

# Shavings No 27 February 2017

## The Ulster Chapter Newsletter

By Brendan McAreavy and Peter Lyons

Welcome to the second Shavings of 2017. If you have anything that will add interest to this newsletter, please let me have it by email.

### **For Sales or Wanted**

If any of you have anything for sale or are looking for a piece of equipment that you do not have, please let me know and we can put it into Shavings. We can also add it to the web site. Send details to me by email.

### **Membership**

**Our Treasurer, Mark McGranahan, is accepting membership dues for 2017. If you haven't rejoined yet, please do so.**

## **Announcements**

### **Cork Seminar**

The Cork Chapter 1 day Seminar will take place in the Scout Centre, Togher on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April:

Registration commencing at 9am,  
Demonstration commencing at 9.30am.

The well-known Scottish Woodturner, **Richard Kennedy** will be the Demonstrator.

Cost of Seminar is €40,  
That includes tea and coffee.

There will be at least one Trade Stand  
at the Seminar.

There will be an Open Competition  
on the day.

Richard will hold a Masterclass on  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in Tony Farrell's Workshop,  
Ballinora, Waterfall.

Places will be available for Cork  
Chapter members initially but there may be  
places for members from other Chapters.

Fee for the Masterclass is €25.

Bookings with Mick Bouchier by email  
or text, please. Mick Bouchier, Secretary  
Cork Chapter IWG 086-8520542

**Our Ulster competition** has changed, the format will change from a league type competition accumulating over the year to a monthly competition that stands alone. Prizes are awarded each month to 3 persons in each category. 1st prize will be £15, 2nd £10 and 3rd £5. If someone wins in Category 1 three times, that person will automatically move to Category 2. They will be given a one off payment of £10 for achieving that improvement. After a number of years looking after the competition, Joan Henderson has stepped aside and Jack Chapman has come forward to fill the vacancy. Thanks to both of these persons for the work done and the work to come.

### **EGGS and Ducks**

**Don't forget we must have as many Eggs and Ducks ready for the Belfast Hospital for Sick Children at our next demo in March**

**Jenne will be coming to the Wood Shed to pick them up, so please bring as many as you can.**

### **More things to do for you**

Stephen and I have been talking about how we can organise some activities that might help you to enjoy your woodturning a bit more. Two of the ideas that have surfaced are to do some classes in the morning before our demo. This might be a sharpening class for your tools, how to use a tool that you have difficulty with, or something else that you suggest.

Last year a visit was organised to Dublin to see Emmet Kane's exhibition. Another visit to somewhere else could be arranged. Have you any ideas as to where that might be.

Have you any other ideas as to how we could help you to enjoy your woodturning experience more. Please let us have a response to these ideas, either by email or by talking to us at the next demo.

## Calendar of Demos for 2017

Each demo is £5 unless otherwise stated.

**March 11<sup>th</sup> Seamus Cassidy**  
**Competition is a box**

April 8<sup>th</sup> Philip Mahon  
May 13<sup>th</sup> Pat Walsh  
June 10<sup>th</sup> Richard Findley £25  
August BBQ date to be confirmed  
September 9<sup>th</sup> Robert O'Connor  
October 7<sup>th</sup>, a change from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Saturday in the month.** Demo TBA  
November 11<sup>th</sup> Sally Burnett £20  
December 9<sup>th</sup> Peter Lyons

### Demo February 2017

Brendan McAreavy

'Mastering The Spindle Gouge' was the very informative and entertaining demonstration given by Jim Stevens on 12th February 2017 at the Ulster Chapter monthly meeting.

Jim started with the analogy of a bundle of straws to represent the grain in a piece of wood and used that throughout to explain cuts and why catches happen. It is a very useful image for those time when we aren't exactly sure of which way to make a cut or why we aren't getting the cut we want. He went on to explain the importance of lathe alignment and gave a useful tip for checking that issue. Just put a dowel with some tape on the end in a chuck, start the lathe and make a mark on the tape in the centre of rotation. Then bring the tailstock up to the dot and check that the point is in line with the dot. If not, adjust the headstock accordingly.

The Roughing Gouge was the first tool that Jim demonstrated. He started by highlighting the need to remember our ABC's - Anchor, Bevel, Cut. This is important for every bevel-cutting tool and will make their use much more efficient. The Roughing Gouge is used to bring square stock to round but can also be used in a skewing orientation to leave a finish cut. Keep pressing on the tool rest to stop the tool bouncing on the timber.

The Continental Spindle Gouge is good for long, slow, curves and has a distinct advantage over a standard Spindle gouge that is too precise for large coves. The Continental Gouge can also be used for finishing cuts, after shaping, by cutting downhill with the grain to support the cut.

