



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

September 2021



As you are probably aware, due to the outbreak of Covid-19 all meetings of the Dublin Woodturners Chapter have been cancelled until further notice.

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

Inside this issue:

August Competition Results	P. 1
Editor's Appeal	P. 8
Conkers Live	P. 9
In Memory Of	P. 11
Wizardry in Wood	P. 12

Another month has passed and things are beginning to brighten up. Hopefully we will all be back together again soon. In the meantime it's important to keep in contact and keep turning. The online competitions help us to keep focused and to show some of our work.

The next online competition will close on the 11th of September. As of yet I have no judge lined up so if you are not entering yourself then email me and volunteer.

The next Conkers Live will be on the 30th September. The demonstrator has yet to be announced. I'll let you know by email beforehand.

Brendan

It's me again this month. Possibly a bad time of year for volunteers. Anyway, I'm happy to do this at any time. I do wish however that Dublin Chapter members would make the job more difficult by submitting more entries.

Only two entries in the beginners section. John O'Neill shows us a small bowl laminated from several pieces of wood. No description is provided so one can only guess what the woods used are. It has a rim that "falls away" and that adds a bit of interest. John only provided one photo and I would like to have seen a side view and a view of the underside.

Renee Kennedy's entry is a pen made with two unspecified woods. The contrasts between the colours of the two woods and the elements of the pen kit make this a very attractive piece.

It is difficult to decide a preference between these two pieces. I would have liked a couple more images of one of the entries, so I am going to opt for Renee Kennedy's pen for first.

August competition Results:

Our guest judge this month was Pat Walsh.



Renee Kennedy

There are only 4 entries in the experienced section this month.

I'll start with Brendan Kelly's entry. I'm not sure what to call it, but it is an interesting piece. I was puzzled as to how all the pieces were attached, and it was only on zooming on the images I seen that they were suspended. It is an eye-catching piece and the spalting in the wood adds even more interest.

Next, we have a bowl in spalted beech from Sean Earls. In his notes Sean says the wood was so spalted and severely damaged that using any of the turning tools was like turning with a kango hammer. It is a lovely attractive piece of wood and was certainly worth the effort to use. It has an attractive shape and the rounded rim adds interest.

A small platter is Vinnie Whelan's entry this month. Vinnie thinks it is Birch, but from the images it looks like Beech to me. Both images supplied are overhead so one cannot see the side view shape. For interest a small Teak insert has been added as contrast. A good-looking piece and it would serve well as a wall hanging or a centrepiece.

Finally, Pat Costigan submits a female form. It looks to be in Beech and is about seven and a half inches tall. It looks to be well finished and seems to invite handling – no innuendo intended or to be inferred!!!.



Renee Kennedy



John Oneill



Brendan Kelly

I have to give a preference for a first – a difficult decision as its like comparing apples and oranges. I am kind of torn between Sean Earl's bowl and Brendan Kelly's interesting piece. Sean's for the effort involved in tackling such an obviously difficult piece of wood and Brendan's for the originality and interest of the piece. As I have done previously, I have opted for the cowards' way out and declare Sean Earls bowl and Brendan's piece joint first.



Sean Earls



We have several entries in the advanced section with a wide variety and interest. Brendan Phelan enters a smartphone amplifier. The wood is not specified. It is perched on two front legs that give it a look reminiscent of a sitting dog. As always with Brendan's pieces it looks to be well turned and finished.

Cecil Barron has two entries this month. First up he is exposing his romantic side with a wedding goblet in Lilac. It seems to be turned and shaped to best display the lovely colour and contrast in the wood and the result is a beautiful piece. Zooming in on the image indicates that the captive rings have a good shape and the finish overall is top class.

The second entry from Cecil is a Small Ash Bowl. It seems to be charred on the outside to accentuate and highlight the grain pattern. It is difficult to be certain, but there seems to have been some sort of treatment to the inside also.



