



GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 46
January 2006

NEW YEAR—NEW CHALLENGES

It's the start of another year and on January 5th the Chapter elected a New Committee. I am delighted to be back as Galway Chapter Secretary once again having left the Job in 1997. As you have constantly heard me say at meetings the true strength of the Galway Chapter is that we are small and while the Committee must make practical decisions, all of our policies and major decisions are discussed openly at our monthly meetings.

For the Chapter to be dynamic, all of us must be constantly promoting the Guild and educating the public as to what we are about.

The challenge we set for ourselves in this Chapter is to the pursuit of education at the very highest level in all our activities

- Our Monthly Meetings*
- Our Monthly Workshops*
- Our Monthly Turning Challenge*
- Our Closed One-Day Workshops*
- Our One-Day Seminar*
- Our Closed Masterclasses*
- Our in-depth Teaching Workshops*
- Our Newsletter*

The challenge for each of us is members to be involved and active in the Chapter. Turn a piece every month and come to the meetings.

This will be a very exciting year, especially as the Eyre Square Exhibition comes to fruition. A discussion on this topic will occur at the February meeting.

It is still not too late to make

a New Year's resolution and come and attend the meetings and be involved in this exciting Chapter

Membership Renewal.

Membership fees were due on January 1st.

We have 53 names on our list which is why it is puzzling we have such a poor turnout at the meetings.

Some people on the newsletter circulation list did not pay last year and have not renewed this year. If you fall into this category this will be your **LAST** Newsletter until you renew.

- Ordinary membership €48
 - Family membership €52
 - Student membership €10
 - Associate membership €10
- Contact Roger for renewals**

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NEW COMMITTEE

Jan 5th A.G.M elected the following

Chairman: John McGann

Hon. Treasurer: Roger Greally

Hon. Secretary: Ambrose O'Halloran

Librarian: Tim Lydon

P.R.O: John Kelly

On behalf of the incoming Committee our sincere thanks to the outgoing for all their hard work.

The committee are there to implement your wishes but if they must know what you want.

These people have volunteered their time to give something back to the Chapter.

All we ask of every member is to help by being an active member. Come on attend the meeting, turn for the monthly challenge attend the workshops and seminar.

MONTHLY CHALLENGE

One of the suggestions in the survey we conducted last April was to change the name of the Monthly Competition to the Monthly Challenge.

This is a subtle but distinct change. We are not in competition with each other, rather we are challenging one another to raise our own standards.

If you are not constantly pushing your own standards, you will not progress in your turning.

Some people may not be fully aware of how the marking scheme works.

All pieces are marked out of 10 by everybody attending the meeting. The marks are totted. For each month of the year the way the marks are allocated is

1st place gets 25 marks

2nd place 24 marks

3rd place 23 marks etc.

And so on. The emphasis is getting people to participate, so you are awarded marks for bringing in a piece every month. You can have a situation that over the 10 months we meet, somebody could come 5th every month and so have a year score total of 210 marks

Another person might only enter a piece for 8 months and even if they win for each of the eight months their total would be 200.

So the emphasis is on participation and not on winning and hence the name change.

A suggestion was made in the Survey however that the yearly total should be the best of eight months. That way if somebody misses a meeting they are not harshly penalized, That sugges-

tion will be adopted this year.

If you are tired of watching the same old faces come top every month, then you need to challenge them more.

Let us have bumper entries this year. If everybody who attends the meetings brings a turns piece, everyone will be more involved.

The Results for the Monthly Challenge for 2005 were

1st **Ambrose O'Halloran**

2nd **Sean McGann**

3rd **George Anderson**

Congratulations to everybody who participated and lets have even stronger numbers entering this year.

EDITORIAL

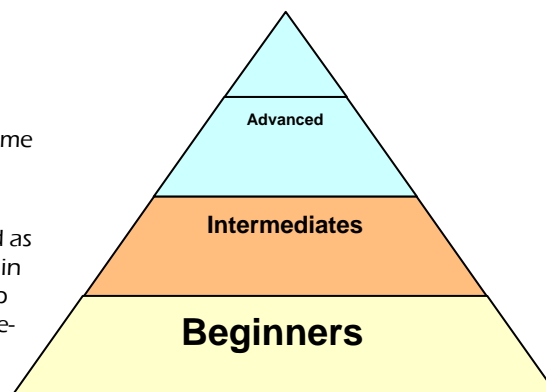
Without wishing to bore you, all let me give you my theory of thirds.

