



# GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 53  
November 2006

## Galwaywoodturners.com

The October meeting was a brilliant. The chapter is definitely spoilt!! What an action packed evening. To start off, we had a very clear and informative slide show presentation. The first of many, I hope. Ambrose then hooked his laptop to the internet and linked us to the Galwaywoodturners.com website. I believe that Roger and Ambrose have spent many long evenings working on this project. The website is a credit to their hard work. This website will allow people from all over the world to browse over our chapters activities. The website will be kept up to date with current club news, future workshops and seminar details etc. It will expose us to the thousands of people who have an interest in woodturning. Hopefully it will encourage many to seek us out

and join our chapter. We look forward to that.

Our challenge this month was well supported. All entries contained at least two different types of wood. The quality of the work was, as usual, excellent. The variety of the work was, as usual excellent. The description of each piece by the turner was, as usual, enjoyed by all. Well done everyone. Keep up the good work.

The next challenge is to transform a piece of firewood into a piece of turned wood. It is much easier the other way around of course. I think that we will be trying that the next time!

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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

October was a very active month for the Galway Chapter. We enjoyed the monthly meeting as usual, picked up valuable technical carving skills at the Moycullen workshop, familiarised ourselves with the fine tree specimens in the grounds of NUIG and, for many, took a trip to Cork for the National Seminar. We're all fired up for the season of turning ahead. We have brief reviews of each of these events in this news letter.

On a domestic note. The Anderson household got a new

arrival about two weeks ago. Daddy was very excited before the big day. When the delivery landed in Renmore I got an urgent phone call from my dear Magali " Is it OK if your new baby is left in the middle of the driveway? There are a lot of cars around and the courier can't get it any nearer.!" "That's fine, no one will run away with it in a hurry" I said. A truer word was never spoken!!! The vicmark v1300 weighs 300kg. It was a job and a half to get that through my garage door. Luckily I had looked at a few Egyptian movies over the decades and had

noted their technologies. A few broom handles, a rope, a crow bar, planks, sweat, pinched fingers, French vocabulary, more sweat..... The Egyptians used slaves to do the difficult bits. Lucky them!

It all worked out well in the end. Once I got set up, I had in the garage in no time. It certainly is an upgrade from the CL1. Let's hope that it improves my wood turning!

Best of luck  
George

## OCT MONTHLY CHALLENGE

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



1st Place  
Clare Gurley



2nd place  
Des O'Halloran



3rd place  
Roger Greally



- 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



**Walnuts** are plants are deciduous trees, 10-40m tall, with pinnate leaves 20-90cm long, with 5-25 leaflets; the shoots have chambered pith, a character shared with the wingnuts but not the hickories in the same family. The species which is widely cultivated for its delicious [nuts](#) is called English walnut because English merchant marines once controlled its world commerce.

**Walnuts** have been shown as helpfull n lowering cholesterol. Walnut nut husks are used for dyeing fabric. Wood When kiln-dried, walnut wood tends toward a dull brown color, but when air-dried can become a rich purplish-brown .

Both the fallen leaves and the roots secrete a substance called juglone which **kills** many popular garden plants.

## Carver Robert Holloway Demonstrates in Moycullen



It was great to see such a great turn out for the carving demonstration on Thursday evening. Robert Holloway gave a brilliant performance. Like many other craftsmen, he made his work look very easy. Within about half an hour Robert had craved a butter stamp in white oak. This was then tested in a (not so tasty and unsalted) lump of play dough. The carving had to be made in negative form. Hence the subject matter of two acorns on a twig, in this case, was hollowed out. A dolphin was created in relief. Robert showed us the basic technique. He stressed that most of the work can be executed using a handful of tools. Good news for the aspiring carver! What a demonstration!



Robert used only a few of his large selection of carving tools on the night. These tools had VERY sharp edges. In fact they were revealed to be RAZOR sharp. The process of tool honing was outlined as was the choice of carving timber, tool steels and much more. I was certainly encouraged to give it a go.

