to Antigua, 3000 miles across the Atlantic. This is done in November to take advantage of the trade winds.

Progress can be watched by searching for Liffeysailor on both Youtube and Tiktok.

For information when the race starts try <http://globe580transat.com/>.

Wishing Jim the best of luck in his travels.

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



Advanced: Michael Fay



Experienced: Gerry Ryan

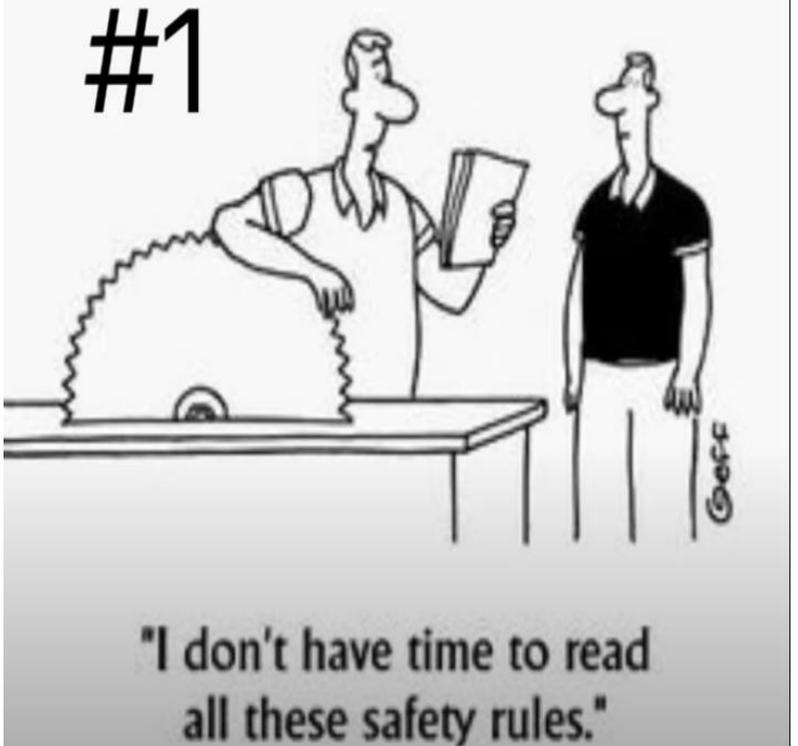


Beginners: Noel White



Artistic: Cecil Barron

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"Mr. Barnes is here again to speak about woodworking safety. Unfortunately, I missed his first speech."