All Woodturning memberships whether of the Chapter or the Guild as a whole, can be broken approximately in thirds. One third of the Membership are beginners, One third are intermediate and one third are advanced.

These terms are crude and arbitrary as each person progresses at a different rate. Nonetheless it is a useful device for how all Chapter activities should be structured. There must be something for all three groups to have a successful workshop or seminar or newsletter.

In general, the Chapter, and the Guild as a whole, is excellent for beginners in terms of information workshops etc.

For members to progress from the beginner stage they need experience and support and that is what our monthly workshops are for. So if you have been in the Chapter for a while and not yet given a workshop then



you should take the opportunity of volunteering to host a workshop. The system we currently operate is that we have two demonstrators at a workshop so that you have support and encouragement. If the physical size of your workshop is not big enough, we can arrange a suitable venue.

The advanced turners have been around for a long time and they tend to be involved in giving out information and advice. There must however be something in the Chapter for them also. There must be a challenge of attending a Masterclass, or seeing a demonstrator they have never seen, or a having a chance to display their

work to a wider audience.

I firmly believe that a chapter is truly strong when all three groups are being catered for. Nobody has all the answers, so I need your help to ensure that the Newsletter is catering for all three groups. If you feel the quality of articles is not catering for your interests, then please let me know. You only run the risk of me suggesting that in this year of the Volunteer that you volunteer to write such an article.

Every single one of us has some tip, some piece of advice, some problem that they can share with the group. Please let me have them even if I have to stick a few ideas from different sources together to get an article.

A problem every woodturning editor has is lack of material. I intend to supplement our own material with republished by permission material. Naturally I would prefer to include all original material from own members.

Chapter Events 2006

The timing of the Newsletter has changed and will now issue before each monthly meetings. Note the dates below carefully)

- **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**
- **March 23rd Special Critique Workshop on Eyre Square Exhibition**
- **April 6th Monthly Meeting**
- **April 20th TBA**
- **May 4th Monthly Meeting**
- **May 6th One Day Seminar 2006 in Gort (Book early !)**
- **May 7th Master-class with John Jordan**
- **May 18th Workshop**
- **June 8th Monthly Meeting**
- **June 22nd Workshop TBA**
- **September 7th Monthly Meeting**
- **September 21st Workshop TBA**
- **October 5th Monthly Meeting**
- **October 19th Workshop TBA**
- **November 2nd Monthly Meeting**
- **November 16th Workshop TBA**
- **December 7th Monthly Meeting**
- **December 21st Christmas Party TBA**

EYRE SQUARE EXHIBITION

As most of you know plans are currently being finalized for the Eyre Square exhibition.

This will be a very special event for the Chapter and a major undertaking.

The theme of the exhibition will be Eyre Square inspired but the wood used does not have to have been exclusively sourced from the Eyre Square supply.

Great care has been taken to ensure that the selection of the pieces is open, transparent and fair.

The Exhibition is open to every paid-up member of the Galway Chapter. The selection of pieces



will be made by John Jordan and the Arts Officer of Galway City Council in May,

So it is up to you. If you want to be

included, you must turn a piece and submit it for selection. There is no restriction on the number of pieces you can enter. The selectors will choose what they consider to be the best pieces.

We will discuss this matter in more depth at the February meeting and we will schedule a special March workshop. At that stage, we hope to put together a firm list of people who wish to submit a piece for the selection process.

CYANOACRYLATE (CA) GLUE

By: Bruce Hoover Reproduced by Permission/ Tidewater Turners Virginia
<http://www.tidewaterturners.net/>

This is by no means a definitive source on the subject but rather a handful of notes about some useful things I have learned and since researched and would like to share for the benefit of all. Now that you have ordered a dozen bottles because you couldn't resist a good sale price, you wonder if the glue will ruin before you can use it all. Don't panic, just put the extra bottles in the freezer until they are needed. They will keep for a very long time in there. (Note: Only freeze unopened bottles.

Chances are that like most of us you always make sure to put the top back on as soon as you're finished using the glue, right? Ever notice how your nozzles clog up and sometimes the glue hardens in the bottle before you ever get to use it all? It turns out that a lack of oxygen is one of the primary conditions that causes CA glue to cure. So from now on, when you open a new bottle of CA throw away the top! It may sound crazy, but this will extend the life of your glue in the bottle.

