Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

October 2024

Editor John O'Neill

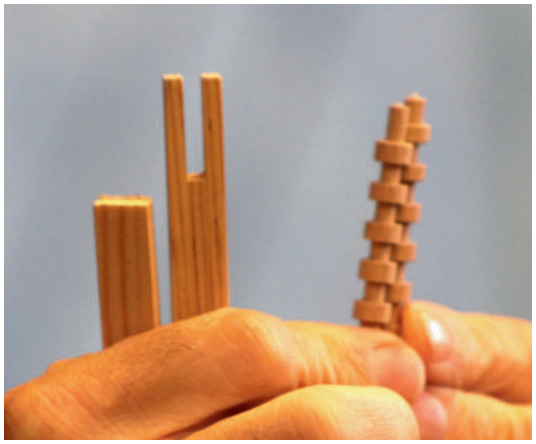
Please check both your email and the Chapter website (http://www.dublinwoodturners.com) regularly for updates.

Contents

Picture right, our September demonstrator James Gallagher

September Saturday demo
Demonstrator: James Gallagher (Dublin Chapter)
Focus: "Part of a piece" involving the creation of spindle mesh.
Notes by Pacelli O'Rourke
Pictures by John O'Neill

As James is about to begin his demonstration I note the callipers in his hand. Clearly, as the title suggests, accuracy and precision will be of the essence, and so it is. Almost the entire affair revolves around spindle turning (ie.between centres). Preparing us for what is to come James reminds us, It's a slow process. " Thankfully, he had brought a finished example of today's project. This was of great assistance in that it provided a context for the twists and turns on the journey to completion. Perhaps the most useful thing first is to give a digest description of the completed item.



The top and bottom are examples of face plate turning with a twist, namely, the squared blanks are skillfully turned, giving the impression of being a fabric , gently rising at the four corners. Between top and bottom is a drum. This is reduced in diameter leaving a rebated rim. This drum holds the spindles, top and bottom. (Today's project will have 42 spindles)creating a wonderful pattern like basket weave! At the top end a dome is fitted at the highest point of which a finial rises allowing the item to be opened and closed. On the four raised bottom corners are four angled lances, complete with matching finials. They are angled away from the body of the item, anchored in the top and bottom pieces. Contd. Page 5