Jim then showed how to turn a finial with a Spindle Gouge. He prepared the blank with a Roughing Gouge and then used 'V'-cuts to define regions on the trued blank. While he was working Jim talked about the importance of having sharp tools, considering grain orientation, the feed rate of the cut (don't rush at the work and try to maintain an even speed), tool stability, bevel contact and tool clearance. It was very interesting to listen to Jim break down a cut into it's component parts.

"A nearly sharp tool will nearly cut" - Sharpening. Jim explained, in detail, the importance of sharp tools. We need to refine the cutting edge on almost every tool we buy because they are only dressed in the factory so that we know which end of the chisel to stick in the wood. Jim described the grind he prefers on his Spindle Gouges and told us he uses the Sorby ProEdge belt grinder. This gives a flat grind which is different to the concave grind from a grinding wheel but, essentially, the only bit we need to worry about is the cutting edge. People who use both systems say there is virtually no difference in the grinds when it comes to actual cutting. If you use grinding wheels it is important to ensure that the wheels are running true on the spindle and are properly dressed on the surface to remove coves and blemishes on the wheels that will affect the grind on the gouge. When Jim regrinds a new chisel he takes 15 degrees off the top of the flute to remove the top of the wings and then puts a 45 degree grind with a 35 degree bevel underneath.

After the break and our wonderful raffle Jim made a weed pot/bud vase/twig pot. He uses a piece of Yew, marked the centres and mounted it on the lathe to cut a tenon to hold the piece in a chuck. He shaped the vase bottom and neck before cutting a depression in the top for drilling. The neck was drilled out, final shaping was done and a concave cut was made on the bottom so that the vase would sit square. Jim then

made an off-centre weed pot and decorated the base with a chatter tool as an example of what can be done to enhance a piece. After completing this part, a hole was drilled about 5mm from the pith by putting the drill in the headstock and pushing the blank onto it with the tailstock to keep alignment true. Then a length of All-thread was used as a screw chuck. Jim kept the speed slow to account for the weight offset and advised us not to offset too far in case we lose integrity in the wood. After the weed pot has been shaped the threads in the neck can be removed with a tapered drill bit.

Finally, Jim made a bird so that we all knew how to make them for the Childrens' Hospital. Firstly, mount the blank between centres and cut a square tenon for offsetting. Then mark a slight offset and line it up with the tailstock. Lock down the chuck and cut a cove for the head and neck of the bird. Cut the neck to the body and shape the head. Finish the head before the neck to retain integrity in the wood. When the head is finished, cut the neck to the body section. Remount the blank on-centre and cut the body. Cut towards the headstock through air and cut a round bottom. The legs can be cut now or the body shaped to have the chicken sitting down (useful position if the legs don't work out or break while cutting). Part off with a concave bottom. Drill a hole for a beak and eyes if you wish to add those elements. Jim uses an exotic wood for the beak. Sanding - sand to P120 so that the paint will adhere to the wood.

Jim managed to pack a huge amount of very useful information and tips into a short, highly enjoyable, afternoon and we thank him for that.

### **Ballynure, 25th February 2017**

Some members of our Chapter took part in the BallyNatured day held in Ballynure. We set up in the Presbyterian Church Hall in the centre of the village.

Paul Finlay brought his Lathe and started the day off making little bird pencil tops. Jim Stevens came on board, making spinning tops. We turned all morning making various items, Jack Chapman, Malachy Totten, Tom McCosh and Billy Ferris all had a go on Paul's lathe. When the morning crew left, Ricky McDonald and Brendan McAreavy brought along another lathe and we went

into even more production. We worked through to 4pm before heading home. Paul, Malachy and myself brought some pieces along and displayed them on the 2 tables provided free of charge by the organisers, a few items were sold, but every spinning top made was given to the kids for free.

There were all sorts of environmental stands at this event. Tea and coffee was available for £1. We were able to see all of the stands in each of the 3 halls, if you were of an environmentally aware type, it was a lovely day.

### IWG Ulster Chapter Competition Results

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Competition was for a spindle turned piece  
Category 1

1<sup>st</sup> Place

John McClenaghan Chair



2<sup>nd</sup> Place



Keith Hyland

Spinning wheel



Patsy Cassidy 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Pair of chairs

Category 2

David O'Neill 1<sup>st</sup> Place Mallet



Dermot Doherty 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Gavel and anvil



Paul Finlay 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Condiment set



Total entries Cat 1/Cat 2 : 5 / 8

