



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

July 2026



Editor John O'Neill

Please check both your email and the Chapter website (<http://www.dublinwoodturners.com>) regularly for updates. Videos of our demonstrations can be found on our youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@DublinWoodTurners> .

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Our demonstrator today is Gary Rance. Gary was meant to be our demonstrator last year but unfortunately an illness prevented him, great to see him recovered and back with us.

He has been a woodturner for 50+ years having started at age 16. He has demonstrated in many parts of the world, he is known for his speed when turning and prides himself on accuracy. He turns a wide range of items, examples shown on this page.

He can turn his hand to spindle turning, bowl turning, hollow forms and twists and says that he will make anything from a lace bobbin to a billiard table leg.



June 2026 competition photos,,
pictures by Declan Corrigan



1st beginners John Deaton



1st experienced Brendan O'Looney



1st advanced Charlie Byrne



2nd advanced Michael Fay



3rd advanced Michael Stephens



4th advanced Claire Godkin



5th advanced Barry Dunne



6th advanced
Brian Kelly



1st artistic Claire Godkin



2nd artistic Maria Jennings



3rd artistic Brendan O'Looney



4th artistic Michael Stephens

Competition Table

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
Beginners													0
John Deaton			15	15	15	15	15						75
Liam Slattery					13								13
Peter Consalvez						13							13
Experienced													
Brendan O'Looney		15	15	15	15	15	15						90
Maria Jennings						13							13
Ray Ivers					13								13
Advanced													
Claire Godkin		15	13	15	11	7	9						70
Brian Kelly		13	11	13	13	6	6						62
Charlie Byrne			13			13	15						41
Michael Stephens		11		9	6		11						37
Michael Fay					15		13						28
Barry Dunne				11		9	7						27
Tony Hartney			15										15
Colum Murphy						15							15
Brendan Phelan						11							11
Seán Ryan					9								9
Declan Corrigan					7								7
Artistic													
Charlie Byrne		13	15	13	13	15	7						76
Claire Godkin		7	9	5	11	13	15						60
Michael Stephens	15	5	6	11	7		9						53
Hugh Nolan		15	13	7	9	7							51
Barry Dunne	15					9							24
Tony Hartney		11		6									17
John Deaton			7	9									16
Michael Fay				15									15
Declan Corrigan					15								15
Maria Jennings							13						13
Liam Slattery			11										11
Colum Murphy						11							11
Brendan O'Looney							11						11
Pat McCarthy		9											9
Brian Kelly		6											6

Competition subjects for remainder of 2026

July open
 August natural edge piece
 September bowl of fruit
 October a halloween item
 November AGM no competition
 December a christmas item

Seminar

Demonstrator: Eugene Grimley

Notes by John O'Neill

Pictures sourced from video by Michael Hart

The demonstrator was Eugene Grimley from the crossborder chapter and Ulster woodturning.

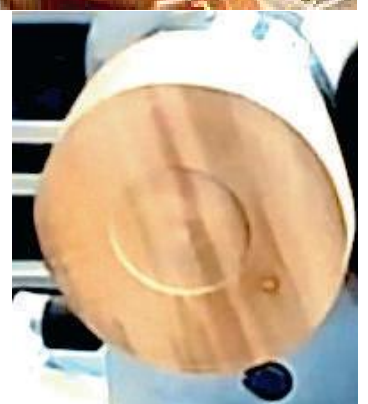
Eugene's demo was to turn a Celtic cross using spindle and cross grain turning, pictured on the right.

He announced that he was going to start at the base and work his way up. A cherry blank mounted between the chuck jaws and live centre for turning.

Tenon quickly turned and blank remounted in the chuck (his chucks are all the Vicmarc brand), pictured below left. This tenon to be used to mount the piece for turning a recess at the other



side. He mentions that the wood was cut about 20 years ago. A 3/8s spindle gouge used to make a recess for mounting later. A bit of sanding to tidy up the surface. He is pleased with the lines or features beginning to appear on the blank, pictured on right, this is the bottom of the base. It was noticed that a few tool marks became evident so back to the gouge to turn them out and a second bite at sanding. Bottom



now complete and blank turned around in the chuck. Fortstener bit used to drill a hole for anchoring main vertical shaft of the cross. Tail stock brought up to stabilise the piece for final shaping, picture left.

Next bit is the centre column. A quick change of chuck and a dead centre clamped in the chuck jaws. The spindle blank (40mm square) has predrilled hole for the cross arms, blank mounted between centres, pictured below right.

