

Shavings No 37 January 2018

The Ulster Chapter Newsletter

By Peter Lyons and Brendan McAreavy

Hello to 2018, a new year starts up, we are once again on a new magic roundabout. The prospect for 2018 is looking good. We have already had our first demo with Tom McCosh. Tom has set the bar high with a great demo, showing us his trumpet vase and the special tools he has developed to make it easier to do. See the report further on in the text. I have added Brendan's report on the December demo at the end.

Do you have anything that will add interest to this newsletter, please let me have it by email.

For Sales or Wanted

Paul Finlay informs me there is some good stuff on our web site. Keep looking at iwgulsterchapter.com.

Announcements

Jenne McDonald will attend the March meeting to collect eggs and chickens (ducks) etc for Easter. So get yourself started when you are waiting for inspiration. There is lots of wood available for your efforts in the Wood Shed.

Training and help before our demos.

Jim Stevens has agreed to do his sharpening class before the February Demo, so put the 10th February in your diary at 1200hrs. This class is to demonstrate how to sharpen your tools, not to get Jim to sharpen your tools for you. Come prepared to learn the correct techniques.

Calendar of Demos for 2018

The 2018 programme is as follows:-

February 10th, Danny McGeever is coming over from Sligo.

The Competition will be

Category 1 A friendship goblet. (A goblet with captive ring or rings)

Category 2 Valentines Day piece.

March 10th is Sally Burnett, all day demo.

April 14th Christien van Bussell

May 12th is Kieran Reynolds,

June 9th Seminar, Joss Naigon, all day demo.

Jason Breach will be here in November.

We will fill in the rest of the spaces as soon as we have decided on the turners.

Our first away day will again be at the Ballynature Day in Ballynure. 24th February. If you want to help out let Peter know. If you want to attend the day there will be more details in the January Shavings.

Competitions

We have introduced in category 2 a more open title for the competition entries. This is to try and get the entrants to widen their ideas when making competition pieces. We are trying to help you to use your imagination in your woodturning. I think we need to persevere with this for a time.

Shavings - January 2018

by Peter Lyons

January started well with a good attendance for Tom McCosh's demonstration. I took some notes and am going to try to convey to you the main parts of the demo by Tom.

I had asked Tom to do the demo as to how to make his very special trumpet vase that has variable wall thickness all the way up it's length. Tom started by saying, if anyone had seen this demo before some years ago, that this demo would be considerably different. He was correct, it was much better.



Tom started with design concept of the constantly varying wall thickness and the

shape. He spoke of the difficulty he had hollowing end grain at the bottom of the vase. Tom used to use scraping tools, but found that the results, although passable were not very good. He has developed new tools that make the job so much easier.



Tom told us not to start the project by shaping the outside of the vase, do the hollowing first. This makes the hollowing easier because of the bulk still being in the project. Use a big jaw chuck to give best possible grip to the vase. Look at the hollowing in 3rds, the top 1/3 is relatively easy, you can see what you are doing. The 2nd 1/3 is more difficult and is subject to vibration because of the distance from the chuck and your inability to see into the vase. The 3rd 1/3 is possibly slightly easier because the vibration problem is reduced as it is closer to the chuck.

Tom then went on to explain the evolution of his hollowing tools. He had firstly tried the carbide cutter, 5mm diameter, that is better than a scraper, but still not the best. Last October Tom saw Alan Lacer's demo at Maynooth as to how to make and use a hook tool. Tom made his own hook tool and was able to make long shavings from end grain. This looked good.

Tom had also developed his own design of tool rest, one that reached right down into the centre of the hollow needed to make the vase. He had developed his own tool that rested securely on this tool rest and gave him complete control of the carbide cutting tool. Tom worked at and developed another end for this tool that enabled him to fit it with a small hook tool. Tom demonstrated the use of this tool rest and hook tool in the hollowing of the vase. It was very efficient, it worked extremely well and left a finish on the inside of the vase that needed very little in the way of sanding. Well done to Tom for developing this excellent system.

When the centre of the vase was hollowed it was time to work on the outside

Tom's vase is made by shaping the outside to match the inside profile and leaving the wall thickness at 8mm. He Then uses a router on a purpose built table to do the outside profiling to vary the wall thickness around and along the vase.



I cannot go into the detail of Tom's table here, except to say that the router must be lined up with the long centre of the lathe. The router holder must move freely on the table, Tom uses a 3 point base to the holder. The table must be level both along the lathe axis and across it. The lathe must have an indexing system, the one on your lathe or a custom one. There must be two stops on the table that prevents the router from going too far left or right. There must be a system that indexes the top of the vase each time the vase is turned around on it's circumference. I am sure if you ask Tom he will give you help and guidance.



To commence the profiling set the router up to the base of the vase. All indexers set to zero. Run the router up the vase from bottom to top. Index the vase round 1 setting. Index the top of the vase 1 setting. Run the router

from bottom to top. Repeat this operation



until the vase has been turned 360 degrees. There will be a new profile on the outside of the vase varying the thickness from 8mm at the bottom to 4mm at the top. There will also be a line along the length of the vase that on



Thanks to Tom for such a good day.

Our January competition results and some pictures are to be found below.

Category 1 1st Sam Faulkner



one side of it the wall thickness at the top is 8mm and on the other side 4mm. Tom then marked a diagonal line at the top of the vase with a piece of string. This is use to cut the top of the vase to a point, from 8mm part to 4mm part.

