



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

February 2025



Editor John O'Neill

Please check both your email and the Chapter website (<http://www.dublinwoodturners.com>) regularly for updates.

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Our demonstrator today is Gary Lowe. Originally from Glasgow and now living in Moray, Scotland. He has a background in mechanical engineering and has been turning since the 90s. In 2017 he was accepted onto the register of professional turners. For demos he often wears a kilt which has given him his nickname 'the tartan turner'.

Top right and below, pictures of some of Gary's work.





Dublin Chapter ONE DAY SEMINAR



Leading European Woodturner

First Time in Ireland

Matthias Bachoffen Beer

Sat. May 3rd 2025

**Registration
from 9:00AM.**

**Demonstration
start 9:30AM**

Raffle with Great Prizes



An enjoyable and
inspiring day is assured.

**Cost €50 includes Hot
Lunch, Tea & Coffee**

**Competition (max 3
entries)**

**Dublin Woodturners
Willington Scout Den
6 Templeogue Lodge,
Templeogue, Dublin
D6W AA14**

**To Book contact Treasurer at:
email - vpsscwhelan@gmail.com
Phone - 087 760 4918
Deposit €20 refundable up to 1
week before Seminar.**



1st experienced Barry Dunne



2nd experienced Graham Hunter



3rd experienced Brian Kelly



1st advanced Michael Fay



2nd advanced
Tony Hartnett



3rd
advanced
Michael
Stephens



Claire Godkin

4th advanced Claire Godkin



Charlie Byrne

5th advanced Charlie Byrne



Sean Ryan

6th advanced Sean Ryan



Declan Corrigan

7th advanced Declan Corrigan



Charlie Byrne

1st artistic Charlie Byrne



Michael Fay

2nd artistic Michael Fay



Brian Kelly

3rd artistic Brian Kelly



Michael Stephens

4th artistic Michael Stephens



Declan Corrigan

5th artistic Declan Corrigan

Saturday Demonstration

Demonstrator Louise Wilde
 Subject Flower Turning
 Pictures and notes by John O'Neill

At the outset Lou said that she has been turning for 4 years, starting off inside her house in a spare room. One of her inspirations was Barbar Dills book, 'multi axis turning' and she started turning flowers early on in her turning. She started off with a blank, 60 x 70mm and turned to near round. Next task was to turn it into a sphere, her preferred method is the octagon method, she carefully measured the diameter and marked with a pencil. She used a wide parting tool to remove wood when shaping, in skew peeling mode. She advises that measurements should be precisely done. The ends then tidied up. Then the task was to mark 8 points on the centre of the sphere, for turning of the petals, this was done using the indexing available on the lathe. This marked sphere was placed in a





custom jam chuck, at the tailstock end a rubber bung, 2 pictures below right, such as those used in home wine making was used to hold the sphere. The lugs (gap between the petals) was removed using centre cuts, note we are mostly air turning at this stage. The more accurate you have made the sphere the easier this and further stages will be!

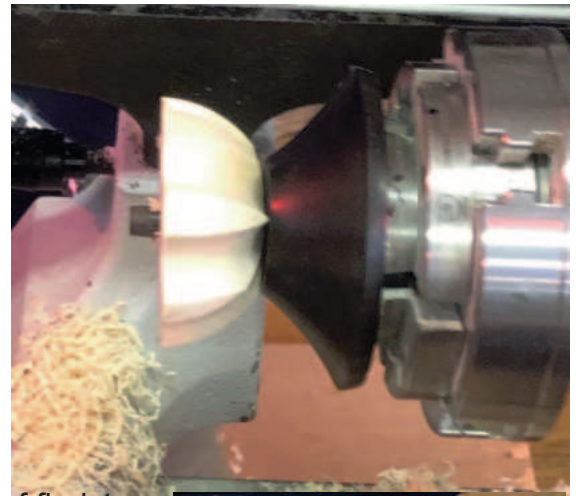
The sphere was lined up for the next cut and job continued until all 8 are completed. the sphere was remounted and hole drilled down the centre, this to be used by the stem.

The sphere is cut in half resulting in two flower forms for next stage of turning.

Then she used a custom jam chuck with centre pillar the same diameter as the 'stem' to be used, pictured below right.

The body of the flower was hollowed out, avoiding the very centre as thats where the mounting point is! She advises that optimum hollowing out is achieved by engaging the cutting edge of the gouge, lift to cut and push slowly across the wood. The flower petals began to appear and Lou fine tuned the flower until she got the petal shape perfect.

A dremel was used to tidy up the grooves and petals. The stem for the flower was turned from along piece of wood using long jaws and bring up the tailstock for stability. Then she turned the back of the flower, hole drilled in this for the stem, completed flower below.



For stems she uses a bit of florists wire.

Tea and bikkie break with a bit of chat done at this stage.

