



GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 54
December 2006

Two presentations at last meeting

Nine turned blocks of firewood were presented for scrutiny at the November meeting in the Quality Hotel.

ROUGH TURNING has reached a new high (or low perhaps). The turnings were redistributed on a lottery basis. Everyone held their breath while the names were drawn. Many participants went home with worried looks on their faces. The word challenge has more meaning this month. I hope that the blocks of firewood don't find themselves in the fire!!

Martin Lodge presented a series of slides that he had taken, while on a trip near Birmingham, some weeks ago. They showed work from chain-saw carvers, bodgers, weavers, pole lathes, and much more.

One particular photo received quite a bit of attention. It was a picture of two freshly carved bears. The one wearing the cap looked almost life like. Amazing. Thank you very much

Martin for putting that together for us.

Ambrose continued his series on wood finishes with a power point presentation about shellac. I found this extremely interesting. I was surprised to see that shellac finish can be prepared at home in the workshop. I was even more surprised that eye of newt was part of the recipe! Just kidding!

Excellent work well done.



Inside this issue:

November meeting	1
Editorial November Challenge Results	2
Chapter Events 2006 Sweet Chestnut trivia	3
Loughrea Demonstration	4
Home made Dust extractors	5
News Bits	6
Meeting Thurs 7th Dec	6

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chairman: John McGann 091-635354
Hon. Treasurer: Roger Greally 091-841666
Hon. Secretary: Ambrose O'Halloran 091-798225
 John Kelly
 Martin Lodge

Membership Fees were due on January 1st

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

Contact Roger for renewals

EDITORIAL

My family and I spent a weekend in Louisburgh Co. Mayo. We enjoyed a beautiful scenic drive through Connemara, along Killary Harbour, Delphi etc. It is a stunning drive. Sedge grass, heather, reeds rocks, mountains clouds.....but almost no trees!

It is difficult to imagine that Ireland was covered with trees a few thousand years ago.

On the way home we stopped in Castlebar to visit the national museum of country life. I was very impressed. The building is beautiful, the exhibits were very well designed and modern. The grounds are

lovely and admission is FREE. The museum gives us a glimpse of country living over the last few hundred years.

I recognised many of the farm tools and machinery from my childhood. The country way of life and the standard of living has changed greatly over the decades.

There were a few turned wooden bowls and plates on show. While these were often the norm, most have rotted long ago. It is good to keep a record of everyday things.

The museum is well worth a visit.

While in the grounds we found a sweet chestnut tree that was covered in nuts. The nuts were plump, which is unusual in Ireland. I think that they enjoyed the hot summer.

In France they are collected, roasted and sold on the streets. They are candied and used in cakes. They are eaten with the Christmas dinner! Even use them in soups. You can buy flour made from the nuts. This was used a lot during the 2nd WW when wheat was scarce.

We collected a small bag of them to roast. That will be a bit of fun!

George Anderson

OCT MONTHLY CHALLENGE

The item for the October challenge was to use two different woods.



1st place
Ambrose O'Halloran



2nd place
Clair Gurley



3rd place
Sean Clancy

- **January 5th A.G.M.**
- **January 16th John & Sean McGann Workshop**
- **February 2nd Monthly Meeting**
- **February 18th Closed Workshop with Alan Batty (Book early!)**
- **March 2nd Monthly Meeting in Quality Hotel Oranmore**
- **March 23rd Special Critique Workshop on Eyre Square Exhibition**
- **April 6th Monthly Meeting**
- **April 20th John Kelly / Colm Clinton to held in Moycullen**
- **May 4th Monthly Meeting**
- **May 6th One Day Seminar 2006 in Gort (Book early !)**
- **May 7th Master-class with John Jordan**
- **May 18th Workshop Martin Lodge/Eddie Collins to be held in Corofin**
- **June 8th Monthly Meeting—NOTE THIS IS 2nd Thursday**
- **June 22nd Workshop TBA**
- **September 7th Monthly Meeting—NOTE Changed Thursday 14th**
- **September 30th—Forest Walk in the University Grounds**
- **October 5th Monthly Meeting**
- **October 19th Workshop Robert Holloway**
- **November 2nd Monthly Meeting**
- **November 16th Workshop Roger Greally Loughrea**
- **December 7th Monthly Meeting**
- **December 21st Christmas Party—A night at the Greyhound Track**
- **January 4th A.G.M.**
- **January 20th Exhibition Preparation Workshop**
- **February 1st Monthly Meeting**
- **February ???? Closed Workshop with ??? TBA**
- **March 1st Monthly Meeting in Quality Hotel Oranmore**
- **March 15th Workshop Brid & Ambrose O’Halloran**
- **April 5th Monthly Meeting**
- **April 19th Yutaka & George Anderson Venue:**
- **May 3rd Monthly Meeting**
- **May 12th One Day Seminar 2006 in Gort (Book early !)**
- **May 13th Master-class with David Ellsworth**
- **May 24th Workshop Martin Lodge/Eddie Collins to be held in Corofin**
- **June 7th Monthly Meeting**



Sweet Chestnut

The bark often has an unmistakable, yet beautifully net-shaped pattern. Its deep furrows or fissures do not only run spirally in one direction up the trunk, but often do so in an opposite direction as well. This can create a criss-cross effect.