Alas carving as a profession is on the decline. Mass production and machining have put a lot of pressure on the manual practice. Robert has a long experience of working with wood and a diverse range of skills. His carving is used in the refurbishment of old furniture, historical buildings and churches.

New carving commissions are not common. However a search of the web reveals that most leading wood turners will do some carving on their pieces.



He was bubbling over with information, throughout the evening. Green wood, timber frame houses, processing old trees, renovating old furniture, pole lathes, sales etc. In total a very interesting man. On a personal note I was amazed that he knew my first cousin, Ron Hester who is a professional carver in Shifnal Shropshire. It's a small world!

### Wood Would Yew

The turner he walked through the forest, and thought it was time for a P

But having respect for this shelter, he avoided the massive oak tree.

Admiring the tree and its branches, and considering the pieces he'd choose

He discovered his feet were much warmer, alas he had peed in his shoes.

Well turners are a strange breed of people, whether walking, peeing or whatever

They're admiring each tree they encounter, and acknowledge the Maker is clever.

They plan all the pieces each tree will provide, and consider the virtues of wind

Wishing for a tree to be horizontal, could be deemed to already have sinned.

We were told going to school our heads were of wood, when doing Irish, History or Maths

They were the days of the "Ould Ash Plant", when teachers dished out the slaps.

I guess this is why I have wood on the brain, and wood is a must to be turned

Yet the only ones I resent to this day, are those who insist it be burned.

A Chapter in those days did not spell much joy, it meant pages and pages of wrote,

But your Chapter today means happier times, and no one will ask you to quote.

So Turners, Dear Friends, as the Winter draws in, and the nights are long and are dark

Start hugging your lathe, show the things you have made, and Ambrose will sing like a lark.

Eddie Collins

## Walk around NUIG grounds



On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of October about 20 of the Galway Chapter arrived at NUIG for a little enlightenment. The day had been showery earlier however at three o'clock the sun was warming us up nicely. A few brave souls had the confidence to leave their coats and jumpers in their cars! Their gamble paid off!

The grounds of NUIG host some fine tree specimens. Charlie Hosty showed us around. The college was established about 150 years ago. Many interesting trees were planted at that time, with a farseeing vision of the future. Thank you for having the foresight! We can appreciate their planning today. The oldest trees would not be more than 150 years old. Many new trees have been planted over the intervening years.

We were reliably informed that the precise age of some trees was 40 years old. It is not always easy to estimate the age of a tree by sight (unless you planted it yourself!).

Brian the head grounds man undertook to plant unique trees when he started work at NUIG. He showed us some of his own trees, walnut, ornamental maples, upright beech, acacia, malus, mahonia, lime, whitethorn, grey cedar, sophora, plane, weeping ash, chile pine, scots pine, young elm, ginkgo, beech, copper beech .....to name but a few.

The older trees were impressive, some of which are very rare in Ireland, parasol pine, wingnut, tulip tree, alder, arbutus, evergreen oak, 45ft high weeping ash, 20ft tall ginkgo..... the list goes on. I am probably missing many of them. Indeed I failed to remember any of the Latin names. Charlie had no such problem. His oratory was a delight to listen to. The walk being punctuated by pauses for background information. Explanations of the latin naming system, hints on positive tree identification, grafting techniques, choice of root stocks, landscaping principles, again the list is almost endless. The true pleasure of the outing can not be expressed in words. I fail to do it justice.





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## NEWS BITS

### Galway Chapter November Meeting

**Thursday 2nd Nov**

**8.00 P.M**

**Quality Hotel Oranmore**

**Don't Miss it**

The challenge piece  
is to turn something  
from a piece of  
firewood

Anything for sale?

Place

Your

**Free**

Add

In

Here !!!!

## *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>May 2006</i>	<i>Turn a Sphere</i>
<i>September 2006</i>	<i>A Toy</i>
<i>October 2006</i>	<i>Use of Two different Woods</i>
<i>November 2006</i>	<i>Something from a piece of firewood</i>
<i>December 2006</i>	<i>Collaborative Piece</i>
<i>January 2007</i>	<i>Kitchen Item</i>

**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

July 14th 2007 Kerry Chapter Seminar