

Editor John O'Neill

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regularly for updates.		Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Wednesday demo	P.1	Jan 2023	478	616	2,337	24,551	2.47 GB
		Feb 2023	428	626	2,704	22,000	2.17 GB
		Mar 2023	515	758	2,953	22,503	1.46 GB
December competition	P 2	Apr 2023	437	591	1,734	15,557	1.78 GB
		May 2023	405	571	2,357	14,343	1.58 GB
Saturdays demo	P 5	Jun 2023	513	651	1,552	15,766	1.81 GB
		Jul 2023	459	600	2,777	13,669	1.92 GB
Leader Board	P 8	Aug 2023	321	384	792	7,997	1.99 GB
		Sep 2023	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin woodturners website activity over 2023 shown on right. September stats hole is an issue with our provider.		Oct 2023	132	164	406	4,863	843.38 MB
		Nov 2023	428	564	1,272	8,715	1.51 GB
		Dec 2023	452	571	1,748	14,330	2.22 GB
		Total	4,568	6,096	20,632	164,294	19.73 GB

Dublin woodturners website activity over 2023 shown on right. September stats hole is an issue with our provider.

Wednesdays demo by John Doran Topic Pen turning

John demonstrated his methods for turning pens, something which he is a bit of a whizz at. He started off with a preprepared ash(hurley) pen blank with a 10mm holed drilled down the centre, 2 such pen blanks were mounted on the pen mandrel. Spindle gouge used to start shaping and then the skew for final shaping. A lot of 'wood air' to start with so speed was at around 1400RPM. He spoke about the



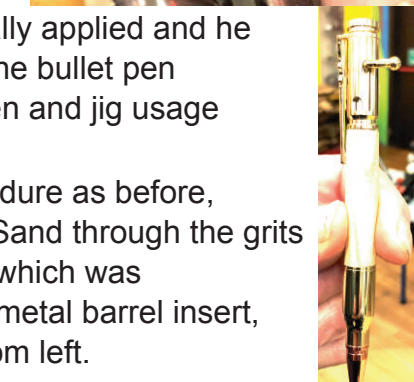
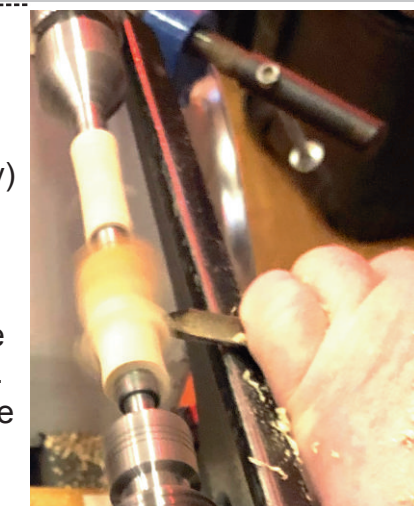
damage sometime done to the pen barrel (see pic. left). He uses a chainsaw sharpening file to remove the bit of damage (pic below left). John then sanded the barrells using 80, 120, 180, 240 & 320 grits. Finished used was superglue, 6 coats normally applied and he recommends Loctite XXX superglue for this job. The bullet pen assembled using the pen assembly jig, finished pen and jig usage pictured on right.



His next pen was a 7mm slimline pen, same procedure as before, spindle gouge to start an final shaping with skew. Sand through the grits as before. He used a trimming bit to reduce wood which was overextended beyond the metal barrel insert, pictured second from bottom left.



Pen was assembled using the jig as before. Thanks John for a very informative demonstration.





Maria Jennings

1st beginners Maria Jennings



Michael Fay

1st advanced
Michael Fay



Sean Ryan

2nd advanced Sean Ryan

3rd advanced
Hugh Nolan



Hugh Nolan



John Duff

4th advanced John Duff



Tommy Hartnett

5th advanced Tommy



6th advanced Brendan Phelan



7th advanced Tony Hartney



8th advanced Frank Gallagher



1st experienced Graham Hunter



2nd experienced
Declan
Corrigan

3rd experienced
John O'Neill





4th experienced
Michael Stephens



5th experienced Claire Godkin



Michael Fay

1st artistic Michael Fay



Charlie Byrne

2nd artistic Charlie Byrne



Cecil Barron

3rd artistic Cecil Barron



Hugh Nolan

4th artistic Hugh Nolan



Tony Hartney

5th artistic Tony Hartney



Claire Godkin

6th artistic Claire Godkin



Michael Stephens

7th artistic Michael Stephens



Frank
Gallagher

8th artistic
Frank Gallagher



Declan Corrigan

9th artistic Declan Corrigan



John O'Neill

10th artistic
John O'Neill



Michael
Jordan

11th artistic Michael Jordan

Rather than focus on a single complex item, Joe chose to demonstrate the turning of six items at beginner status. In his own words; 'I will turn a lot of simple stuff.' His turning is fairly sprinkled with comments as to design and Health and Safety issues and so on. I will quote some of these little gems as they occur, eg. 'Trust the eye' ..'look after your health.'..'.Is your workshop clean?' (with reference to possible pulmonary health issues arising from airborne wood dust.)



