

Shavings No 29 April 2017

The Ulster Chapter Newsletter

By Peter Lyons and Brendan McAreavy

Welcome to the next 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

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.

More things to do for you Training and help before our demos.

Last month Jim Stevens gave a very popular sharpening masterclass. If we know what other skills you would like to find out about we can set up other classes. Let us know what it is you would like to learn. Thanks to Jim for last month, we have had nothing but positive feedback.

Bangor and Omagh Exhibitions

The Bangor day has been changed from the Saturday to the Sunday. Now on Sunday 6th August. If you would like to help on this one let me know. It runs from 1100 to

1600. Even if you cannot go on the day you can help by making spinning tops, we give away loads on the day.

Omagh Exhibition is on in October. We need to know what you would like to exhibit at Omagh. Please give Stephen a list of your pieces before the end of September. A good description of the piece, and a name of you want to give it one.

Ballymoney Exhibition

If you would like to move your piece on to the Ballymoney Museum exhibition, directly from Omagh, let us know and we will move it for you. We will be giving Ballymoney a list of those pieces so you don't have to have them there too weeks ahead of the exhibition. Ballymoney are looking for more pieces this year, so if you have not exhibited there before, have a go this year. Ballymoney is a good sales opportunity.

Calendar of Demos for 2017

Each demo is £5 unless otherwise stated.

May 13th Pat Walsh

The Competition for May is a Natural Edge piece, incorporate a natural edge anywhere on the entry.

June 10th Richard Findley £25,
Competition is an open one.

Please let Peter know if you intend to attend our Seminar. We will be well subscribed as 12 members of the Down Chapter are going to attend. My list of those of you who have already said you are coming is 34 persons. If you have not done so email Peter asap.

August BBQ date to is confirmed as Saturday 12th August. It starts at 1200 and is not to be missed. Sam's Barbecued Bananas are exceptional culinary delights.

September 9th Robert O'Connor

October 7th, a change from 2nd to 1st
Saturday in the month. Demo TBA
November 11th Sally Burnett £20
December 9th Peter Lyons

Report - April 2017 Brendan McAreavy

April 2017 saw Phillip Mahon travel from Sligo to present the Ulster Chapter's monthly demonstration in The Woodshed, Templepatrick. He showed the members how to make a wooden towel rail and explained how to approach the technical difficulties associated with the project.



Phillip displayed two towel rails he had already made and described some of the challenges associated with the task, like drilling dowel holes in a curved rail and mounting the piece without showing how that was done. He then proceeded to make one version of the two towel rails he showed at the start and made the curved sections first.

In order to make the ring section Phillip mounted a circular blank about one inch thick and slightly more than 7 inches in diameter to allow him to cut a ring 7" in diameter and 3/4" thick. He trued the blank to 7" and then cut a recess in the back that left a 3/4" section on the circumference of the blank. Lines were marked in the centres of the top and sides of the ring blank section to denote the high points and Phillip carefully shaped the bead to produce a ring 3/4" thick. During the process he used a gauge to help define the curve of the ring. When the front section of the ring was complete the blank was reversed, using a recess that had been cut earlier for this purpose, to allow the rear section of the ring to be completed. As the ring neared completion, Phillip used a thin parting tool to carefully cut through the last of the wood and pared off the remaining wood on the

ring with a knife. The ring section is then cut in half and the ends drilled, on the lathe, with a special jig designed for the purpose but not used on the day as the various elements of the exploded demo towel rail were prepared in advance and the individual pieces cut as demonstrations to save time in the demo.

The next piece to be prepared was the centre piece that would hide the mounting point and hold the top section of the towel rail. Phillip used a blank 50mm x 42mm that had a hole drilled for wooden pins. There had to be two flats to accept the parts that would connect the centre piece to the ring sections so these were marked at 13mm spacing on the narrow sides of the blank. Phillip recommended using a marking gauge to keep the measurements concentric.

The blank was then mounted between centres and rounded until the diameters of the flats had been reached (remember, the flats will accept the two short spindles that connect to the half rings). The blank was then trued using a template to achieve the exact profile Phillip wanted. He recommended slightly undercutting coves to make them stand out and better define them. When the profile was finished a tenon was cut, before parting off, that would fit into the base piece that goes against the wall. This central piece could be made in one piece with a hole drilled through the centre for a mounting screw and a cap placed on top to hide the fixture.

The next stage was to make the base section that would mount to the wall. Phillip used a round Ash blank 30mm thick that was mounted on a screw chuck. The face and edge were trued up and a recess cut to reverse the blank and hold it in a chuck. When the blank was reversed and a mortice cut to match the base of the central boss. The profile was then cut to match the top piece and a smaller mortice cut, with a Forstener bit, to accept the tenon on the boss. When the piece is mounted to the wall with a screw the centre piece is pressed on to hide the fixture.

The top section of the towel rail now needed two short spindles to connect the centre piece to the half circles. The blanks were mounted between centres, trued and

marked out with a marking gauge to ensure they were identical. Care was taken to ensure the dowels on each end matched the drilled holes in the centre piece and ring halves.

The final piece of the project was the long spindle that connects the half rings together and that will support the towels when in use. The blank was carefully measured to include the length of the tenons going into the mortices in the ring ends and mounted, between centres. Phillip then trued the blank and marked it with a gauge to copy the design on the small spindles. When this was complete the towel rail was assembled and it was a very attractive and achievable piece for all of us to try.

We thank Phillip for coming to the Ulster Chapter and sharing his knowledge and expertise.

Competition

The competition was to make a multi axis turning

Category 1

1st Keith Hyland



2nd Vernon Robinson



3rd No Entry

Category 2

1st Ricky McDonald



2nd Dermot Doherty



Some of the entries in our April competition



Philip starting the project

3rd Billy Ferris





Parting off the ring



Pieces ready for assembly



Holes bored



Assembling



Wall bracket



Jobs a good'un