If you're concerned about spilling it, make a bench top holder by drilling "bottle-sized" holes in a 2" thick block of wood. Make sure you keep it away from any source that creates much dust. Remember to tap the base of the bottle on your bench top after each use to clear the tip.

Soapbox on...This is probably a good time to point out how we all take our health for granted until something goes wrong. CA glue is dangerous stuff. You should avoid skin contact and always protect your eyes. The fumes generated when CA glue cures are potentially harmful, they make the eyes water, and are at the very least terribly annoying. Spend a few bucks and get a respirator with replaceable filters like the ones used in body and paint shops and use the damn thing! They are good for one year and are reasonably comfortable. They are very effective when gluing with CA and also when using lacquer and polyurethane finishes. Perhaps the most important tip to remember is to be sure that you never glue yourself to anything larger than you can pick up and carry to where you keep your CA solvent!Soapbox off.

CA glue can be effectively used as a sealer and stabilizer on damaged or punky wood. We all use different things to spread glue. I have used a piece of paper or a manila envelope because of the smooth texture. However, the glue usually runs over everything, including my fingers. The other problem with this is that the cellulose in wood and paper products is one of those things that seems to hasten the curing of CA glue. It starts to get tacky and ruins the application. Purchase some polyester batting (in sheet form) that is used for stuffing quilts and pillows. To make an applicator, cut a small piece of batting (about 2" square) and fold it, gathering the loose ends and wrapping them with a piece of masking tape. It now looks like a little foam brush with a masking tape handle (sit in front of the TV some night and make a bunch). Apply three or four drops of CA on the applicator and you will be absolutely amazed at how far and evenly it can be spread. The applicator will not stick or cause the glue to set and can be used for several minutes before it stiffens up. **If you pick up any wood dust it will harden very quickly.

When using CA glue to repair cracks or voids we would be well advised to test a spot on a waste scrap. If the wood is hard (like cherry or maple) then any dark marks from runaway glue will only be on the surface and can easily be cut or sanded away. The only thing that shows is the glue line, if that. However, on soft woods, the glue will soak right in and create a large blotch or spot and no amount of sanding will remove it! In all likelihood, this will compromise the appearance of the piece unless it has "blotches" of its own already. You can try to work the piece to completion without gluing but that is usually difficult. Another method is to apply the first coat of lacquer sanding sealer or lacquer or polyurethane to seal the surface and prevent the glue from soaking in. Oil (mineral or linseed) can accomplish the same thing if you normally use it as a base for your finish. Then repair the defect, sand, and finish. A word of caution here....if you are going to use accelerator on the CA, wait 60 seconds or so before you apply it or to reduce the chance it will foam up white.

Many of us use the method of gluing a waste block to our blank to mount it. This is especially handy when roughing out bowls from green wood because it won't warp as the bowl does when it dries. It also allows us to use more of the blank as part of the piece. I have had failures in the past but just one since using the following method: After preparing a flat surface and alignment holes in both the blank and the waste block, apply a film of thin CA to the blank and the waste block. This will soak in and insure a solid glue joint. Next, apply a liberal amount of thick CA to the blank. Align and press the waste block firmly in place using your alignment pin. Then spray just a slight mist of accelerator at two spots on the excess squeeze out. This will secure the block from moving until the rest of the glue sets well (about a half hour or so). If you're in a real hurry to turn, don't put any glue on the waste block but a very light mist of accelerator instead. Using the alignment pin, be fast and sure when you put the block in place because you only get one shot at it. Mount the piece using the tail stock for as long as possible for added safety.

Instant glues typically reach about 50% of their strength in one minute and achieve full strength after 12 hours. You may notice that CA seems to work especially well on green wet wood. This is likely explained by the fact that moisture (even relative humidity) on gluing surfaces is another one of the primary conditions that triggers the curing of the glue into a thermoplastic solid.

Acetone can be used as a solvent but it is not as fast acting. You can soak clogged tips in it to clean them up. Also, water in a mist bottle will serve as a cheap activator but will usually cause white foaming. I hope that you can make use of these tips to make your turning safer, easier and more fun.

ALLAN BATTY IS COMING ON FEB 18TH

Allan is a master turner and storyteller. Allan has been turning for 55 years since he was apprenticed at age 15. He has a true master's skill in the use of the skew chisel, all aspects of spindle turning, hand thread chasing.

