

# Shavings No 48 January 2019

## The Ulster Chapter Newsletter

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### January 2019

We started a new year with a full house and David O'Neill as our demonstrator on Saturday 12th January 2019.

David started by talking about the problems associated with turning plywood because of the amount of glue used in its construction and how he spends a lot of time sharpening traditional gouges when turning

etc) and made a tool to cut plywood. When he tried it out he discovered that the carbide tips are exactly what he needed to work on plywood so, having decided that these are the way to go he got some more tips and, for his demo, showed us how to turn a heavy handle for a carbide-tipped tool.

Having already turned a handle for his first tool David decided to replicate it because it was comfortable and offered enough weight to act as a counterbalance to the working end. The first job is to drill a hole for the tool shaft. David uses a jig that attaches to the bed and allows him to hold a square blank on-centre. The jig can be adjusted to accommodate various thicknesses of blank and the two sides holding the blank that are at 45 degrees to each other have a small gap where they meet to allow shavings and dust to escape and thereby not affect the



plywood forms and moulds. It was at Makers' Central last year that he discovered tungsten carbide cutters being used for woodturning and wondered how they would perform on plywood. So, he bought some tips (which are easily available for planers



seating of the blank in the jig. In order to have as much weight as possible in the handle without adding



David used African Lead-wood, a dense, tropical, hardwood. After the blank was drilled it was mounted between centres and rounded to final diameter using calipers to assess progress. David reminded us to round over the ends of our calipers before sticking them onto spinning wood. Once the diameter was set the area for texture was marked out and the ferrule was fitted.

When fitting the ferrule David marked the length and set his calipers to slightly more than the internal diameter of the stainless steel ferrule. This allowed him to quickly cut to near thickness and then slowly cut and try until the fit was perfect.

The handle was then textured using a Proxxon grinder ([Proxxon](#)) with an Arbortech mini grinder disc ([Arbortech disc](#)). With the speed of the lathe at about 1300rpm David traversed the area he wanted to texture keeping the cutter moving and keeping his feet placed in one spot so that his approach and angle to the work stayed the same. He stopped the lathe to assess progress and continued until the whole area to be textured was completed. When satisfied that the texture was

complete David then used a wire brush on a drill to remove the grain lifted by



the texturing tool with the lathe running but stopping occasionally to finish any particular spots that needed a little more attention.

With the texture completed David then tidied the ends of that area by cutting 'V' grooves and reducing the overall diameter of each end of the handle to make the texture stand proud. He turned a bead at the ferrule end to complete it and trimmed the wood flush with the ferrule at the end of the blank. Having finished the ferrule end David planed the opposite end to match the diameter at the ferrule and rounded it over to finish it neatly.

The tool handle was sanded to P320 (along with the stainless steel to brighten it but don't put that paper on wood or it will make the wood black!) and then sealed and lacquered. David prefers to use a Sealey 0.5L paint gun (about £25, [many here](#)) but, for the purposes of this demo used canned sealer and lacquer. After the sealer was applied the surface was sanded with Mirka sanding blocks that hold Abranet sheets ([Mirka blocks](#)). When satisfied with the sealed surface David sprayed lacquer onto the handle.

Easy Wood Tools ([EWT](#)) have guidelines for carbide tips ([tip info](#)) and cutters are easily available online [Ebay](#), [Amazon](#) (cutters for woodturning), negative rake seem only made for Easy Wood Tools but are available on Amazon ([EWT negative rake cutters](#)).

In the late afternoon session David made two contemporary candlesticks from 4" x 4" (100mm x 100mm) Oak blanks. He mounted the blanks



between centres, determined and marked the length/height and proceeded to turn the blank to shape working both ends to dimension before 'putting some shape in' as David said.

With the blank mounted in a chuck David first bored a hole for a glass tea-light insert ([round glass tealight holders](#)) using a tungsten tipped Forstner bit. These are expensive but may be worth buying if you are going to make a lot of candle holders ([Axminster Tungsten tip Forstner](#)). David marked the shaft of the bit with a pencil to set his depth of cut and then tested the fit and depth with an insert until he got the fit he needed. He then made the hole slightly bigger than the insert to avoid future problems if the wood moved. Once the tea-light hole was complete David then drilled another hole inside the original to accept a brass holder for a tall, slim, candle.