The tree requires a mild climate and adequate moisture for good growth and a good nut harvest. It is sensitive to late spring and early autumn frosts, and is intolerant of lime. The nuts are edible unlike those of the horse chestnut.

The timber is hard and heavy but suffers from shakes. It is not commonly used for furniture as a consequence.



Excellent workshop with Roger Greally and Martin Lodge



Roger and Patsy treated us all to a most enjoyable night in Loughrea. Thank you very much for your hospitality. The night outside was very wintery but the workshop was warm. Rogers workshop is well setup. It is very clean and tidy. NO DUST was to be seen anywhere. He uses a Record DX4000 to clear dust while sanding and has an Axminster air filtration system suspended from the ceiling. The end result is NO DUST.



Roger started the evening by mounting a 25mm thick piece of white oak plank on a screw chuck. He turned a 180mm disc and sanded it's outside and sides. A 25mm circle was parted off the outer edge of the disc. This was achieved by parting off from both sides of the disc. The disc was later cleaned up on a set of enormous jaws.

Another 33mm was removed off the outer edge of the disc. The inside 70mm was then taken away. We were left with two concentric circles, to be connected by 12mm dowels and spaced apart by two beads. This was a complex project with many steps. The holes for the dowels were drilled using a clever little jig that ensured perfect alignment.

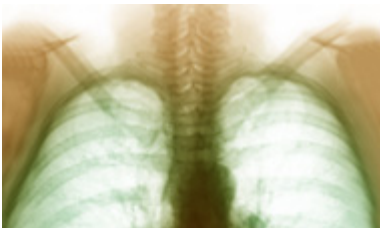


A base needed to be turned, a section of the outer ring cut out, a back for the clock movement inserted and the clock mounted. Alas we ran out of time to complete the clock. The techniques for the tricky bits were well explained. Roger opened a drawer and pulled out a beautiful clock that he had finished earlier! Thanks again.

We took a break from the workshop for a cup of tea. A beautiful spread was laid on. Thank you Patsy.

Martin Lodge followed, inlaying a slate disc into a spalted beach pot stand. The inlay finished flush with the top surface of the stand. To avoid showing chuck marks on the finished piece, the upper surface was completed first then a recess was created under the slate for reverse mounting. All marks remain hidden beneath the slate disc. Very neat job. Mastic could be used to stick the parts together while superglue would probably fail over time (due to the thermal expansion and contraction while in use.) Sanding was achieved using various graded 100mm sanding discs on an electric drill. All dust was beautifully vacuumed away. Thank you again for the demonstration.

Dust Extractors



I am not aware of any workshop which hasn't a very efficient dust extractor. This extractor is known as a "Wood-Turner" and does not require an electrical power source or electric motor. It is a two bag extractor; the bags being called "lungs". These bags are con-

tained in a chamber known as the "Thoracic Cavity", are sealed and never emptied. If this extractor malfunctions, it cannot be repaired by DIY but must be sent to a centre for repair (if repairable) called a "hospital". Non-repairable extractors cannot be taken to the local "Amenity Centre" but are finally disposed of by a person know as an "undertaker" in a specially prepared site called a "Cemetery" at a very high cost, both monetary and emotional.

Well folk I guess by now you've got the drift (no pun intended). I would like to talk about the minute and smallest killer in your workshop the dust particle, because the most efficient extractor of dust particles is YOU, when you breathe.