The next stage is to do a lot of hand sanding, starting at 80 grit and going to 400. This will give a perfectly round smooth vase with varying wall thicknesses.

A very clever project and a good demo.

Tom finished out the day by showing us the hook tool. He had seen Alan Lacer's demo in Maynooth and gone home and developed what he had seen. He was surprised at the efficiency of the hook tool, giving him the ability to make proper shavings in end grain. Tom explained how to make a hook tool from 6mm high carbon steel and sharpen it. A very interesting end to the demo.



2nd Patsy Cassidy



3rd Vernon Robinson



Category 2 1st Keith Hyland



2nd Jim Stevens



December report 2017

Thanks to Brendan for this, he is at last feeling better.

The demonstrator for December 2017 was our own Peter Lyons and he was superb.

Peter started the demonstration by mounting a piece of wet, newly cut, Sycamore on a faceplate to make a thin-walled bowl inspired by the late Binh Pho. Using a long grind bowl gouge Peter cut from the base of the bowl to the top to establish the profile. He shaped the bowl and formed a spigot using a bedan and



a parting tool and, having removed the bulk of the wood, Peter then used a smaller gouge to define the final shape of the bowl and told us that he was looking at the horizon of the piece rather than at the gouge because that

gave him a better view of what the gouge was doing. In order to avoid sanding Peter used the side of the gouge like a skew to get the best finish off the tool that he could because sanding wet wood just gums up the paper. Before turning the blank he defined the upper edge of the bowl and advised us not to spend a lot of time truing the outside profile because it would likely move when the blank was reversed onto the spigot.

The bowl was turned and mounted in the chuck using the tailstock to help centre it. As expected, the outside needed to be trued before starting the inside and Peter used a bowl gouge like a skew to refine it. Once satisfied with the outside, work began on the inside. Peter set up a light to allow him to assess the thickness of the wall by the

of wall is finished it has to be left as near perfect as possible because you can't go back to it. Peter warned us to be careful not to touch the wall when removing waste wood from the middle because you are cutting towards the wall and can easily touch it when extracting the tool at the end of the cut. As Peter progressed down the wall he used calipers to confirm wall thickness and kept moving the tool rest as close to the wall as possible to avoid overhang and, thus, vibration.

When the inside of the bowl was cleaned out



amount of light coming through it. He moved down the wall cutting carefully and leaving as much mass in the middle as possible to aid stability. When working with such thin walls we do not want any flexing. As each section



the bowl was reversed onto a jam chuck that had a light stuck on it to throw light from the inside of the bowl to the outside and allow



Peter to cut the bottom of the bowl to the same thickness as the wall. The light was a cheap LED available in any Poundshop or B&M, eBay also has them for small money. Peter removed the excess wood on the bottom of the bowl and refined the foot with a spindle gouge. He cut the waste until it was almost about to snap off and then removed the last piece by hand to avoid tear out. Peter advised us to let the bowl dry and then sand it by hand after a few days.

This was a very courageous demonstration because a lot could have gone wrong but Peter produced a lovely bowl.

In the second part of the demonstration Peter encouraged us to try different things than we were used to in order to expand our skill range and explore new areas of creativity.

The first part of the demo showed us how to transfer a picture onto wood. Essentially, you select the picture, or part of a picture, you want to use and print it out as a reversed image using a laser printer. If you don't have a laser printer you could go to any of the print shops in town and have them print a number of images for you to save time and money. To transfer the image you tape it to the work with masking tape as smoothly as possible and rub 'Chartpak' Blenders over the image to transfer it to the wood. Rub the wet image with an old credit card to best transfer it to the wood. Seal the pens after use because they are expensive and evaporate.

The blenders are available from Ink & Media Ltd (<https://www.inkandmedialtd.co.uk/>) and Tiger Pens (<https://www.tigerpens.co.uk>)

(Peter has kindly offered to help anyone interested in this process if they email him at gaffer.lyons@btinternet.com)

Once the image had been transferred to the wood Peter showed us how to pierce it. He used a NSK dental drill and dental burrs. These are available from: -

Dentaquip Unit 1, Blaris Industrial Estate, Altona Road, Lisburn, BT27 5QB, 02892 601000 (Also advertised as DMI-Dental Medical Ireland)

The actual burr Peter used was Jet Brand 400107 JKS 506-315-17-007-009

Peter advised getting a high speed drill because the lower speed multi-tool, Dremel type, tool doesn't cut fast enough to make for satisfactory piercing. During the demo Peter used a very quiet compressor called a Bambi

which is aimed at dental use but a regular compressor with controlled air feed is also suitable. There was some discussion about cheap Chinese imports available on eBay but those weren't considered as reliable as swallowing hard and handing over the money for a good drill.



Peter briefly covered colouring the piece after piercing and recommended 'Golden Transparent Acrylic Paints' as used by Binh Pho. An Internet search will bring up lots of suppliers.

This was a thought-provoking, inspirational and thoroughly enjoyable demonstration. Peter encouraged us to get out of our comfort zone and try to develop our skills by spending more time on an individual piece to see what we can do to make it unique. He also showed us lots of new tools to aspire to owning which is always a good thing.

We thank Peter for this outstanding demonstration.

My thanks to Brendan for such a glowing report, I am delighted that he was able to get back to health. We hope to see him soon again in the Wood Shed.

I would also like to thank Robin Graham for the photos he sent to Brendan, one of which is above.