



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

July 2025



Editor John O'Neill

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

Contents	
June competition	P2
Competition leader board	P5
Saturdays demo	P6
Tannins	P8

below left, selection of turnings by David O'Neill and below right Robert O'Connor with one of his harps.



right,
Gary
Rance



Gary Rance was to be our demonstrator for today. Unfortunately Gary is sick and is unable to attend, we wish him a speedy recovery.

Our demonstrators for today will now be Robert O'Connor and David O'Neil, we're grateful that both have agreed to step in at short notice.

David is from county Antrim and has been turning since 1986. David likes both production turning and the more artistic side of things. Robert has turned for us on many occasions and is an accomplished turner. He is also known for his harps and flutes.

PS. Our demonstration videos are now on youtube, they can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@DublinWoodTurners>



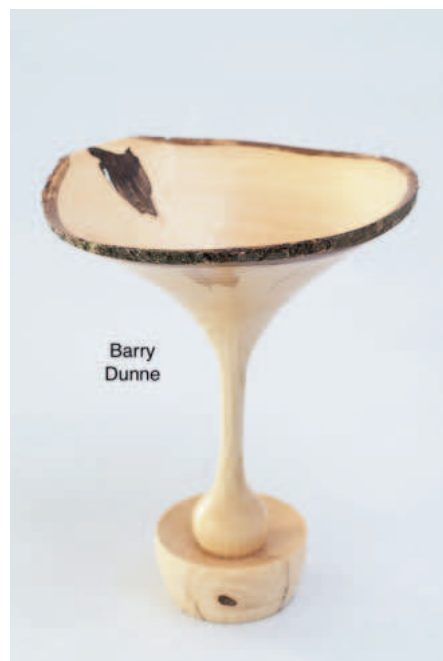
1st beginners Brendan O'Looney



2nd beginners Michael Harte



1st experienced Brian Kelly



2nd experienced Barry Dunne



1st advanced Tony Hartney



2nd advanced David Sweeney



3rd advanced Declan Corrigan



4th advanced Hugh Nolan



5th advanced Claire Godkin



1st artistic Michael Fay



Charlie Byrne
2nd artistic Charlie Byrne



3rd artistic
Brian
Kelly

Brian Kelly



Hugh Nolan

4th artistic Hugh Nolan



Claire
Godkin

5th artistic
Claire
Godkin

Competition Table

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Totals
Beginners													
Brendan O'Looney				15	15	15	15						60
Liam Slattery		15											15
Michael Harte							13						13
Experienced													
Brian Kelly	13	11	15	13	15	13	15						95
Graham Hunter	15	13	11	15	13	11							78
Barry Dunne		15	13	11		15	13						67
Advanced													
Tony Hartney		13	11	11	15	9	15						74
Michael Stephens	11	11	7	15	11	7							62
Michael Fay		15	13			15							43
Claire Godkin		9	9		9	6	7						40
Charlie Byrne		7	15		13								35
John O'Neill	15				7								22
David Sweeney						9	13						22
Hugh Nolan						11	9						20
Sean Ryan		6		13									19
Declan Corrigan		5					11						16
Colum Murphy						15							15
Brendan Phelan	13												13
Artistic													
Charlie Byrne	15	15	11	15	11	11	13						91
Michael Fay		13	13	13	15	15	15						84
Brian Kelly		11	7	11	13	6	11						59
Michael Stephens	9	9	5			7							30
Colm Murphy			15			13							28
Hugh Nolan	13						9						22
Declan Corrigan		7	9										16
Graham Hunter			5		9								14
Claire Godkin			6				7						13
John O'Neill	11												11
David Sweeney						11							11
Barry Dunne				9									9
Tony Hartney				7									7

Competition subjects for remainder of 2025

August cup, saucer and spoon
 September honey pot and honey dipper
 October cocktail stick holder
 November tapas board with handle plus small bowls,
 beginners 2 bowls
 experienced and advanced 4 bowls
 December a christmas scene

Seminar demo
Saturday 3rd May 2025
Demonstrator Pat horgan (Limerick chapter)
Notes by Pacelli O'Rourke
Pictures by John O'Neill

Pat has chosen to do an A-Z Demonstration of turning a delightful little item which covers two desirable aspects: namely, it is aesthetically pleasing to the eye, and is designed to be useful. In that regard it has hooks on which the user can hang his/her keys , while a shallow off-centre 'bowl' in the base can store loose change! Demonstrators most often bring with them quite an armoury of tools. Added to this, our demonstrator is quite happy to share their experience and answer questions of a turning nature. So, it's almost time for the 'off' and Pat is about to get down to business!