Item 1: Porridge Stirrer

The blank is a section of chair leg. 'Use a low speed to start with.' Both ends of the blank are centre marked and chucked between centres. The circularising of the piece is done from the ½ way mark toward either end. 'keep your forefinger along the toolrest for maximum tool control. 'Cracked timber? Throw it away!!' 'Always keep the lathe stationary before you move or change anything.' General encouragement: 'Never be afraid to experiment...when you try, you're learning.' The finished porridge stirrer is all of one piece; handle and base, with a gentle concave profile along the handle. A series of discs are formed at the 'business' end to assist with the functioning of the item. The inclusion of a bead or beads is a matter of personal choice. Regarding the actual turning of beads, Joe prefers to use the parting tool rather than the actual beading tool, rolling the tool over on both sides, in convex fashion.



Item 2: Bottle Stopper

The blank is a piece of mahogany, about 3"x2.5". To complete this project you will need a purchased inset piece. The blank is circularised and incorporates an integral 'dowel' upon which the purchased piece will eventually be pressed. Using the skew chisel, Joe turned a shallow concave profile along the handle and a slight domed effect on the top.



Item 3: Egg Cup

First of all, check the size of your egg!!! The blank is rounded and a spigot is turned for chucking. Callipers are used for measuring exterior dimensions. The outer profile is turned, with a bead at top and bottom.

Hollowing: For this stage of the process both gouge and scraper are used. A scraper is generally used as a refining tool when hollowing. Joe makes the point that there is nothing set





in stone about shapes and profiles. Do what YOU want with it. He himself prefers a simple look. (I'm reminded of a debate which arose years ago, from the following question: "How is it that simple designs tend to win competitions?")
picture on left 'egg fits egg cup'

Item 4: Honey Dipper

This item is a first cousin of the porridge stirrer with which we began. The handle section has the familiar concave profile at the dipper end. There is the series of five parallel discs turned by sinking a thinnish parting tool down to a certain depth on a spherical feature. The item is pretty much completed at that stage except for a reference to finish. In this regard Joe emphasised the utter importance where food is involved in using a utensil, of making sure the finish is absolutely foodsafe.

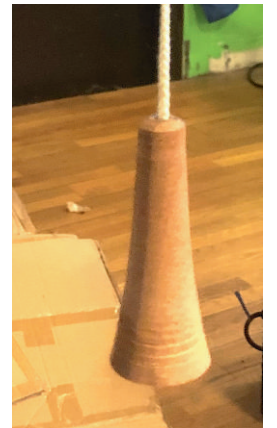


Item 5: String- Pull

Joe mounts a Jacobs chuck and twist-drill in the headstock. The diameter of the drill bit is such as will allow the string to be fed right through the string-pull. Firstly, the two ends of the blank are centre-marked. The hole is opened to just beyond the half way mark. Now the blank is reversed and the hole completed the rest of the way. In such situations it is very important to frequently pull the drill back out to clear the wood dust. Again, the shape of the item



is a matter for the turner to decide. No prizes for guessing what our demonstrator prefers: 'Simplicity' is a good clue! Once the string has been successfully pulled through the hole in the string- pull, it is best to put a tight double knot to reduce the likelihood of a person of impressive strength doing damage!



Item 6: Finial . As the name suggests, a finial is a wholly decorative way of completing any structure to a

sharp point. Turning a finial is an excellent project for gaining experience and skill in spindle turning. Joe is turning quite a small finial with a number of embellishments such as beads, fillets, ogee curves (S shape) and so on. The blank looks like a pen-blank. Firstly it is circularised with a slight concave taper. With assistance from the live centre at the tailstock, the finial must be shaped from the point back toward the headstock, turning the various features as you progress. So there you have it. This morning's demonstration achieved two things: it showed, within a relatively simple context, quite a large selection of turning skills. Also, with his irrepressible humour, in Joe we saw a man who has acquired the life-skill of not taking himself too seriously.

Many thanks Joe
Pacelli O'Rourke

Showcase Ireland 21 - 23 January 2024 RDS, Dublin

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