



GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 81

March 2010

A word from the Editor

It's hard to believe we are into March already and the evenings getting longer by the week. Not good news for wood turners as we can see too much to be done outside. I have not turned much lately and have been away for the last week but by reading Kevin's review of George's workshop, which I missed would give you an appetite for shavings. It looks like I missed a very good workshop and even better porter cake. Kevin gives us a good review of the day in great detail. The workshops are a very important part of our woodturning year and have something for everybody to learn from. I always

look forward to these and have missed few since I started turning. For the March workshop we are off to Moycullen and I am sure Sean G and his western command will have something special on offer. The competition piece for this Month is a Kitchen utensil so if you haven't got one ready get turning and we will see you on Thursday night. If you haven't been at a meeting for a while come along to support our new committee.

Martin Lodge

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Chairman: George Anderson
 Hon. Secretary: VACANT
 Hon. Treasurer: Sean G Clancy
 Newsletter Editor: Martin Lodge
 Librarian: Tim Lydon

www.galwaywoodturners.com

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

Chapter Proposed Events 2010

Date	Host	Location
21 st January	AGM Meeting	Maldron Hotel
28 th January	Nial O'Sullivan	Moycullen
4 th February	Meeting	Maldron Hotel
20 th February	George Anderson	Renmore
4th March	Meeting	Maldron Hotel
25th March	Sean G Clancy	Moycullen
1 st April	Meeting	Maldron Hotel
25 th April	Ambrose O'Halloran	Cregboy
6 th May	Meeting	Maldron Hotel
20 th May	Martin Lodge	Corofin
2 nd September	Meeting	Maldron Hotel
16 th September	Tim Lydon	Moycullen

Meeting 4th MARCH 2010

8pm Maldron Hotel, Oranmore

Everyone welcome

**Challenge piece is to turn something for
THE KITCHEN**

FEBRUARY CHALLENGE



First place
Sean G Clancy



Second place
Clare Gurley



George Anderson



Third place
Tim Lydon



Kevin Walshe

George Anderson's Workshop

(Kevin G. Walsh)

Saturday morning the 20th Feb. saw woodturners from the East travelling through dense freezing fog to reach George's workshop, while those travelling from the West were searching the glove compartments for the Polaroid's or Foster Grants to combat the rising blazing sun and, as usual the City-Slickers had it easy!

If you stand at George's workshop door there is normally a beautiful view of Lough Atalia, but not this morning, the fog diminished the view to half way down the street.

These unusual weather patterns, coupled with the plight of small birds and how on earth were they going to survive was getting a great airing outside the workshop, indeed it looked like this was the main reason for the gathering until George called a halt to it and directed us into the workshop for the main event.

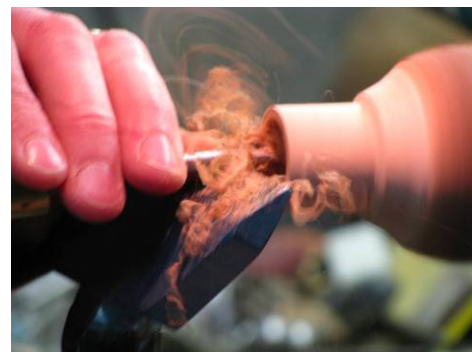
George had in mind to turn a scoop from a log of Hawthorn, which came from his old homestead in Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath.

This log was about 175mm x 75mm Dia. (a fellow said to me one time when I gave him a measurement in millimetres, he said "never mind that French Metric, talk English to me") so going by that the above log was 7" long x 3" Dia.

I was looking forward to seeing how this was done as George had a beautiful scoop on display in the exhibition we had recently in the Arts Centre in NUIG.

George explained in detail, backed up by a sketch, the procedure he follows to produce the scoop, but as we shall see the piece of Hawthorn had other ideas!

George mounted the blank, complete with bark, between centres on the Vicmarc 300VL and proceeded to rough it



down, square the ends and prepare a spigot at one end to suit the chuck.

The piece was then reversed, held in the chuck and the tailstock removed to allow clear access to the end so that hollowing could commence. The hollowing process was carried out with various gouges and scrapers, which gave a cross-sectional view like a capitol U on the horizontal, the bottom of the U was accurately shaped using a $\frac{3}{4}$ " (20mm) round-nosed scraper. The U now had a diameter of $1\frac{1}{4}$ " (32mm) and a depth of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (38mm) He then shaped the profile which was brought down quiet thin; I'd say the wall thickness was now only $\frac{1}{16}$ " (1.5mm)

About $4\frac{1}{2}$ " (110mm) back from the mouth of the scoop, George parted it off and set it to one side. So far everything was going really swell!

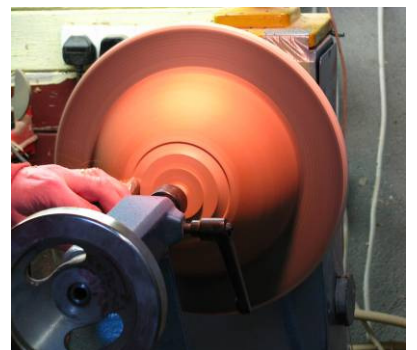
The piece remaining in the chuck was now shaped into a sphere, this was required to pivot the scoop while the profile of the handle was being turned off-centre by about an 1" (25mm)

When the scoop is fitted into the sphere it must be a snug fit, not too loose or it will slip and wobble, not too tight or it will split. It resembles a swivel joint similar to the joint used in hip replacement operations!

With the scoop so off-centre a pointy bit has first to be removed with the roughing down gouge, and as luck would have it, there was a knot right at this spot, which gave George a really bad time, so much so that the scoop was removed, brought to the bench and, ably assisted by Frank Walsh they tried to take out this knot with chisel and mallet.

When I seen the knot it reminded me of a piece of Killkenny marble, black, hard and shiny. George gallantly tried again and again, but this piece of Hawthorn was as stubborn as a Jackass!

George presented 2 beautiful Hawthorn scoops which he turned earlier in the week, with, off course, no knots or problems what so ever! The 2 crafted pieces were closely



inspected with George being cornered and quizzed on the techniques used to produce the fab

shaped handles, with 2, 4, and 6 mark questions being asked about the junction where scoop and handle meet. The foul piece with the Jackass streak was long forgotten!

Time for a tea break. George's wife Magali had piping hot tea and coffee, a selection of biscuits and Porter cake laid out on the kitchen table, which was enjoyed by all. (I believe some came for the Porter cake alone!)

After the break, George produced a Glenn Lucas beech bowl blank, this was roughly 8" diameter, which he had since the visit to Glenn's workshop about 2 years ago. After truing up the spigot, George explained the shape of profile he was after for this bowl and a great discussion took place by all present on the merits of push, pull, sheer and every cut in between, including the use of scrapers, which are much loved tools of the great Richard Rafan, to achieve a good finish off the tool.

When George was satisfied with the shape and surface he was about to remove the bowl from the chuck, re-mount it and clean off the spigot, but Clare Gurley halted proceedings and explained in detail to us, her preferred method of coating the inside of the bowl with Danish oil or Woodoc.

Clare maintains, that a better surface is obtained by applying the finish while the bowl is still on the lathe, anyone who has seen her turnery will readily agree with this.

After this inspired workshop, all drifted home much the wiser.

Thanks to George and his wife Magali for a delightful Saturday morning.

Kevin

