

# Dublin Chapter Newsletter

February 2016



### Inside this Issue:

Joe O'Neill shows us how to make Xmas more fragrant.



Christy Glynn carves out a few legs.



Michael Fay boxes us into shape on Wednesday.

### Who was winning 10 years ago?

Pictures of competition winners 10 years ago this month. Recognise any of them? January's answers - page 7.



Advanced



Experienced



Beginners

### Trade Stand:

The Carpentry Store will be at the meeting on Feb 6th



### Upcoming Events

- Next Dublin Chapter meeting - 5th March 2016.
- DWT Annual Seminar, May 7th - 8th.

## Santa Freshens the Air!

Our December demo Santa Claus (aka Joe O'Neill) made his usual visit and showed us how to make a potpourri bowl with lid.

We never had as well dressed a Santa for the December demo as today, thanks to the generous heart of Vinnie Whelan. Now, I couldn't fathom the fiendish grin on Vinnie's face till he informed me at the break that his Santa suit was fleece-lined, and that it would be worth keeping an eye on Joe's reactions as the morning wore on. Well sure enough, Joe's comments on the heat became more frequent till I felt sure he was going to burst a zip or something, to alleviate the Turkish bath effect!! Vinnie, you're an awful man! (hee! hee!)



### The Lid

Joe prefers for this project, to make the lid before the bowl. I think this is because the lid is the more complicated section. He is using boxwood. From this he turns a disc of 75mm dia. This has a recess, sized to suit the jam chuck which he has mounted on a backing disc of MDF, held in the headstock with a small face-plate. He prefers a not-too-tight fit, using kitchen roll to supply the required traction. Having trued up the face and edge, he marks a series of concentric circles. A series of 'trenches' are cut using a modified file tang. These are 5mm wide to a depth of 3.5mm. A parting tool will do this job very well also. It is extremely important to tape the cutting tool clearly so as not to go further than the required depth. Sand with 320 grit.

The item is now removed from the jam chuck and reversed. Double sided tape or hot melt glue are effective mounting options here. Once the face is trued up a diameter line is marked, on the ends of which a depression for the point of the compass is made. These compass points mark the position of the lathe- axis on each side.

This of course will be off-centre turning. On each side a series of partial, concentric, equidistant circumferences are marked. The largest of these are just short of the centre point of the lid. Careful calculation is required to ascertain exactly what depth these grooves need to be cut to, so as to break through without damaging the grooves on the reverse side. The method of cutting is as before. The effect of these circular grooves positioned opposite each other, is to create a lid with curved vents to facilitate the functioning of the potpourri bowl.

#### The Bowl



Joe is using walnut for this section. The blank, about 150mm in dia. is mounted on a small screw chuck. The face and edge are trued up and a spigot formed, including some decorative beads made with a small spindle gouge. Using mainly a pull-cut, Joe forms a pleasant curve, flowing from bottom to side. A slight dishing enhances the stability of the item in use. The piece is now reversed. The diameter and thickness of the lid is carefully checked, and this measurement registered on the bowl-top prior to forming a shoulder which will support it when in position. It is a good idea to mark the depth

on the edge. Making sure to leave the shoulder intact, a curved and undercut bowl area is created. (Joe avoids sanding this morning for health and safety reasons). Any desired refinement of form can be done at this point. Joe cuts a couple of decorative beads around the mouth of the bowl.

Now a handful of scented potpourri is thrown in and the lid inserted. Time to enjoy the fragrance! (By the way, Joe swears he has lost at least three pounds since the start of the demo!)

Joe, we wouldn't be without you!

Pacelli O'Rourke

#### **A Request from the Chapter Committee - Do you have a coin jar?**

That is a jar/bottle or some other vessel that you throw your copper coins into.

The Committee is asking that periodically you bring them in to donate to the Alzheimer's Society.

Thanks.



#### **The January 2016 Demo - Christy Glynn carves up a few legs.**

I knew that describing Christy Glynn's demo would not be easy - scribing this type of thing almost needs a practice run.