Typical projects which Allan demonstrates are

A threaded mushroom shaped box,

A spherical puzzle box made from alternative ivory,

A platter

Laying out and turning cabriolet legs

Allan has produced an excellent DVD in his "*Allan Batty Masterclass*" series on the skew chisel. It covers all the fine



points of using the skew and comes with a nice pamphlet to assist the turner on learning the use of this tool.

This will be Allan's first visit to the Galway Chapter for our closed workshop.

We introduced these closed Chapter Workshops a few years ago to allow members of the Chapter get a real close up look at a master turner at work.

This year it will be Allan Batty. It has been six years since Allan demonstrated in Ireland, and at seminars, his demonstrations are always packed out.

You have a chance of going into a closed Workshop on Feb 18th for an in depth Masterclass. We will have video projection in place so you can get a really close view.

The attendance numbers are restricted to preserve the intimate feel so

BOOK NOW ! Fee € 30

With Roger To avoid disappointment

CREGBOY WORKSHOP BY TOM O'DOHERTY

The November workshop was hosted by Brid and Amby O'Halloran. It was a most informative and enjoyable and had a large attendance.

Brid had a cylinder of sycamore prepared and mounted on the Axminster M330. and announced she intended to "attempt a novelty item". With a finger nailed spindle gouge Brid fashioned Pinocchio's hat." Now" says Brid "head next". With dextrous gouge work the head appeared beneath the hat and but for a slight dig-in for which Brid apologised to Pinocchio everything went according to plan.

320 grit, cordless drills, hot glue guns, nose, eyes, lipstick all got a mention. Brid got a well deserved round of applause on completion. Not a lie had been told all night and we learned that bedan was used instead of the skew in French turning.

Amby's turn came next. One can

but marvel at the enthusiasm displayed. Amby is the ultimate "thinking turner". Theories are propounded, experiments undertaken, technicalities explained, cuts demonstrated. History and developments of cutting tools discussed, all with a deep understanding of the demands of the craft.

Amby worked on the imposing VB36 Master bowl turner lathe. Types of wood and finishes most suitable were treated with confidence, Work not finely finished will show up imperfection on application of finish weather wax or oil. We were again exhorted to experiment.

At this stage voices were heard in the outer section of the workshop. On investigation it was discovered that John McGann was helping Brid set up the edibles. He was also helping himself to the biscuits. Without too much persuasion we all helped John in the demolition job. The chat continued, the food

disappeared the Craic was mighty.

We were then entertained with a dissertation on the theories of burning wood. The advantages of Butane, Butane/Propane mix and MAPP gas were all discussed. Amby said he just investigation oxy-acetylene burring.

We finished of the night discussing of centre turning and extolling the qualities of the "Columba" 4 independent jaw chuck.

Everybody agrees that these workshops are social occasions as well as opportunity for learning. They are most enjoyable worthwhile evenings ... None more than Bird's and Amby's.



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

Monthly Turning Challenge Items 2006

January 2006	Trophy
February 2006	Open Competition
March 2006	TBA
April 2006	TBA
May 2006	TBA
September 2006	TBA
October 2006	TBA
November 2006	TBA
December 2006	TBA

At the February meeting we will select topics for
the monthly challenge for the rest of the year.

This year best of 8 entries so you are not too late to
bring in a piece for this year's Challenge.

NEWS BITS

January Workshop

Final Inspection before the January Workshop. Full report in February issue.

Gorey Chapter Seminar March 4th

Jules Tattersal & Albert Harrison are the



demonstrators

Application forms will available at the next meeting. Let us show some support.

Guild AGM March 26th

There are a number of vacancies on the Executive Committee **Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Membership Secretary, President**

If you are interested in going forward nominations forms will be available.

Mayo Chapter Seminar in April 8th

Billy Henry & David Comerford are the demonstrators. Application forms will be available. Let us show some support to our neighbouring Chapter

Galway Chapter Seminar in May 6th

John Jordan U.S.A. , Gary Rance, U.K. Glenn Lucas Ireland are the main demonstrators

**This Event will book out ,
BOOK Now ! To secure your place.**

Chapter Chairman on the ball at the Christmas party



It was a fabulous night thanks to John for organising. We have more photos but they are currently with our Legal Department.