The project has 6 constituent parts, namely, base, stem, carousel, hook-holder, key hooks and finial.

The Base



Firstly, this section is wound into the screw chuck. Now it is measured and specific pencillings laid down before it is trued up, face and edge. Next, two beads are turned with a shallow V cut at the end of travel. Now comes a challenge. The challenge of off- centre turning! Once the off-centre chucking arrangements are dealt with, a shallow off-set 'bowl' emerges. 'Once again the conjurer passes off the illusion of a separate 'bowl', within a 'bowl' and so, the imagined 'separateness' factor is achieved by a rim-bead and minimal V cut. Pat announces: " Now I need to sand and finish".

Right, shaping the surface with the spindle gouge.

Sanding and Finishing

Pat uses two grits of abrasive strips, 180grit and 240grit. And he now has a little reservoir of coins which can easily be found without turning the sofa upside down! So much for sanding, now for finishing. Our demonstrator has a preference for sanding sealer. It just occurs to me to say the following: the quickest sealer for curing/drying is quite toxic. Shellac on the other hand must be left for 24 hours, but is quite safe. With reference to finishing, Pat's preference is for wax. Any wax will do.



Picture on right, wax applied to the base.

The stem

The base is now removed from the lathe by winding it off the screw chuck. At this point we move on to the stem. The stem blank is about 8 or 9 inches long and is entirely in the turning mode of spindle work. Firstly the blank needs to be circularised. The challenge now is to form an interesting profile for the stem. In the present



piece of work, Pat has fashioned a bottle shaped ogee profile. It just has one other form which looks somewhat like a spool for thread. That's at the bottom of the stem



where it joins the base. The wood is sycamore which contrasts with the other wood involved. It is notable that Pat even at this stage, is giving thought as to what is the most advantageous orientation as to the figure in the wood. I'm pretty certain his guiding principle is to keep the better side out. Of course all spindle turning has to be done between centres. A small skew is used to turn the various forms and shapes of the stem.

At the top of the stem the section is the piece which carries the hooks. It is about 75% circular whereas the rear closes as in wings. The curved section rises to encounter the finial. Although it is not a moving affair, I call this hook-holder the Carousel because it has a strong memory for me, of what we called Chair-O-Planes at the local Carnival!



The Carousel

Great care needs to be taken that the holes for the hooks are equidistant. Secondly, it is imperative that 3mm pilot holes are drilled. The hooks are of a soft metal and the overall effect of uniformity could be lost so easily.

The finial

As the title suggests, this final step brings the whole project to a successful conclusion. It's a lovely piece of work and will bring delight and good use to its maker.

Thank you, Pat



Tannins in wood by John O'Neill

If one was a betting man put you're money on the presence of tannins in oak and chestnut, its guaranteed.

What is tannin.

Tannin is a naturally occuring substance in wood, it is a weak acid called tannic acid.



Above, tannin staining oak

Picture on right, oak wine barrels.

The chemical compound for tannic acid is $C_{76}H_{52}O_{46}$, a plant polyphenol, carbon, hydrogen and oxygen.

Tannin is found in all parts of the plant tissue, leaves, roots, branches, trunk, seeds and fruit. It can also

be used as a food supplement and a medication. Tannins are one of the key subctances used in leather tanning.



Above, tannins leaching out and staining oak panelling



'ebonised' chair

Tannins act as a natural preservative for wood.

For the woodturner, most of the time we don't need to worry about the effects of tannin, unless we are turning wet wood, it can leach and ruin look of the piece. Dry seasoned wood won't experience 'leaching'.

The woodturner can utilise the reaction of tannins with iron to produce a blackening of the wood while preserving the grain features, this is called ebonising.

To ebonise wood the we need to make an iron acetate mixture, this mixture is made by placing some steel wool (or a few rusty nails) and a jar filled with vinegar for a few days, do not tighten top of jar as gas is produce during the chemical reaction process. Cleaning grade vinegar is more acidic than food grade variety. An alternative to this is making a strong mixture of black tea but the vinegar solution will give better results. Wire wool is normally coated in a light grease so this has to be removed by boiling in soapy water, don't get caught using one of the best saucepans!

Rinse the wool well before proceeding, you could leave the wool soaking in water for a few days to allow it get good and rusty and then rinse and add the vinegar. Leave for a few days before using. Filter the liquid to remove and bits of metal. Wear gloves during all stages of the process.

Wood with high tannin levels include oak, walnut, cherry, mahogany, cedar and pine.

Wood with low tannin levels, maple, birch and poplar.



picture above, some ebonised oak