Exposure to wood dust has long been associated with a variety of adverse health effects, including dermatitis, allergic respiratory effects, and cancer. Dermatitis and other allergic reactions can occur from exposure to irritant compounds in wood sap. The respiratory effects of wood dust exposure include asthma, hypersensitivity pneumonitis and chronic bronchitis. Spalted woods are particularly dangerous. Both the skin and respiratory system can become sensitised to wood dust after repeated exposure or exposure to lower concentrations of the dust, leading to dermatitis and or asthma. Other common symptoms associated with wood dust exposure include eye irritation, nasal dryness and ob-

struction, prolonged colds and frequent headaches. Certain types of hardwood – such as oak, mahogany, beech, walnut, birch, elm, and ash – have been reported to cause nasal cancer in wood-workers. This is particularly true when exposures are high. American Conference Governmental Industrial Hygienists recommend a Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL) of 1 milligram per cubic metre (mg/cm^3) for hardwoods and $5 \text{ mg}/\text{cm}^3$ for softwoods. WELs are limits on concentrations of dust in the air, averaged over 8 hours. Because wood dust is an asthmagen exposure must be reduced as low as is reasonably practicable.

Dust Control:

Wood dust is emitted at high velocity by moving or spinning machine components. The primary method of controlling wood dust is with Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV), which removes dust at or near its source. Exhaust hoods should be located as close as possible to the emission source, either on the wood-working machinery itself or near to the machine. Duct velocity should be maintained at a minimum of 2,500 to 4,000 feet per minute to effectively remove light dry saw dust, heavy wood chips, and green shavings, and to prevent these from plugging the system. Sanders, and routers generally produce the greatest amount of dust. Conventional extractors, however placed, are rarely capable of efficiently extracting wood dust. Keep the extraction and collection system maintained to make sure it continues to work efficiently. Use a vacuum system to clear up wood dust – either a free standing vacuum cleaner, (vacuum cleaners should be suitable and have a HEPA filter) or a vacuum pipe attached to your extraction system. Don't use airlines or dry sweeping to clear wood dust away, as this can cause high peaks of dust exposure and simply spread the dust around. I would strongly recommend always wearing a dust mask when roughing, sanding or when performing particularly dusty tasks, in conjunction with a LEV. I find the "Trend AIR-ACE Respirator" face mask (purchased at Tripart), particularly effective. Always ensure it is properly fitted. It is light and can be worn with spectacles and it will not cause them to fog up. Of course it must be properly maintained by keeping it clean and renewing the filter as necessary. Other risks associated with wood dust are the risk of fire and or explosions. Concentrations of small dust particles in the air can form a mixture that will explode if ignited. Such concentrations usually occur in dust extraction equipment which can explode unless special precautions are taken. Such an explosion can dislodge dust deposits that may have accumulated on walls, floors, and ledges which in turn can ignite, causing a secondary explosion. Wood dust will also burn readily if ignited. Fires can be started by badly maintained heating units, overheated electric motors, and sparks from other sources such as open wood-burning stoves and cigarettes.

Other Hazards:

Grinding stones contain silica which when sharpening tools can produce a very fine powder which is hazardous. In addition to eye protection always wear a dust mask when grinding or sharpening. Certain wood oils are deemed carcinogenic as are many solvents which if not carcinogenic are toxic. Always wear gloves when handling these and wear a facemask with suitable filters that will give protection against hazardous, poisonous or dangerous gases or vapours. An odour or dust mask is not suitable for this purpose. It is all too often that a woodturner either novice or experienced will painstakingly choose the best quality lathe, bandsaw, router, chisels etc., ahead of not in deference to having proper respiratory protection. It is vital that turners become accustomed to wearing masks while in the workshop and in time it will become second nature just like wearing a seat-belt nowadays, when driving.

Be careful; Be warned.

It's always a must, to control wood dust.

Keep up to the task by wearing a mask.

Eddie Collins

15/09/2006



Contact
Hon. Secretary
Ambrose O'Halloran
Aisling
Cregboy
Claregalway
Co. Galway
Ireland

Phone: 091-798225 Mobile 086 803 3323

E-mail: cregboy@hotmail.com

NEWS BITS

Galway Chapter December Meeting

Thursday 7th Dec

8.00 P.M

Quality Hotel Oranmore

Don't Miss it

The challenge piece
is to collaborate with
a piece of
Turned firewood!

CAST IRON BANDSAW FOR SALE

Single phase 2hp installed

Three phase 3ph.

091 753935

Frank Walsh

Euro 500 o.n.o.

Monthly Turning Challenge Items 2006

January 2006	Trophy
February 2006	Open Competition
March 2006	Open Competition
April 2006	Open Competition
May 2006	Turn a Sphere
September 2006	A Toy
October 2006	Use of Two different Woods
November 2006	Something from a piece of firewood
December 2006	Collaborative Piece
January 2007	Kitchen Item

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

Guild Events 2007

March 10th 2007 Gorey Chapter Seminar

April 7th 2007 Craobh Eo Chapter Seminar

May 12 2007 Galway Chapter Seminar

June 9th 2007 Ulster Chapter Seminar

July 7th 2007 Dublin Chapter Seminar