September 2024 competition photos, pictures by Declan Corrigan

1st beginners Brian Kelly

2nd beginners Maria Jennings

3rd beginners Barry Dunne

4th beginners Michael Hart

1st experienced Claire Godkin

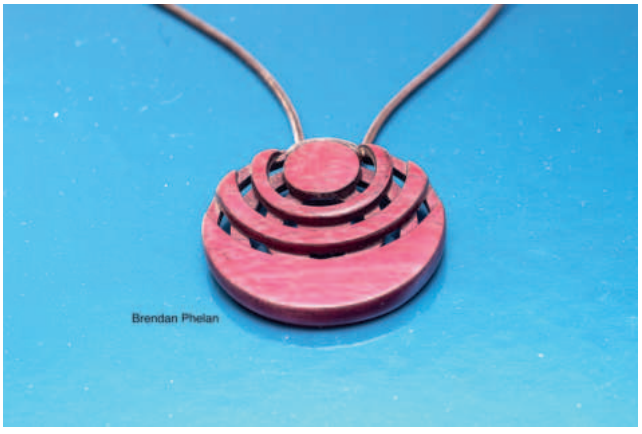
2nd experienced Declan Corrigan

3rd experienced John O'Neill

4th experienced Michael Stephens

1st advanced Michael Fay

2nd advanced Hugh Nolan



3rd advanced Brendan Phelan

4th advanced Tony Hartnett

1st artistic Michael Fay

2nd artistic Barry Dunne

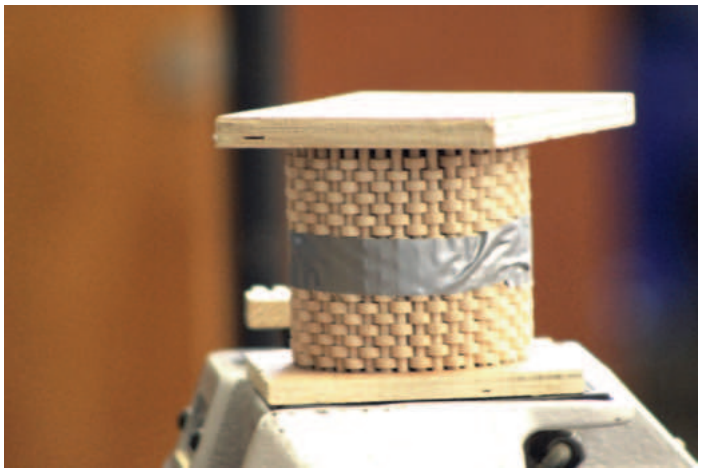
3rd artistic Hugh Nolan

4th artistic John O'Neill

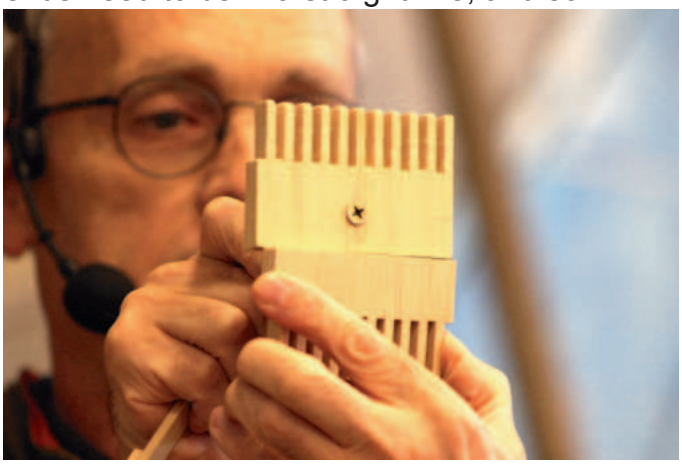
5th artistic Declan Corrigan

James Gallaghers demo cont'd from page 1.

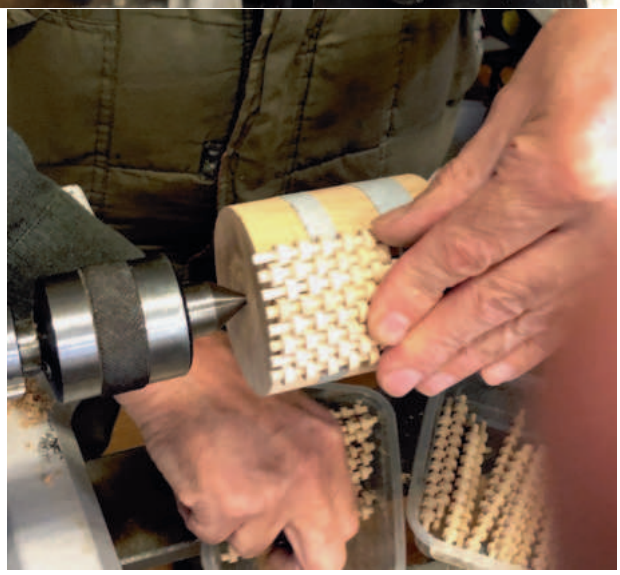
Now, let us retrace our steps, filling in a good deal of the procedures involved in this intricate work. The turner needs to calculate the diameter of the drum and marry that measurement with the diameter of the spindles; no more, no less just right. Further to the relationship of the spindles to each other: the spindles are castellated in such a way as to lock into each other at an oblique angle. The ends need to be in a straight line, and so



formed that when everything is squared off , everything falls into place. James chose to create fillets for his spindle pattern, although he has a home made beading tool. So quite a few options are possible. Our imagination is the limit.



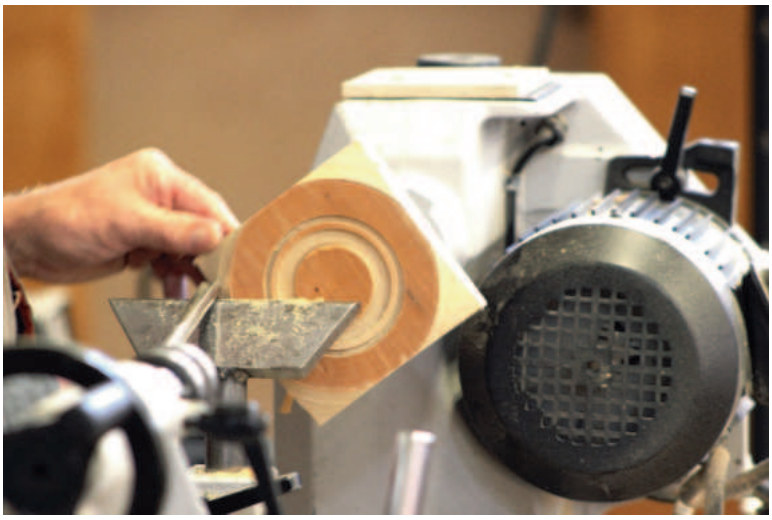
Back to the spindles; firstly they need to be laid out on a flat surface and checked for faults. Next, a length of ductape is pressed onto them. Now they are carefully placed, side by side, one by one on the drum. Once again ductape is applied to keep it all together. I noted that while the work was proceeding, Fairly regularly James would discreetly check how things were going. It strikes me that with this particular item, you could suddenly find the heart palpatating and the air turning blue!