Vinny Whelan



Pat Costigan



Brendan Phelan



Cecil Barron



Joe O Neill

Joe O'Neill has entered his version of American turner Keith Goshell's manhole cover box. Pressing the edge of the cover opens the box. The woods are not specified. It's an interesting looking piece and I would have liked to see images of the inside of the box and possibly the underside of the lid.

In the week of the All Ireland Hurling Final, Michael Fay's entry is very apt. His Sliotar is made from Red Deal, and my mind boggles as to how this was made. The finish here is flawless and adds to the conundrum of how – turned, carved or both. The finish seems nearly too good to have been carved. This is definitely a piece for a demonstration by Michael when we eventually resume chapter meetings.



Michael Fay

Paddy Finn submits a Vase with Tulips. The tulips are branchwood from a Red Robin tree and the vase is Cherry. Together they are an attractive ensemble particularly with the contrast of the bark on the tulips.



Paddy Finn

Tommy Hartnett is getting festive in advance of Christmas. He apologises that it might be a bit early, but I have been making snowmen tealights and Christmas trees now for several weeks – so it's never too early. The two pieces are attractive and contrasting in that one is just wood, while the other is coloured and hides the wood. Both look to be finished well and will I'm sure look great hung on or around the tree at Christmas.

Finally, a dyed sycamore vase is Tony Hartney's entry. As anyone who has dyed wood knows, quality of finish on the wood is imperative as any blemish will be magnified and highlighted when the dye is put on. Zooming closely on this piece shows that the finish is impeccable and the colour really adds to the attractiveness of the piece. On top of all that shape is appealing with the narrow base accentuated by the slight return curve.

Where do I start with these in order to come up with a preference or a first place? There are several candidates and I have revisited these a bit closer. In the end I have opted for joint first with Michael Fay's Sliotar and Tony Hartney's coloured Vase sharing the spoils. To explain somewhat – the Sliotar for the apparent complexity and quality of the piece, and the coloured vase for the appealing shape and the obvious quality of the turning and finishing.



Tommy Hartnett



Tony Hartney



Brendan Kelly



In the artistic section let's start with Brendan Kelly's entry. A small box (5 inches tall) made from Beech. The beads in the centre have been coloured with blue, red and green water-based dye and inside the box is a small sphere which he had made some time ago and didn't know what to do with it. It really is an attractive piece, and unusual shape but as a complete piece it works.

Cecil Barron again has two entries. First are some ducks in a variety of woods. These are well finished and attractive little creatures. The second entry is most unusual in that it



contains no wood at all – it is made of copper and brass and is a striking piece. As this is the Artistic section, I presume this is permissible.

Colum Murphy's piece is a large Yew Bowl with Bark Inclusion. Colum has provided plenty of pictures of the piece from all angles. It is a beautiful piece of wood and Colum certainly has done it justice. This is pure woodturning showing the wood in its full glory. Colum has done a great job in selecting the shape of the bowl to show the features of the wood, and as well as that the finish looks almost impeccable.

Cecil Barron



Colum Murphy

Tommy Hartnett gives us a miniature Beech Bowl, about 4 inches in diameter with a natural edge. It is a nice little piece.

Tony Hartney submits a striking looking bowl made from plywood segments – eighteen segments per ring. Segments have been coloured to make a very pleasing design on the piece. I presume the segments were coloured before assembly. This piece really impresses me in several areas, its shape, its colouring and the quality of the finish – anyone who has turned ply knows the problems it poses.

Again, in this section I have opted for a joint first. If I was able to see the pieces in the flesh, I probably would have been able to pick a single piece, but judging from images complicates the process. I have opted for the pieces from Colum Murphy and Tony Hartnett. Colum's Yew bowl for the woodturning and exceptional piece created from a piece of wood that many would have rejected, and Tony's ply Bowl for its striking appearance and quality of workmanship.



Tommy Hartnett



Tony Hartney

In conclusion.

Again, this month I would encourage more members to enter pieces – make the job of judging more difficult. Thanks again to Brendan for all the work he is doing to keep the chapter active and members involved. Hopefully we will all see each other in person in the not-too-distant future.

Pat

Who were the winners of the monthly competition ten years ago?
Answers on page 10.



