



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

January 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 competition winners for 2024, Michael Fay (artistic), Hugh Nolan (advanced), Claire Godkin (experienced) , Brian Kelly (beginners).

December 2024 competition photos,,
pictures by Declan Corrigan



1st experienced Graham Hunter



2nd experienced Brian Kelly



1st advanced John O'Neill



2nd advanced Brendan Phelan



3rd advanced Michael Stephens



1st artistic Charlie Byrne



2nd artistic Hugh Nolan



3rd artistic John O'Neill



4th artistic Michael Stephens

Saturday Demo

Demonstrator: Joe O'Neill

Focus: Pens galore

Notes by Pacelli O'Rourke

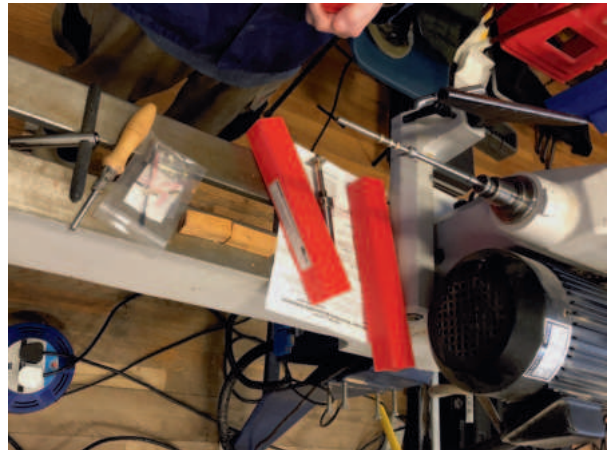
Pictures by John O'Neill

The first thing I noticed on entering the Scout Hall in Templeogue was a 'snazzi' little tartan hat! It was like a Trademark for the afore mentioned Joe who always brings an air of fun to his demos, especially the pre Christmas meeting. He tells me he is going to concentrate on three different styles of pen: double barrelled with twist- action for exposing and protecting the refill; single barrelled refill pen with short body and long-stem, and a long, decorative pen with fountain pen nib, described by function as a calligraphy pen.



Well, Joe is now wired for sound and off we go! He has made a wooden jig for accurate measurement- marking halfway along the pen blank. To the eye it looks somewhat like a mitre block. The wood for this project is black ebony. It is vital that the brass coloured inner sleeve is not protruding at either end of the two half barrels, so he is using a barrel trimmer to be sure that everything fits snugly into place. Now comes the first of many occasions when Joe refers to various cautions, especially for the apprentice-woodturner, namely, be careful when using superglue, that it doesn't leak. There's not a lot of turning in this project, but risks are ever present. From the Health and Safety angle, always wear gloves when glueing. It's not a bad idea to leave a partly

finished item overnight. Not absolutey necessary, but betimes advisable, especially if you're getting hot and bothered. Joe encourages questions. Eg. What is the best glue to use ? Joe's reply: 'Whatever works for you WORKS! Most importantly, Don't rush any part of the process! Joe himself referred to a piece of work which kept sending him down a rabbit hole, " I wanted to tear my hair out!!" Thank Goodness he calmed down before taking such drastic action!



The barrels need to be drilled through with a 7mm

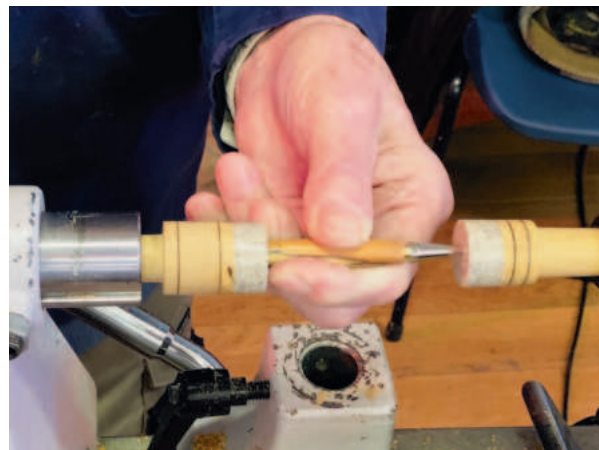


drill-bit. The most important tool at this point is the mandril. This consists of a straight shaft; at one end of which is a morse taper for the drive section at the headstock. The opposite end fits into the live centre. A number of bushings are slid onto the mandril to keep the barrels in line and at the same time separated from each other. The most popular profile of each barrel is convex. There are two reasons for this convex profile: comfort in using the item and a simple aesthetic sense. Right now, Joe utters the strongest

statement yet. Once a mandril gets bent, SCRAP IT! And what should cause it to 'arch'? well, by applying far too much pressure from the tailstock. Remember, the barrels are being turned from rectangular to circularised. All the more reason to be light handed and patient. When you purchase a refill pen kit, it has all the bits and pieces you need. Naturally you are going to need a small roughing out gouge and a skew chisel too.