What Christy gave us was a wonderfully practical demonstration that showed off his range of woodcarving skills, learned over a career spanning seventy years (he was at the bench by seven years of age). It was liberally sprinkled with stories and remembrances that did not always reflect an easy life, but he is still smiling.

Christy started by announcing that he would show us how to carve a simple twist on a pillar that you might find as the leg of a pedestal table. He quickly trued up his blank of about 3ft x 4", with a series of beads and coves made deftly at the top and bottom, leaving a plain cylinder midway down the pillar, which was to receive the twist.

He marked out the twists on the pillar using just a pencil. It was done with comments such as "It's simple . . . you quarter the pillar . . . draw a line here . . . draw three lines round the piece . . . . It doesn't have to be precise." He seemed to know what he was doing.



Replacing the lathe with a carver's clamp mounted on a portable workbench, work commenced on the twists. Using a carver's vee chisel and a series of carpenter's flat chisels, he proceeded to shape the twists, reversing the piece now-and-then to accommodate the change of grain. He described carving a twist as "simple" - he could watch TV while working.

While the pillar was passed around for inspection, Christy described the second thread of his demo - he was to carve a copy of an elaborate leg (of what I am not sure). The carvings on the leg had a lion theme overall - a head at the top, a clawed foot at the bottom and a ruffled chest around the middle which was emphasized by being bowed at the back. His first step was to stand the original against his blank and mark significant points from the original to the blank. This was done in a trice with a few cryptic free-hand pencil marks. The carving began with some of the detail on the chest, then switching to the feet - whatever took his fancy. As he said, "I don't have a system, I just pare away, removing wood bit-by-bit, and look at the original now and then". Sounds simple! I'm sure it isn't.

The lion-leg was passed around and in the meantime work on the twist was resumed. Asked why he preferred to carve by using the flat of his hand rather than swinging a mallet, he said the mallet was too slow. This seems to fit with the general style of working, growing up, where his mother (the task-master in the family business) decreed that completing a claw-foot on four table legs should take no more than 20 minutes.



Mike Sims.

Towards the end of his demo he talked around a series of enlarged pictures of his family and work – snaps of his mother and father, some plaques, chairs, stair spindles and banisters; and extensive carvings for Galway Cathedral. An impressive body of work!

Christy did some more work on both demo pieces, before being beaten by the clock. Still, he had done enough to give us a glimpse into his vast repertoire of skills, and also into his working life of over 60 years. You're a great character Christy. Thanks.

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### A Box & Lid on Wednesday.

Michael Fay was the demonstrator at the Wednesday meeting in January. He took us down a well-trodden path - the box with lid - but showed why his pieces win so many competitions.

Before starting his demo Michael reviewed the tool-sharpening setup that he had brought along. The grinder was quite ordinary, but it featured a CBN (Cubic Boron Nitride) grinding wheel that was fitted to it. The CBN wheel is more expensive than conventional wheels, but it lasts longer, doesn't clog (with some caveats), does not get smaller with use, and generates low heat when sharpening. He also had a series of chisel-rests that fitted into an attachment on the grinder. Each chisel-rest was configured for a different chisel

in such a way as to reduce sharpening time and ensure that the same angle was ground at each sharpening without any readjustment.

He started his demo by announcing that his box would be unfinished, that is, not oiled or waxed. He joked that by announcing this, whatever stage he had got to by the end of his allotted time, the piece was actually finished.



Michael firstly mounted a piece of pear between centres and turned it true. The dimensions were not given, but it was to be an average size box about 8 – 9 cm high, including the lid, when finished. Spigots were turned at both ends,



which were just big enough to subsequently fit the step-jaws of his Vicmarc chuck. After a quick review of the features on the wood and a decision as to which end to use for the top and bottom, Michael pencilled the relevant dimensions – one third for the top, against two thirds for the bottom. He then mounted the trued-up blank in his chuck supported by a live centre and parted off, leaving the top held by the chuck.

The lid was then hollowed leaving a 3 – 4 mm wall thickness. The lid was to be conical, and the hollowing was done by first “drilling” to depth with a small spindle gouge; then hollowing from the centre outward; then cleaning the inner surfaces (side and bottom) with a square-ended scraper. The lid was put aside and the bottom mounted by its spigot.