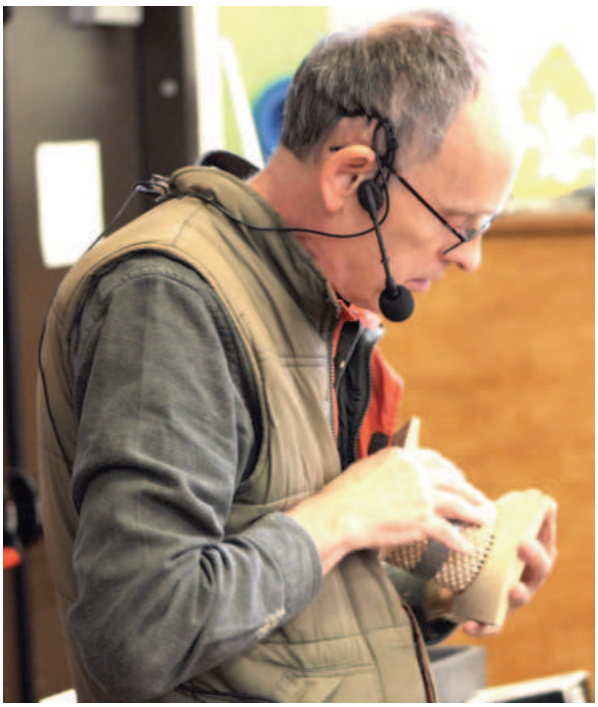
Well James, A lovely item to grace any sideboard, and a powerful challenge for the passionate!
Thank you for the work you put into showing us the ins and outs of turning spindle mesh.

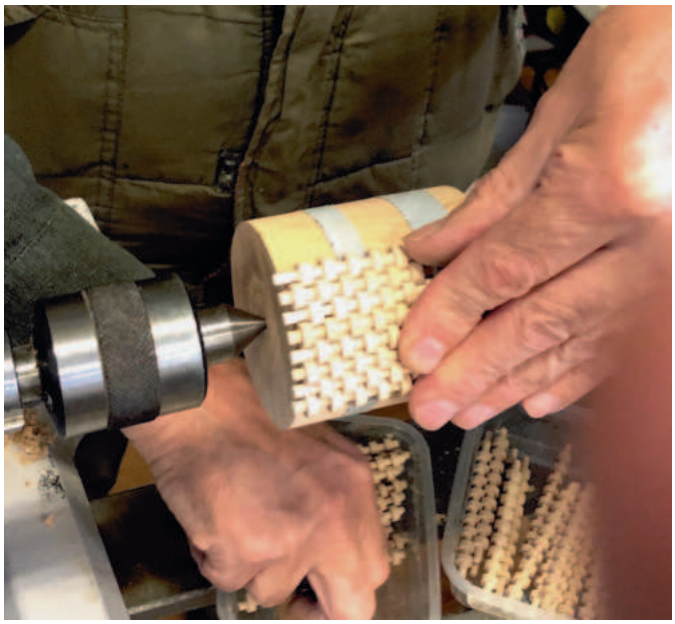
Pacelli O'Rourke

Picture
on right, jig and sanding of the individual shafts.



pictures above , turning the rings and shaping the curve on base and top



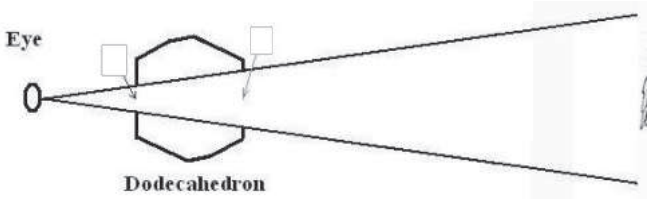


pictures above, assembling the piece

The Roman dodecahedron.
By John O'Neill

A recent trip to the city of Cologne (Colonia in Roman times) included a visit to the Roman museum, many interesting objects on view and one particularly caught my eye. It is called a dodecahedron, an example pictured on the right. Across Europe over 100 examples of the roman dodecahedron have been found. They all follow the same pattern, a 12 sided object made of cast metal (usually bronze), with knobs on the vertices and different size holes on each face varying between 4-11cm in diameter. Some are fairly plain but others are very ornate. They were costly and complex to produce so they must have been valuable objects during Roman.

