



# GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 63

December 2007

## Close competition results this time !

The yew branch wood kindly distributed by Sean Clancy, in Moycullen, at his last workshop, reappeared in November as challenge pieces. I never cease to be amazed by the beautiful crafted woodturnings that are brought into the monthly meetings.

The yew branches, in question, were pruned from a tree on Nuns Island in Galway City. They were saved from the skip by one of

Sean's contacts. As it turned out ,(no pun intended), the little logs had beautiful grain and a well balanced proportion of sapwood to heartwood. The photographs overleaf demonstrate how plain branch wood logs can be transformed into wonderful objects. One of the exciting rolls of the woodturner is to release the trapped pieces from inside the log!

George

### *Inside this issue:*

Yew for you and me	1
Events Guide Challenge results	2
Making a door chime.	3
Make a wine bottle stopper	4
News Bits	6

## 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	€48
Family membership	€52
Student membership	€10
Associate membership	€10

## Chapter Workshops 2007 / 2008

Date	Host	Location
September 20th	Sean Clancy	Moycullen
October 18th	Des O'Halloran/ Frank Walsh	Menlo
November 15th	George Anderson	Renmore
December 14th	Christmas Party	City Limits Bowling
January 17th	John McGann	Ardrahan
February 23rd	Glenn Lucas	Carlow
March 20th	Tim Lydon	Kilannin
April 17th	Brid & Ambrose O'Halloran	Cregboy
May 15th	Columba Eagleton	Ballyglunin
June 1st	Mark Sfiiri	Ardrahan

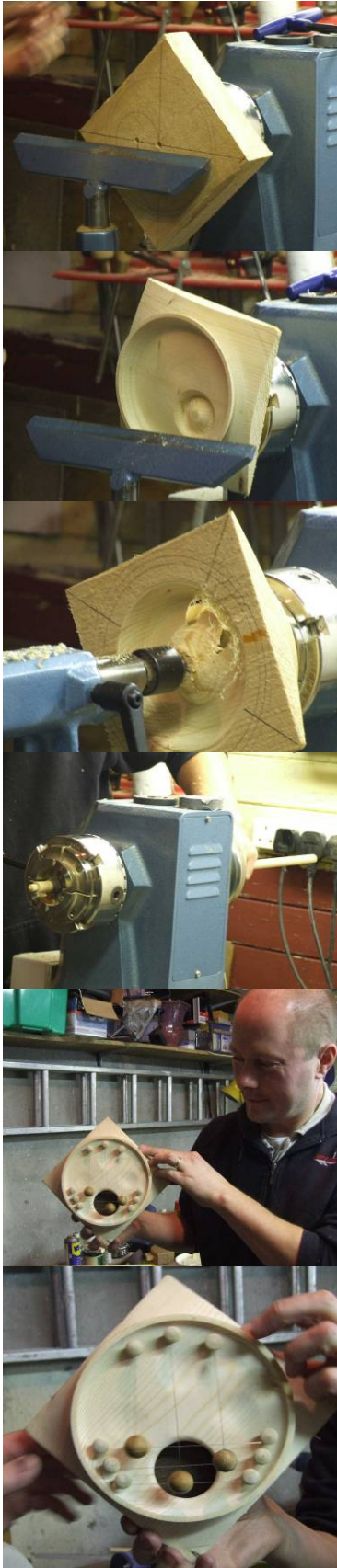
## CHALLENGE RESULTS NOV 2007



Joint 1st Place  
 Claire Gurley & Martin Lodge

Joint 2nd Place  
 George Anderson & Columba Eagleton

3rd Place  
 Roger Grealy



## Making a door chime

We are all familiar with the wind chime that sounds whenever the wind blows. A door chime is hung on the back of a door. It chimes each time the door closes. The principle is not new, you can buy them at craft fairs, however the sound boxes are usually made from plywood.

This door chime was made from a perfectly square piece of 9 inch by 2 inch white deal off cut, (left over from a friends garden shed). The diagonals are marked on both the front and back faces of the square, to locate the centre point. Two circles are drawn on the front of the wood block from the centre point. The outer one comes about 6mm in from the square edge. The inner one has an 8mm smaller radius. These lines mark the rim of the shallow bowl. A smaller circle is then drawn on the diagonal. This will form the entrance to the sound box. Two 8mm holes are bored 15mm deep to accommodate a screw chuck on the back of the wood.

Mount the block on the lathe. A shallow bowl is created using a 12mm spindle gouge. It is important to ensure that the bottom of the bowl is flat, otherwise the entrance to the sound box will not be of even thickness. Remount the block off centre using screw chuck in the second drilled hole. From the entrance to the sound box. Make sure that you make this hole sufficiently deep to avoid disappointment later. Sand and finish the front of the door chime.