The outer end of the bottom blank was trued across its face, and a step made on the outer surface of what would become the top. This step, when finished, would fit upward into the lid. This fit should be tight, such that the overall box could later be turned with the lid held in place by friction alone in order to get an overall flowing outside shape.

At this point Michael explained that when wood is hollowed to this degree, it may change shape. He suggested that boxes should be hollowed and then left aside for a while, maybe taken into the house overnight where it is warmer. This ensures that when the final fit is made, you will be working with pieces of wood that are as stable as possible. The point that you do this is just before you make the final tight fit.

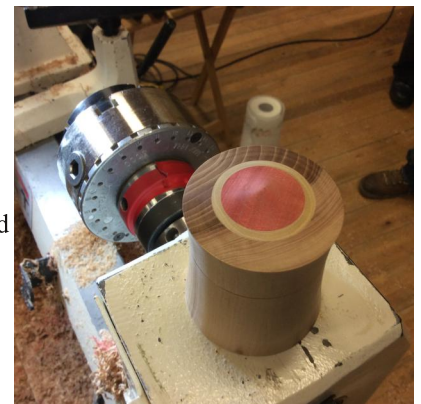
Michael was unable to do this given the time constraints, so he turned the best fit that he could make at the time, using callipers to transfer relevant measurements from the lid to the bottom.

He then announced that he would make an elderberry insert for the top of the lid. He explained that he often used ready-made wooden Morse-taper jigs that would jam into the headstock drive. These jigs are disposable and another piece of wood could be glued to them to be worked on. Thus was the piece of elderberry super-glued onto such a jig that Michael had prepared earlier. He turned the piece by truing

the end and turning it down to a diameter suitable to be inserted into the box lid. The jig was then removed from the headstock; the Vicmarc reinstated; and the lid was held lightly in the step-jaws by its bottom rim. Any marks were not a problem as a final cut would be made on the assembled box later. Michael then removed material from the lid in order to accommodate the elderberry insert. When the fit was acceptable the insert was glued in place – still on the Morse-taper jig and squeezed by a live centre in the tailstock. The glue used was Titebond.

After a few minutes, and satisfied that the glue had cured sufficiently, he remounted the entire assemble box, including Morse-taper jig, in the chuck, held by the bottom spigot. He then proceeded to turn the final outside shape. In this case it was slightly concave with the waist at the point that the lid joined the box. He shaped the top to an obtuse cone to the extent that the Morse-taper jig was parted off.

Michael still wanted to work on the top of the lid, but earlier, fitting the lid to the bottom had not gone completely according to plan and the lid was not a good friction fit on the



bottom. So, he showed us how to use a piece of kitchen paper, applied across the join, to improve the fit. Satisfied that it would hold, he was then able to make fine cuts on the insert and the other parts of the lid. With the shape complete and having sanded the lid, he removed it, sanded the bottom and parted it off from its spigot.

He then showed us one final trick to eliminate any roughness on the base of the bottom caused by the parting. Using what remained in the chuck, he turned a spigot which could be used as a jamb-chuck to hold the bottom by its opening. This done, he was then able to make the fine cuts to complete the base.

Finally, he suggested wiping sanded piece with methylated sprits (presumably, before removing from the chuck). It dries quickly and leaves no trace, but it gives you an idea of what the wood will look like when finished. It may influence your choice of final finish.

It was an interesting demo that gave us an insight into Michael’s skills with plenty of advice along the way, and his audience showed their appreciation on the day.

Mike Sims.

## Demonstrators 2016

### Saturday

February - Michael Fay	August - tbc
March - David O'Neill	September - tbc
April - Pete Lyons	October - tbc
May - Jason Breach	November - tbc
June - tbc	December - Joe O'Neill
July - Kriston Doherty	

### Wednesday

February - Peter Mulvaney	August - Sean McMurrow
March - Cecil Barron	September - Tony Hartney
April - Noel White	October - Vincent Whelan
May - Paul Murtagh	November - J. Wigham
June - Willie Reville	December - Joe O'Neill
July - Pat Walsh	

**Useful Links** - Interesting and useful items related to wood.



### Amazing Wood Sculptures of Mechanical Items

Mike Rea makes amazing wooden sculptures of items that recreate the form and absolutely none of the function, but that doesn't stop them from being wonderful pieces to look at. Check them out at: -.