This production expense suggests that they were prized objects with a special use but no one has been able to conclusively discover how they were used. They were often found with a coin horde so were valued.
Roman manuscripts make no mention of them at all,not a word. Perhaps they were either so common that no one bothered to mention them or so rare that few scholars knew about them!
Each dodechedron is unique and they have all been found in northern Europe with none yet found in Italy.



They may have been a toy, gambling prop in a forgotten game, candlestick holders, measuring device, fortune telling.....
One commonly accepted theory is that they were used as a battlefield measuring device, the large circled hole is on the opposite side to a smaller hole which could be used as a range finder but it hasn't been figured out how, pictured above right. There are many more theories as to what it was used for, but no proven ones. Maybe they were used to check the sizes of various coins, who knows.

Similar dodecahderon devices have been found along the silk road in Asia. In Vietnam digs at the Oc Eo site, the location of a city once on the silk road a very similar device was found. The Romans knew of Oc Eo and the roman geographer Claudius Ptolemy included a reference to it his world map of 150CE.
Was it a Roman invention that was copied in Asia or and Asian device copied by the Romans, ig How would you turn one on a lathe??????

Competition Table

Beginners	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
Barry Dunne			11	15	13	13	15	15	13	11			106
Brian Kelly			13	13	15	15	13	11	11	15			106
Peter Gonsalves			15	11	11	11	11		9				68
Michael Hart		15			9			9		9			42
Maria Jennings	15							13	15	13			56
Experienced													
Declan Corrigan	13	13	11	15	9	9	7	15	13	13			118
Claire Godkin	7	9	13	11	13	15	11	13	9	15			116
John O'Neill	11		15	13	11	13	15	11	11	11			111
Michael Stephens	9	15		9	15	11	9	9	15	9			101
Graham Hunter	15						13						28
Irene Christie		11	9										20
Ray Ivers		7											7
Advanced													
Hugh Nolan	11	13	15	11	15	5	11	15	15	13			124
Brendan Phelan	6	15	13	9	9	15	13	9	13	11			113
Michael Fay	15			15			15	13		15			73
Charlie Byrne				13	11	9		11	11				55
Sean Ryan	13				13	6	7						39
Tony Hartney	5	11	11				9			9			45
Frank Gallagher	5		9										14
Cecil Barron				7		7							14
Pat Walsh						13							13
Sheamus McKeefry						11							11
John Duff	9												9
Tommy Hartnett	7												7
Vincent Whelan				6									6
Graham Brislane						5							5
Frank Maguire						5							5
Artistic													
Michael Fay	15	15	13	15	15	13	15	15	15	15			146
Charlie Byrne	13	13	11	13	11	9	13		13				96
Hugh Nolan	9	9	15	5	5			13	9	11			76
Claire Godkin	6	7	6	5	5	5	6	11	6				57
John O'Neill	5			11	5		11	9	7	9			57
Cecil Barron	11	11		9			7		11				49
Barry Dunne			5	5	13	6	9			13			51
Michael Stephens	7	6	7		9								29
Frank Gallagher	5	5	9				5						24
Brian Kelly				6	6	7	5						24
Tony Hartney	5				7	11							23
Pat Walsh						15							15
Declan Corrigan	5			5						7			17
Dermot Dooley				7									7
Michael Jordan	5												5
Ray Ivers		5											5
Mark Daly				5									5
Peter Gonsalves							5						5

Chapter officers

President	Joe	McLoughlin	0872610803	
Chairman	Pat	Walsh		DWT.Chair@gmail.com
Secretary	Tommy	Hartnett	0868284178	DWT.Secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Vincent	Whelan	0877604918	DWT.Treasurer@gmail.com
Membership	Mark	Daly	0879484051	DWT.Membership@gmail.com
Competitions	Charlie	Byrne		DWT.Competitions@gmail.com
Exhibitions	Paul	Murtagh	0871331292	
Audio Visual	Tony	Hartney		
Wednesday Demos	Brendan Phelan			
Newsletter/WebSite	John	O'Neill		webmaster@dublinwoodturners.com
Books & Video				