



GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

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November 2009

“Within the tree” a great success

The exhibition at the NUIG gallery proved very popular with the public. I managed to get in several times over the three weeks.

I saw a steady stream of visitors. Many spent time studying the pieces, picking them up, caressing their smooth surfaces, admiring their features. As a turner it was interesting to eavesdrop on their conversations. To hear a comple-

ment would be great. I didn't, but perhaps I did not loiter enough!

The display was wonderful. Well done to everyone who helped to put on the show. Particular thanks goes to the committee members who dealt with the finer details of the organizing such a large event.

I have many photos over the next few pages.

George

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Chairman: John McGann 091-635354
 Hon. Secretary: Ambrose O'Halloran 091-798225
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Committee members

Roger Greally, Martin Lodge George Anderson

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

November Meeting **5 November 2009**

8 pm

Maldron Hotel, Oranmore

Everyone welcome

Challenge piece is open.

CHALLENGE RESULTS



First place
Clare Gurley



Second place
Kevin Walshe



Third place
Niall O Sullivan

Three legged cross legged stool

Holding a workshop is a very worthwhile exercise. Holding it in September ensures that your tools are sharp and your workshop is clean for the forthcoming months. It's always nice to be able to return the hospitality enjoyed at other workshops. The coffee, tea and home baked goodies. We can thank Magali for lovely goodies. I include her recipe for the wonderful fruitcake. Sadly this cake never lasts very long in our house. I have found that it fulfills the nutritional requirements of the breakfast, the dinner and supper. I am sure that my GP would appreciate this cake also.

I demonstrated the steps taken to make a cross legged stool. I include a few sketches to help explain the project. Most of the turning is straight forward. It is necessary, however, to ensure that a few fundamental measurements are correct.

Cut the three leg blanks exactly the same length. This makes it easier to mark out and turn. The suggested leg proportions should ensure that the feet of the stool remain beneath the outer rim of the seat. They will thus be wide enough apart to provide for stability. Complete turning the legs between centers. Sand and finish. Then offset the base of the leg by 14mm to shape the foot. If the surface is not smooth then sand it by hand with sandpaper and a block of wood. Be careful not to round the foot corners. The leg timber grain is arranged to be in the vertical plane in the finished piece. This provides for maximum strength.

The seat is made from a 12inch disk for hardwood. Short screws hold the disk on a 4 inch face plate while the underside of the seat is shaped. The stool seat should be relatively light so that the stool is not top heavy. This is achieved by removing much of the bottom side of the seat (sounds quite painful!). One advantage of doing this is that it allows the turner to create a surface that is perpendicular to the angle of the leg penetration into the seat. To find the correct angle for the surface it is useful to hold the crossed legs up to the seat. They can be held together using a strong elastic band while doing so. The holes for the leg tenons are drilled using an electric hand drill and 25mm foster bit. Mark the entry



points for the holes. Use the indexing ring on the lathe if you have one. Again it is necessary to hold the crossed legs up to the seat to get the correct drilling angle. If the tool rest is aligned with legs while at this angle, then it is easy to drill the holes correctly. Thankfully the legs do not go deeply into the seat, so inaccuracies are easily tolerated. Turn as much of the seat as possible before removing it from the face plate. This includes the curved seat edge. When the bottom of the seat is turned and drilled, sand and finish it. Now remove the seat from the face plate and shape the upper surface of the seat. The live centre can be used to press the seat up against a disk that is held on the scroll chuck. This is easy and allows the turner to complete the seat without any signs of chucking.

The doughnut ring, that holds the legs together where they cross, needs to be a "good" fit. Tight enough so that the legs do not rattle, but wide enough that the legs are not squashed together too much. I make the inner diameter of the ring twice the diameter of the legs at the crossover point. The ring is made from wood that is the same thickness as the seat. The blank for the doughnut thus needs to start out with an external diameter of (thickness of seat X 2 plus inner diameter). Ideally the doughnut should have a circular cross section. In practice this is difficult to achieve and will not be noticed by the public. The blank is initially held using a screw chuck. Mark the diameters for the inner and outer limits. While on the screw chuck, the outer and inner surfaces are turned as well as possible on the exposed side. Sanding is recommended. Use a parting tool to cut half way through the doughnut. A spigot for the scroll chuck is made before the half finished doughnut is removed. I recommend using a small light chuck for holding the piece at this point. Otherwise it will be difficult to maneuver the gouge when turning the inside surface of the doughnut. Turn the outside and inside surfaces. Sand as much as possible and part off with a parting tool. Finish the sanding by hand.

To assemble the stool it is necessary to use a little delicate brute force. The legs need to be fitted into the doughnut first. Two of the legs should easily slip through the doughnut. The third leg will need the gentle persuasion of a mallet. If the doughnut is much too



small then a lot of sanding will be required. If the fit is "possible" then be brave and whack it through. If the leg becomes dented, fear not for behold it can be re-expanded using steam from the kettle! If everything goes well the legs should overlap at the crossover point. Next we can hammer the legs into the seat. The turner should use a PVA glue or equivalent on the legs. It is very satisfying to see the legs glued into place. Leave the stool upside down for a day until everything has set. Finish the piece by hand.

George

Porter Cake

(For 2 cakes or 1 large one)

225 g butter

225g brown sugar

275ml (half a pint) stout

675g mixed dried fruit (walnuts, figs, slivered almonds, glace cherries, raisins, currants, sultanas whatever you have)

225g cut citrus peels

450g plain flour

½ teaspoon soda bread

2 teaspoons of spices of your choice (I like cinnamon, ginger, allspice, nutmeg)

2 eggs

Preheat oven to 160 degrees Celsius. Grease the tins.

Place butter, sugar, porter into a saucepan and bring slowly to the boil. Stir until everything is dissolved. Add the fruit and peels. Simmer for 5 minutes. Take off the heat and allow to get cool.

Sieve the flour, soda, spices into a large bowl. Add the fruit mixture and the eggs. Mix well. It should not be too runny. Pour into tins. Bake for around 1 hour if divided into 2 small cakes, up to 1 ½-2 hours for one large cake. Basically keep checking!