The back of the door chime needs to be hollowed out. The piece can be held in place using a friction chuck. To do this a round block of wood is held in the scroll chuck and the turned piece is pushed up against it, using the tail stock. It is probably a good idea to place some tissue paper between the wooden surfaces to avoid scratch marks. You should cut through to the sound box entrance easily enough. This is one of the few occasions when you are glad to see light coming through the bottom! Remove most of the back recess using the spindle gouge, however leave a strong cone at the revolving centre for support. This cone is best chiselled off on the workbench later. Remember to cut away an outer shoulder to hold the plywood disk that covers the back. This will help to provide good resonance when in operation.

Steel wires are held in place using wooden pegs. They are turned from a 15mm dowel. The dowel can be fed through the hollow headstock and held in the scroll chuck jaws. This makes it easy to mass produce the nine pegs needed. If the dowel is a little small to be held firmly by the jaws, then wrap sand paper around the rod to thicken it up. The pegs will be pushed into 8mm holes, so a slight taper is an advantage. I do not use glue on the pegs so that they can be tightened at a later date.

To secure the wire it is necessary to drill two holes through the pegs. The wire is fed through the lower hole first, up through the upper hole and back to the end of the peg. This allows the wire to be wound around the wire, thus holding it tightly.

The wooden balls are turned from heavy exotic timber. A pen plank is a good source. Nylon fishing line is attached to the spheres by drilling a tiny 0.5mm hole into each ball. Bits of these diameters are used for drilling holes in printed circuit boards. The string is dipped into a blob of superglue and inserted. The other end of the line is placed into an 8mm hole and held in place with a peg.

The door chime, once installed on your kitchen, workshop, (or fridge) door, will alert you to visitors. I intend to make a few of these, to refine the basic idea.

Happy turning and a happy new year to you all. Ho Ho Ho !!!

George Anderson

## Making a wine bottle stopper

Martin Lodge kindly demonstrated how to make a wine bottle stopper at the November workshop at Georges workshop in Renmore.

The project can make use of the small highly featured off cuts that are left lying around the workshop and may otherwise be wasted.

To start the project the block of wood is drilled into the end grain with a 14mm bit . A 14mm dowel is glued into the hole with a waterproof glue. When the joint is well dried out, the dowel is held in a Jacobs chuck at the headstock. Initially the dowel is left a little bit proud of the chuck jaws.

This allows the turner to true up the face of the stopper. The new block face is then pushed up to the body of the chuck to offer a sound support while turning.

Next the wooden stopper is shaped. The stopper should not have a spiky point , just in case the user blinds himself/herself with the drink bottle, before consuming the contents. This is one of the more painful ways of getting blind drunk! The wood is sanded to a high finish. Martin prefers to use PPP wax to finish his stoppers. The wax shows off the detail of the grain.

The project makes use of the latex stoppers. These are glued onto 14mm dowels that have been previously drilled into the block of wood. Again waterproof (or wine proof) glue is used for this purpose.

The dowel is trimmed to remain flush with the end of the latex stopper. Martin used a fine high quality Japanese steel blade for this job. The weapon shone under the brilliant halogen light. The story goes that he had commandeered it from a some Samurai warrior or other. The spoils of war... and all that sort of stuff. It was a long battle, much blood was let, many tears shed. Apparently they were also selling them in Aldi soon after that. It's a pity that he did not know earlier.

Martin showed us an array of stoppers that he had prepared earlier. They are very popular as gifts. One must remember, however, to leave some wine in the bottle to make use of them!

Thanks again for your help at the workshop.

George Anderson





CHRISTMAS BOWLING  
14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2007  
8pm CITY LIMITS  
ORANMORE



**GALWAY CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER  
IRISH WOODTURNERS' GUILD**



**WWW.GALWAYWOODTURNERS.COM**

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*Monthly Turning Challenge Items 2007*

<i>January</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Kitchen Item</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Bowl</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Wall Hanging</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Bowl</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Box</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Piece from two different woods</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Spinning top</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Goblet</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>From LOG</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>OPEN</i>

*For this years Challenge the best of your 8 entries  
will be considered. It's never too late to bring in a*

**NEWS BITS**

**Dec Meeting**  
**Thursday 6th Nov**  
**8.00 P.M**  
**Quality Hotel Oranmore**  
**Don't Miss it**

The challenge piece is  
**OPEN**

Please notify me of any  
Items you wish to sell.  
A free Advertisement  
Will be placed here  
For one month  
(or longer if requested)