



GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 50
June 2006

The Eyre Square Exhibition Selection of Pieces

After so much time and effort, so many meetings and deadlines, the Eyre Square Exhibition is now a reality. The Exhibition will be held next April and May in the new City Museum. Brid and I got to see the venue and I can say without a word of exaggeration that it is one of the best exhibition spaces that I have seen in the country.

On the evening of Tuesday the 9th of May John Jordan and Sarah Gillespie, the Director of the city Museum, selected the pieces for the exhibition. The pieces laid out in exactly the same physical area as the exhibition Hall of the Museum.

The brief for the selectors was simple—choose pieces that everybody involved would be proud of. The selection process was difficult because as stated in a previous Newsletter, the Chapter had risen to the challenge magnificently and there was 94 pieces entered by 18 different makers for selection.

John Jordan said “ he was pleasantly surprised with the overall feel of the pieces” He said he liked almost everything. The biggest problem was the application of the finish, very often the finish was streaky/splotchy and seemed to be “out of the can”. In particular, glossy pieces needed to be flawless. Overall craftsmanship was good but some pieces were rejected for their lack of detail and craftsmanship. Many of the pieces rejected had sanding marks,

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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

Our seminar is over for another year, this was the biggest one yet. I don't necessarily believe that bigger is better. I think it's the quality of the demonstrations that is important and the comfort of the delegates. Judging from the reaction and feedback we got on the day, I think as a Chapter we can be justly proud of another job well done. Once again our own demonstrators did an excellent job in representing the Chapter. The quality of the competition was excellent.

I have talked previously about

why we run a seminar, what its purpose and value is. Some people outside the Chapter are amazed at the quality of the demonstrators we can attract. I think there are a number of things that account for the Galway Chapter seminar success. One is extreme hard work, don't forget we have been running these seminars since 1995, so it has been a slow steady build up. We have never run a seminar to make money. As the delegate number has risen we have invested the increased revenue in attracting turners from the U.S.A. – something most people would

not think possible for a one day seminar. I think that we set our standards very high and refuse to compromise. I think the attitude we reflect within the Chapter is positive and willingness to look out at the wider woodturning community. Woodturning is world wide and we need to see demonstrators and techniques that have not be shown here before. So long as the Chapter is fully behind it, we will continue to run bold educational seminars. The fact that they generate outside praise is irrelevant, the only thing that matters is that we present excellence.

MAY MONTHLY CHALLENGE



1st

2nd

3rd

1st Place

Des O'Halloran

Spiral

2nd Place:

John Kelly

Walking Stick

3rd Place

Brid O'Halloran

Bowl

Congratulations to all three.

Chapter Events 2006

- **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**
- **September 7th Monthly Meeting**
- **September 21st Workshop TBA**
- **October 5th Monthly Meeting**
- **October 19th Workshop TBA**
- **November 2nd Monthly Meeting**
- **November 16th Workshop TBA**

MAY WORKSHOP

On the 18th of May on a very cold wet night we gathered at Martin Lodge's Workshop for the Martin and Eddie show.

Martin demonstrated his newly acquired Wood Miser. With great dexterity and knowledge, he clearly explained all the workings and blanked a tree. This is a remarkable machine and in the hands of a knowledgeable person like Martin, it makes harvesting wood a delight.

Inside Martin then demonstrated the automatic sharpening machine for the blades of the wood miser. We were told what makes a blade sharp and we were given technical information on the thickness and quality of the cut. This was truly a fascinating demonstration interspersed with Martin's regular quick wit. After tea, Eddie Collins stepped forward to give his first



ever Chapter demonstration. The fact that he had been helped and tutored by Martin was obvious. It quickly became apparent that Eddie had a few tricks of his own in the laughter stakes. I can honestly say that I have never laughed as much or as hard at a workshop and Eddie topped each story with another one. The fact he was demonstrating Vacuum

Chucking was almost irrelevant to this night's entertainment.

Least I give the wrong impression, Eddie had clearly researched vacuum chucking and understood clearly what is involved with the best known commercial systems. Eddie's thesis was why spent € 1100 if you can build your system for € 100. With real ingenuity, Eddie demonstrated how a system

could be put together. The real pieces of genius was making a vacuum drum chuck out of the head of an Aluminium Gas cylinder. This is truly unique and something I have not seen done by anybody before.

Lads, it was a great night, full of information and fun, thanks to both of you for your effort and enthusiasm.

EYRE SQUARE EXHIBITION CONTINUED

tool marks and torn grain.” John said that judging is always difficult and that it was not a pleasant job to dash people’s hopes, but standards had to be maintained.

So he and Sarah examined each piece and then started eliminating the ones that were obviously not going to be suitable and eliminated 16 pieces.. Then they had a closer examination of the pieces that were left and eliminated a further 16 pieces. They went back and looked at each of the pieces that were left and debated each one in turn. A further 13 pieces were eliminated at this stage. I have watched many judges over the years review pieces, but I can tell you that in the 2 hours it took for this selection, I have never witnessed such scrutiny. When they had finished,

45 pieces were selected for the exhibition. To those of you who did not have any piece selected, John wanted us to let you know that he admired everybody who had that courage to put their pieces out for selection. It is never easy, and for it to be real, then the selection process must be tough. To all of you who had pieces selected congratulations. You can hold your heads



up high that you were selected in a very tough selection process, where pieces that had previously won Chapter Challenges were rejected on minor defects. The Chapter as a whole rose to the occasion and when the Exhibition is staged next year, the entire Chapter has something which it can be very proud of. What we have done here is unique in the Country, and we have shown ourselves not just as the Chapter who organise fantastic seminars, but a Chapter that has real depth talent and enthusiasm.

MEMORIES FROM GORT 2005





Contact
Hon. Secretary
Ambrose O'Halloran
Aisling
Cregboy
Claregalway
Co. Galway
Ireland
Phone: 091-798225 Mobile 086 803 3323
E-mail: cregboy@hotmail.com

The Chapter is not yet on the Web. Any volunteers to construct a basic webpage

NEWS BITS

Best Wishes to Sean McGann

Sean has had a very serious health scare but we are glad to say he is now back on the road to a full recovery. We hope to see him back turning with us again very soon. We send all our best wishes to John and Mary and Sean, our thoughts are with you.

Galway Chapter June Meeting

**The June meeting is this
Thursday**

Thursday 8th of June

8.00 P.M

Quality Hotel Oranmore

Don't Miss it

Monthly Turning Challenge Items 2006

<i>January 2006</i>	<i>Trophy</i>
<i>February 2006</i>	<i>Open Competition</i>
<i>March 2006</i>	<i>Open Competition</i>
<i>April 2006</i>	<i>Open Competition</i>
<i>June 2006</i>	<i>Turn a Sphere</i>
<i>September 2006</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>October 2006</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>November 2006</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>December 2006</i>	<i>TBA</i>

For this years Challenge the best of your 8 entries will be considered. It's not too late to bring in a piece for this year's Challenge.



These pictures tell some the story of the members who turned out to help set up and dismantle the Gort venue, a sincere thanks to you all.