Shaping starts on tailstock end (base of column) with the spindle gouge. The depth of the reception hole in the base is 15mm so a measurement mark made on the shaft and a diamond parting tool used to reduce the tenon on column to fit the receiver in the base,



pic below left. Calipers used to finalise this tenon diameter as it needs to be 'right'. He was asked if he'd ever use a spanner for determining the diameter of the tenon, reply was 'its not a proper tool and no', but he laughed!

The rest of the column shaped with a spindle gouge. He needs to turn the sphere on the column, leaving the column intact, this will sit in the centre of the top circle and anchor the two horizontal arms, a metal template used to get the measurements correct, this





metal template pictured on left. A parting tool used to mark the outside of the sphere (picture below right). In answer to a query from the audience Eugene informed us that this process and design was all his own. The sphere is shaped with a spindle gouge, a bit of chatter as we have narrower points in the wood now, so a

gentler touch required, the template used to gauge progress until sphere completed, picture below left.



The blank for the 'ring' of the cross has been preprepared, two pieces of wood stuck together using a paper-glue joint. There are 4 predrilled 15mm holes in this blank and a bit of measuring required to ensure that the pillars diameter is correct, picture below right, a spanner is used to check the size when turning the column, it has to be 15mm and has to be right distance from the sphere to work. When this complete the job of shaping the lower section of the column begins, picture below left.



A bit of sanding to finish the lower section. He says that he make the dimensions up as he goes along, no special sizes just

ones that make it fit ok. He has a home made wooden jaws with 15mm hole drilled which he uses to check the size of the shaft.

The top of the cross is turned with a taper. The ring is turned next. The paper glue blank with predrilled holes is mounted using a screw chuck, picture right. It consists of two pieces of depth 15mm glue together using the paper glue method. The 15mm predrilled holes will clamp around the column and the arms of the cross when ring completed. Blank turned to round first, about 400mm diameter, picture below left.



The predrilled holes can cause a bit of chatter but if the RPM is high enough they don't make any difference. A 'wee' bit of sanding to finish off the outside surface. Then to cut into the inside of the ring, there are several ways to mark it out, ordinary calipers, or odd leg calipers. The odd leg feature the longer leg to

over hang and the cut mark then scribed the shorter leg, picture on right. Parting tool used to make the initial cut, then spindle gouge to remove the waste, switching between these two tools. When the halfway point reached then the blank is turned around and marked with the odd leg calipers. Parting tool and spindle gouge used as



before, picture left. The changing sound from the parting tool signals that the ring was about to be released, a light touch and it works free. A sanding jig with 120, 180 & 240 grit sandpaper used to sand the inside of the ring, pictured below left.



Then one of the horizontal arms to be turned, blank mounted between centres, 34mm square and about 90mm long and quickly turned to round. The required arm is about 45mm long



The shaft needs to fit into a 15mm hole in the centre column and through the ring. Parting tool used to bring the shaft down to 15mm. Shaping quickly done with spindle gouge, picture on left.



The diameter of the ring is 100mm so the length of each arm has to be 50mm+ and match the top of the main column, the diameter of the section inside the ring has to be 15mm, a spanner used to check the diameter, pictured below.

The protruding section of the arm will be 15mm long and shaped with the spindle gouge, a taper along its 15mm length, pictured below left. The 'arm' is parted off and needs to be finished and sanded by being held in the chuck, without leaving marks on the wood. The best way he has found to do this is by using long jaws which are a variation on the cole jaws,



pictured on the right.

Only one arm was done on the day but the other one is turned using the same procedure.

The ring separated next, if you split it along the grain it will split the wood so it should be



split across the grain. A mark is put on the wood so that it can be stuck back exactly as it was.

Assembly is fairly simple and the two halves of the ring can be glued with wood glue and clamped.

Thanks Eugene for a great demonstration.



Pictures from wednesdays demo, left Charlie Byrne spindle turning and above an attentive audience.

Events of interest during July

The transformation of Irish Clay, brings together forty-three of Ireland's leading ceramic artists, representing over a thousand years of combined experience, creativity, and craftsmanship

Venue Design and craft centre Kilkenny, open up to 18th July

From These Hands Art and Craft Fair, Showcasing over fifty of the finest artists and crafts people from all over Ireland .

Venue Tattersalls house Ratoath Co Meath 25th-26th July

Flavours of Fingal County Show, celebrating food, farming, music and community.

Venue Newbridge House and Farm 4th-5th July

Richard West – Exhibition, Award-winning woodturner Richard West, based in Connemara, works primarily with found wood, creating unique sculptural forms and vessels that are guided by the character of the material itself. Richard turns almost all of his wood while it is still green (unseasoned), allowing the natural drying process to warp and deform the finished pieces over time, giving the material its own voice in shaping the final form.

Venue The Leitrim design house Carrick on Shannon 17July-22nd August