Advanced



Experienced



Beginners



Artistic

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Editor's Appeal

WE NEED YOU!



Many thanks to John O Neill for contributing an article to this month's newsletter

I still need articles for the newsletter. With no meetings or demos it's getting difficult to find interesting content.

So over the lock down can some of you go on Google and research a topic of interest to wood turners.

I don't expect the Gettysburg address, just a couple of paragraphs will do. I need your support.

Conkers Live with Darran Breeze.

Tonight Darren showed us how to make his famous signature sunrise bowl.



He started by mounting a 300mm piece of sycamore onto a screw chuck. He moved up the tail stock and faced off the front with a long ground spindle gouge before rounding off the edge. Once the blank was running true he started to roughly shape the bottom of the bowl. As well as getting the general shape required it also helps to reduce the weight of the piece.



Removing the tail stock Darren proceeded to cut a 50mm recess at the base and finish the final shaping with a light touch from a negative rake scraper. A light power sanding through the grits and the application of some finishing oil completes the underside of the bowl.



Reversing the piece onto a chuck Darren faced off the front and marked out where the central small bowl will be. He cut a convex shape from the edge of the piece to where the bowl line was drawn. Again he finished off with a negative rake scraper followed by power sanding through the grits.





Moving on to the sun burst design Darren started with the actual Sun which he placed at the outer edge of the piece. This was done by applying some masking tape of the appropriate shape and colouring in the centre with red spirit dye. Once the dye had dried Darren covered up the Sun with a circular piece of masking tape then using a mouth blown artist spray diffuser he applied a slight spray of yellow, orange and blue spirit dye. After drying the spirit stain with a hair dryer Darren used masking tape to mark out the rays of the Sun.



Using black spray paint Darren completely covered the entire piece then while still wet he quickly removed the masking tape to reveal the finished design.

Next Darren went on to hollow out the centre bowl with a bowl gouge and scraper. To finish off the design he cut two small beads, one at the edge of the bowl and the other at the outer edge of the piece. After some power sanding the piece was sealed with sanding sealer followed by high gloss lacquer.



Many thanks to Darren and Chestnut for another very entertaining demonstration.

These were the winners of the monthly competition in August 2011.



Advanced: Henry East



Experienced: Willie Reville



Beginners: John Sheeran



Artistic: Henry East



In Memory of Matt Maher

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Matt Maher.

Matt was a long standing regular at our meeting and demonstrations and also a member of the Sandyford men's shed. A great conversationalist and a true gentleman he was loved by all who had the pleasure to meet him.

On behalf of all members I wish to extend our condolences to his wife Mary, sons Damien and Gerard and daughter Siobhán.

May he rest in peace.

Wizardry in Wood

ART | BEAUTY | SKILL | MYSTERY

2021

Competitions Call for entries

**Call for entries to
Turners' Company Competitions 2021**

**Wednesday 13th October
to Saturday 16th October 2021**

Carpenters' Hall
1 Throgmorton Ave
London EC2N 2JJ

Timings:
Exhibition open to the public
10am–4pm each day

Tickets:
Early-bird tickets available through Eventbrite



2021

Competitions
Call for entries



Wizardry in Wood

ART | BEAUTY | SKILL | MYSTERY

The largest competitions of contemporary woodturning in Europe.

Be inspired and stretch your boundaries with themed competitions, including the Master's Open – Music.

Be seen Your opportunity to showcase your work to the public, the City and the woodturning community.

Win Over 40 prizes across 13 categories for all levels, including young turners, first-timers up to advanced professionals.

Prizes of up to £1,250 each, as well as tools and trophies.

Sell All submissions can be offered for sale.



Full details and online entry forms from competition section of the Company website:

turnersco.com/turning/turning-competitions-2021

Organised and supported by the Turners' Company with the:

- Association of Woodturners of Great Britain
- Society of Ornamental Turners
- Association of Pole Lathe Turners and Greenwood Workers

Closing date for entry forms:

Monday 4th October 2021

#wizardryinwood



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