Pressing the ensemble together

I noted that Joe had two simple pegs of wood, one in the head stock and one in the tail stock. The pressure is applied from the tailstock. Next is to



press the spiral device into place to enable it to function. This is where you can't be too cautious. If you press too hard, the refill point will remain exposed all the time! Next comes the pocket clip. Last of all, is the ring whose place is between the two barrels.

Joe has just noticed a small split, so it's glueing time again. Joe's recommendation is Epoxy Resin. (widely used in the automotive industry for filling gaps.) A question is asked about RPM in penmaking. Joe's view is as follows: work at the highest speed you can

use safely.

The single barrel pen

This item does not require anything as complex as the double barrel refill pen. It has a simple profile reminiscent of the old fashioned biro. Of simple construction it accepts a small refill and could have a



Calligraphy Pen

This pen does not use a refill but a type of fountain nib which is held in a groove at the bottom of the turned part. This type of nib can be somewhat problematic. To start with, it's time to follow once more the warning to be as light handed as possible and take your time. Joe brought some examples and I have to say the body of each pen was nothing short of beautiful. But there's still that pesky nib!



Sanding and finishing

There are many products available for this purpose. Given the frequency with which our Committee organises visits from commercial providers, the most useful advice I can suggest is to have a Q and A with these folk. Our well practised demonstrator's preference for sanding sealer makes a lot of sense too.

As Joe himself might say, the most important thing in hobby-turning is not to have turned a masterpiece, but to have enjoyed making what you have made. Joe, you are demonstrator who spreads practical knowledge and an infectious sense of fun! Truly, a great morning was had by all!

Thank You
Pacelli O'Rourke



Rubbing and polishing compounds that Joe uses to finish his pens



Finished 2 part pen

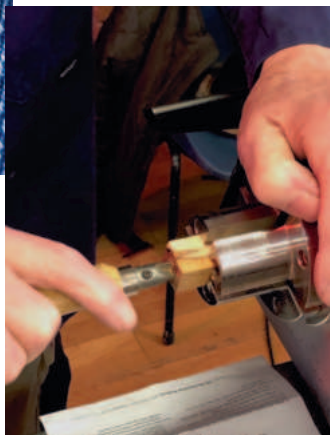
The jig that Joe uses to cut and assemble his celtic knot pens



Turning a celtic knot pen, celtic pattern beginning to take shape

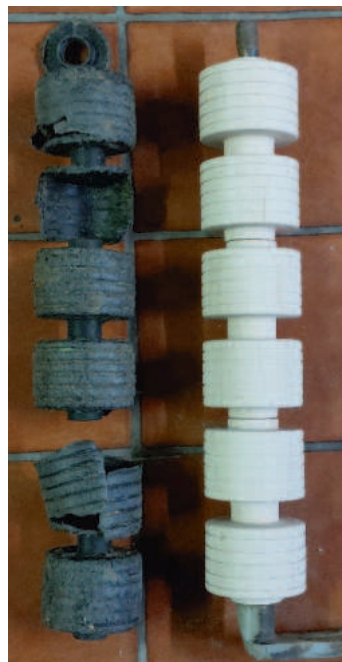


left, 'trimming' the pen blank



The push cut by James Gallagher.

1. I was contacted by a past work colleague recently. He was refurbishing an old push lawnmower that his father had bought second hand over 60 years ago. He was looking to get new rollers made as the previous plastic ones had perished. This was an interesting project, not too difficult, and I was happy to help out. I had some kiln dried maple which was pressed into service, rollers pictured on right.



2. There were 3 double rollers in total which are made to look like 6, pictured above.

After taking some measurements I set to work.

The first task was to drill each piece which fortunately exited the centre point on the other side of the blank piece. A jam chuck with a spigot was used at the headstock and revolving centre at the tailstock to turn each roller. Plastic bushings were installed at both ends of each roller. This is to protect the wood, reduce the friction and hopefully make for a smoother running roller.

Finally, some wood stain and 2 coats of yacht varnish to finish.

I'm writing this in the hope of encouraging other members to tell us about any unusual requests they have been asked to do.

James Gallagher



Competition Table

Beginners	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
													0
													0
Experienced													
Graham Hunter	15												15
Brian Kelly	13												13
													0
Advanced													
John O'Neill	15												15
Brendan Phelan	13												13
Michael Stephens	11												11
Artistic													
Charlie Byrne	15												15
Hugh Nolan	13												13
John O'Neill	11												11
Michael Stephens	9												9



"So far, he's made two things - sawdust and noise."

June 26, 1954

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