



# GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 79

December 2009

## Happy Christmas 2009

Another year of turning behind us. It does not seem like a year since the last Christmas Party. Much has been done during these short 12 months. The highlight of 2009 must certainly be the exhibition at the Galway University. The quality of the exhibits was a credit to our club. I hope that the exercise can be repeated in a few years time. The process of exposing ourselves to the public

forces us to try a little harder. With a little luck some of the visitors to the gallery will be creating masterpieces at their own lathes in the future. I got interested at about the age of 12 when I had the good fortune of seeing our local blacksmith make some goblets. I held the memory close to my heart until I got the opportunity to have a go myself. Merry Christmas.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Chairman: John McGann 091-635354  
 Hon. Secretary: Ambrose O'Halloran 091-798225  
 Hon. Treasurer: Brid O'Halloran 091-798225

### *Committee members*

Roger Greally, Martin Lodge George Anderson  
[www.galwaywoodturners.com](http://www.galwaywoodturners.com)

### **Membership fees were due January 1st**

Ordinary membership	€54
Family membership	€57
Student membership	€10
Associate membership	€10

## Chapter Workshops 2009

Date	Host	Location
Nov 19th	Colin Becker	Salthill
Dec 4th	XMAS PARTY	Maldron Hotel

### **Christmas Party 3 December 2009**

8 pm

Maldron Hotel, Oranmore

**Everyone welcome**

Challenge piece is a *child's toy* and/or a Christmas Decoration.

### **NOVEMBER CHALLENGE**



First place  
Ambrose O'Halloran



Second place  
Clare Gurley



Third place  
Kevin Walshe

## Colin Becker's Workshop (Kevin G. Walsh)

As George Anderson was unable to attend this workshop, he asked me if I would jot down a few notes on it. So here they are! When Martin Lodge and I arrived in Kylemore Park we had oodles of time and chatted in the VW Caddy until Sean G. and Neill arrived, the 4 of us were directed by clear signs to Colin's workshop which is at the rear of the house. A warm glow from a Super-Ser and Colin welcomed us in. Shortly a few more arrived and we were ready to watch Colin in action on a Record 4L lathe which he stumbled on while mooching around a boat show for a suitable winch for one of his boats!

Colin started out by telling us he was a guerrilla style turner, i.e., he used unconventional methods. He told us that he was going to turn a flower, a tulip, and as he chucked the semi-prepared piece in the lathe, I asked him what type of wood it was. I was told it was "brown wood" possibly Ornamental Cherry, pruned from the garden!

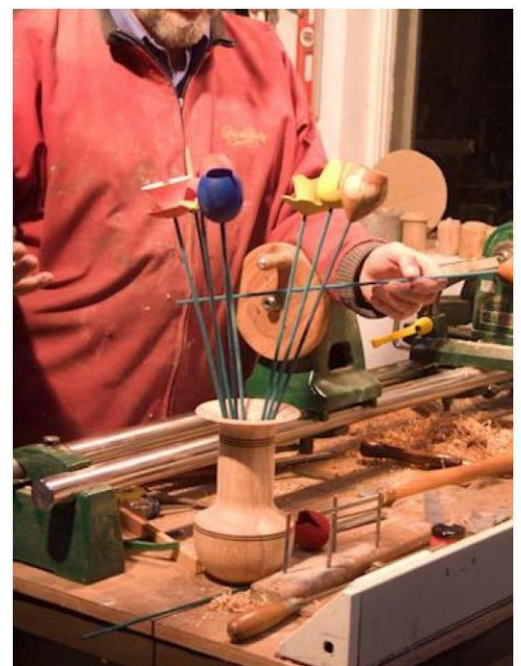
His next move was to bore a  $\text{Ø}20\text{mm}$  hole for a length of about 40mm and then a  $\text{Ø}5\text{mm}$  hole all the way thru. He then proceeded to hollow out the centre using a ring tool; he explained the best way of using this tool as some of us were not having much luck with it. He checked proceedings pretty often to get the thickness just right – not too thick and not too thin, say 3 to 4mm. A lick of a scraper and a rub of abrasive paper finished the inside.

Colin then shaped the profile using a spindle gouge and skew chisel, switching from right hand to left hand, no bother, and simultaneously chatting away about his preferred shape for this type of tulip. The profile now looked like a small balloon shaped



brandy glass. The next move was a tricky bit, the tip of the tulip needed to be divided in two, and as the lathe has no indexing features, Colin swung the headstock to the left and with a fixed centre in the tailstock, brought it up to the profile and marked that side, then the headstock is swung to the right and the procedure repeated. A pencil line is then made about 25mm back from the tip and having marked an even space of about 3mm each side of the initial markings, two lines are drawn with a French curve or snake. The coping saw was then brought into action to cut out the two long narrow V shaped waste pieces. This action highlighted the petals. A quick lick of abrasive paper before using the parting tool to separate the tulip from its base completed this part. A beautiful shade of bright red artist's acrylic paint was then used to colour the tulip. Then it was mounted on a Ø5mm dyed green flower stick of about 40cm. long. He then produced a vase with a super selection of natural and multi-coloured flowers; one looked to me like "Peter in the Pulpit". The tulip was added to this collection.

Colin then mounted a piece 25mm square by about 150mm long between centres and bored a Ø5mm hole thru it, he quickly took it down to round and marked a 100 mm length and turned a half bead on both ends. When this was parted-off it looked exactly like the perfect Donnelly's sausage! This was left to one side and on a piece which was roughly prepared earlier; Colin turned a small finial about 25mm long and parted it off. He then pulled a Paul Daniels stroke and produced the sausage dyed black and the finial dyed yellow, mounted the finial on one end of the sausage and a Ø5mm green flower stick on the other end to complete a beautiful Bulrush; which was again added to the vase – a stunning selection!



Time for a break, Colin invited us to the kitchen, where his wife Genevieve had a warm welcome for us and a gorgeous spread ready for the hungry crew. This we enjoyed immensely, and after a great deal of munching and chatting we *reluctantly* returned to the workshop.

Colin informed us that he was part Scot and blamed his Scottish genes on his aversion to throw out glass jars, not just any glass jar but ones with a neck. He showed us how to insert an ordinary plastic lid into a turned top of various shapes and woods and even whole jars inside a turned box with a screw-top lid. Of the fine assortment we were shown, all fell for the Bubinga one. Colin suggested that this would make a nice monthly challenge and this will be raised again in the New Year.

That was it! Thanks again to Colin and Genevieve for a most enjoyable night.

Kevin



January  
Meeting  
AGM  
7th January  
2010