After the break Louise talked about her turning journey. She turns

almost every day and like to focus on non utilitarian items, turns what she likes herself. Her main advice for anyone is that good cuts are essential and make your life a lot easier,



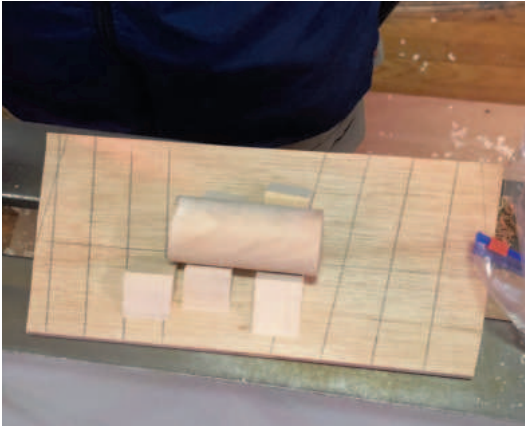
one of Louise's pieces

sharp tools and clean cuts are the key to good finishing.

She presented one of her 'bendy' pieces, pictured left. This involved a lot of precise cutting and reassembly. For the cutting she uses a cutting board to make the required cuts, pictured on next page.

To sand the ends she uses a sanding board with a pillar which sits into the toolrest slot.

For stems she uses a range of dowels. To provide a bended stem use some florists wire. The wood that she prefers to use is maple and she doesn't use wet wood



much.

Her next demo was to actually turn a piece of wet wood into a flower, the tree fell a few weeks ago.

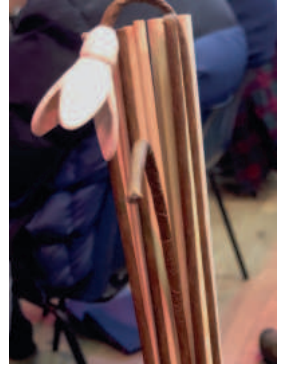
She used a template to make the tenon and mounted it in the chuck. Surface was trimmed with the skew. The flower shape was then turned with the surface turned with the skew with hole to be drilled later for the stem.

The next flower to be turned was one with wafer thin petals, these petals will start off as a thin walled bowl and a saw

saw used later to remove the waste. The pistil of the flower was to be left in the centre. Piece of maple mounted between centres, turned to round and



tenon made on one end, then it was mounted in the chuck and top turned to a rough bowl, not too thin yet. An LED light was used to shine through the walls of the 'bowl', this will be the guide in further thinning of the walls, when the light starts to shine through then we will be getting there, pictured below right. Being carefull not to damage the pistil Lou turned the sides as thin as she dared for the demo, at home she would be braver. The bowl section was all done with the spindle gouge.



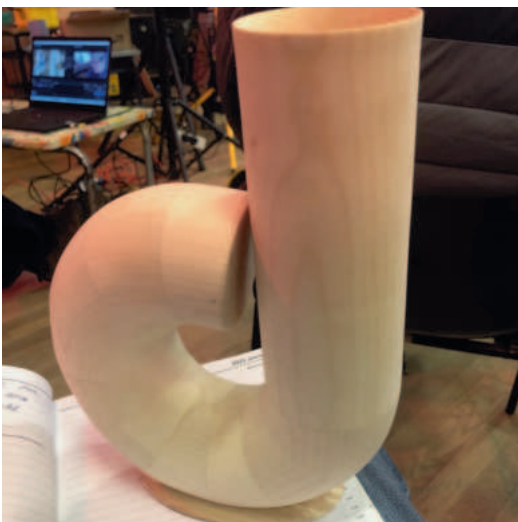
Flower and various stems

And there was one more flower to be turned. Similar to last one, no centre point but a little bubble in centre. Bit of advice from Lou, people tend to look at the inside of the flower so it has to be done better than the outside. Woodturners are the ones who turn it upside down and check out the unseen parts!

The lower surface was marked for later cutting of the petals. She uses a circular template to ensure uniform spacing of the petals.

Thank you Louise, a great morning turning by a master turner.

Some of Louise's pieces, a U shaped piece requiring accurate cutting, a spinning flower and a more complex multilayered flower.



Competition Table

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
Beginners													
Liam Slattery		15											15
													0
Experienced													
Graham Hunter	15	13											28
Brian Kelly	13	11											24
Barry Dunne		15											15
Advanced													
Michael Stephens	11	11											22
John O'Neill	15												15
Michael Fay		15											15
Brendan Phelan	13												13
Tony Hartnett		13											13
Claire Godkin		9											9
Charlie Byrne		7											7
Sean Ryan		6											6
Declan Corrigan		5											5
Artistic													
Charlie Byrne	15	15											30
Michael Stephens	9	9											18
Hugh Nolan	13												13
Michael Fay		13											13
John O'Neill	11												11
Brian Kelly		11											11
Declan Corrigan		7											7

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