<http://www.instructables.com/community/Amazing-Wood-Sculptures-of-Mechanical-Items/>



### January Competition Entrants



## Competitions 2016

<i>JAN - Unfinished Item</i>	<i>MAY - Open</i>	<i>SEP - Clock</i>
<i>FEB - Box with Lid</i>	<i>JUN - Bowl</i>	<i>OCT - Laminated/Seg'd</i>
<i>MAR - Platter</i>	<i>JUL - Lamp</i>	<i>NOV - AGM</i>
<i>APR - Flower Pot Stand</i>	<i>AUG - Out of 60x60x200</i>	<i>DEC - Christmas Item</i>

### Chapter Challenge - 2016

Hopefully, by now you are aware that the Chapter Challenge this year is a chess set. The committee has asked all attendees at the February meeting to make and bring along the easiest piece on the board to make - the pawn. There will be a fabulous prize for the winning piece, so good luck. If you want to participate in the Challenge, make yourself known to a member of the committee.



### January Competition Winners



Martin Boyle - Exp



Jack Wright - Beg



Bob Finley - Adv.



Michael Fay - Art

# Overall Competition Results



## Competition 2016.

### Advanced

NAME	deceml	january	februar	march	april	may	june	july	august	septem	octobe	TOTAL POINTS
Bob Finley	0	15										15
Cecil Barron	0	13										13
Seamus Oreilly	0	11										11
Paddy Finn	0	9										9
Henry East			7									7
Frank McCarthy			6									6
Paul Murtagh			5									5
Sean Ryan			5									5

### EXPERIENCED

NAME	DECEM	JANUA	FEBUA	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUS	SEPTEM	OCTOB	NOVEMBER	
Martin Boyle	15	15											30
Willie Edwards	13												13
Kevin McCormack	11	7											18
Frank Maguire		13											13
John Earls		11											11
George Madden		9											9

### BEGINNERS

NAME	DECEM	JANUA	FEBUA	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUS	SEPTEM	OCTOB	NOVEMBER	
Ruth Wallace	15												15
Jack Wright		15											15
Michael Colclough		13											13

### ARTISTIC.

NAME	DECEM	JANUA	FEBUA	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUS	SEPTEM	OCTOB	NOVEMBER	
Michael Fay	15	15											30
Cecil Barron	13	13											26
Martin Boyle	11	7											18
Seamus Oreilly	9	6											15
Tom Leonard	7												
Kevin McCormack	6												
Paul Murtagh	5	9											14
George Madden		11											11
Bob Finley		5											5

Who were the winners 10 years ago - January 2006?



Colm Hyland - adv



Richard Murphy - exp



Richard Hilliard - beg

## **Donal Browne - RIP.**

Donal passed away very quickly and peacefully late on Sunday 17th January 2016 at the age of 89.

Donal was a member of the Dublin Chapter for many years and was a regular at our meetings when in Terenure College and also when we moved to the scout hall in Willington. He attended many woodturning seminars even when they were held in Cork.

Donal was born and reared in Baltimore, West Cork where he apprenticed as a shipwright and he went on to work as a boat builder in Wicklow, Dublin port and Malahide.

At the age of 27 Donal contracted polio and even though this confined him to a wheelchair he had no intention of letting disability get in his way. All his life he took great care of his cars, which, with modification meant he was mobile and could pursue his many interests.

His woodturning became his hobby when he retired and made adjustments so he could use the lathe. The lathe and all the other equipment in his workshop were in the right place for him to use. He spent many a happy hour making beautiful wood turned items as gifts for his family and friends.

When judging competition pieces he gave it fair and square, he was honest and had no airs or graces about him. He loved the fact that contacts through the Guild brought many new friends into both his and his wife's lives. He will be sadly missed.

Condolences to his wife Pat and family.