Now that the drilling was complete David set the shape of the candle using dividers to set, and record, measurements for the second candlestick he would make. He marked guidelines for the base and reduced the stem to about 40mm with a parting tool.

He then used a skew to cut the shape to this narrow waist. By cutting from the top and the base David was able to set the waist and leave a clean line where they met. Once satisfied with the shape, David cut two tiny 'V' grooves at the rim and rolled a small bead to finish the piece. In order to finish the bottom the candlestick was reversed onto the chuck jaws and the jaws expanded to hold the piece. A tissue helps prevent marking the inside of the candlestick. With the piece secure, David cleaned the base leaving it very slightly concave so that it sits square. He advised not making this concave base too deep or it just looks overdone.



With one candlestick made David repeated the process showing how the recorded measurements helped him produce an identical candlestick to the first.

This was a lovely demo. We learned a lot about making a tool to satisfy specific requirements and the discipline required to do copy turning without a copy lathe. We thank David for his excellent tuition and advice.

Since David's demo Gerry Leddy has found an all glass candle holder that takes wide and narrow candles, in Tesco's. Look out for these.



## OTHER STUFF!!!

### February Demo

The February demo is on Saturday 9th February 2019 and will be an all-day demo. Margaret Garrard is our visiting demonstrator and will start at 9.30am. There will be a break for lunch and members are advised to bring their lunch with them as none will be provided. However, tea and coffee will be available.

### Ballynure

Ballynature day will be held on Saturday 23rd February 2019 in the church halls in Ballynure. We have two members offering to bring lathes but might be able to take one more. Any members who are willing to go help out on the day please tell Peter or Brendan.

### Ballymoney Exhibition

The Ballymoney Exhibition that we were asked to put back from November last, begins on 28 February 2019 - 13 April 2019. We have been offered the entire display area for our work, so we need a

lot of pieces please. We need to have our pieces in Ballymoney on or before 21st February 2019. The opening night will be on Wednesday 27th February, so that we can see the display before it opens to the public on 28th. Come along that evening, it is usually good fun.

### Display Table

We are going to have a third table on each Guild Saturday for members to display pieces they have completed or are working on. Some members prefer not to enter competitions but may wish to let the rest see what they are doing. Competitions are not about collecting prizes, they are about doing the best you can within a given set of parameters but those parameters do not suit everyone so the display table is for all the pieces that don't align with competition themes or that people just prefer not to enter in competitions.

### Website Images

We hope to publish more images of our members' work on our website ([Ulster Chapter](#)) and there are suggestions that we start some sort of hard copy reference book to record the work we are all doing so that our members can use it for inspiration or help.

### Air Brushing Class

There is a master instructor in the Ballymena area who is one of only three recognised resource centres by a major airbrush supplier in the World and We have made tentative approaches and have succeeded in organising a class at the end of January. The cost is £25 per person. This class is booked up but there are others who might be able to attend in the evenings. If you are interested please contact us and we will see if we can arrange another.

## Calendar of Demos for 2019

Feb Margaret Garrard, all day demo  
March Donal Ryan  
April Charlie Ryan  
May Seamus Cassidy  
June Seminar All day demo to be arranged. Mick Hanbury cannot come.  
September Emmet Kane  
October Gary Rance, all day demo  
November Pat Carroll  
December Max Brosi

**The 3 all day demos will cost more than the normal £5 entry, we will let you know in good time what the cost and the eating arrangements will be**

### Membership Fees

It is the time of year to renew your membership. I have sent a mail to those who have not yet renewed, reminding them that we need the renewal fees. If you do not renew, this is the last Shavings you will get from us.

### January Competition

The Category 1 competition was for a lidded container.

There were two entries and won by

1st was Patsy Cassidy



2nd was Francie McHugh



Category 2 competition was for a Standard Lamp, we had only one entry.

1st Harry Emerson



## The Competitions for 2019

Month

### **Category 1**

February Pestle and Mortar  
March Gavel & Base  
April Thimble and Needle case  
May Kitchen Item  
June Seminar Open Competition  
September A pair of serviette rings  
October A pot stand  
November A set of coasters and stand  
December A Candlestick

### **Category 2**

February Black and White  
March A Square Bowl  
April A Sundial  
May A One piece scoop  
June Seminar Open Competition  
September A set of four serviette rings  
October A delicate piece  
November A decorated plate up to  
250mm  
December A pair of candlesticks