

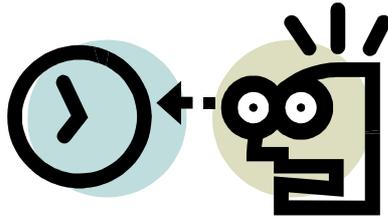


# Dublin Chapter Newsletter

February 2008 Volume 3 Issue 1

*Come in number 5 your time is up!*

After weeks of procrastinating, I've hit the point of no return and had to come up with something to write here. I'll start by thanking everyone for the encouragement, input and offers of help I've received. It's hard to grasp the effort that goes into producing the newsletter until you are thrown in at the deep end and after spending time pouring through old newsletters for inspiration, it is clear to me what a fantastic job my predecessors did and how my work is cut out to near their standard. A special word of thanks to Richard Murphy for his help and advice in handing over the newsletter and also to Charlie Ryan. Our former chairman and newsletter editor are both still continuing to arrange printing and copying the newsletter.



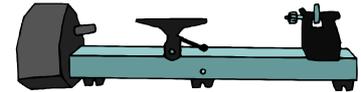
*Something old, something new, something plagiarised...*

This newsletter has a mix of new stuff and a revisited article that some of you will have read before. I think there is wealth of material from previous newsletters that would be of interest to most members and particularly to newer members who missed them first time around (not to mention being an easy way for me to fill the pages). If I'm still short on content, I plan to turn to the tried and trusted method of "borrowing" anything I can find and ultimately if all else fails, I'll just throw in a few silly graphics!

*"An editor is a person who knows precisely what he wants, but isn't quite sure." - Walter Davenport.*

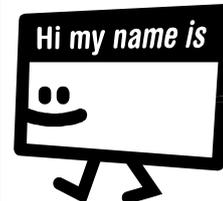
Please, let me know what you think of this months newsletter and keep your ideas, suggestions and particularly any contributions coming in. For those that would like to submit something and do not have access to a computer, I'm happy to take items on paper and either type or scan them in. You can collar me at the meeting, reach me by e-mail at: [rvarney@eircom.net](mailto:rvarney@eircom.net) or by phone on 086-8327985 or you can even drop stuff in the post to me: Richard Varney, 1 Bewley Grove, Lucan, Co Dublin.

*Rich.*



Inside this issue:

- 2008 Committee Details
- Competition News and Results
- Shavings
- Turning and Learning
- Tips and Suggestions
- Escape to Happy Place
- Forthcoming Demonstrations



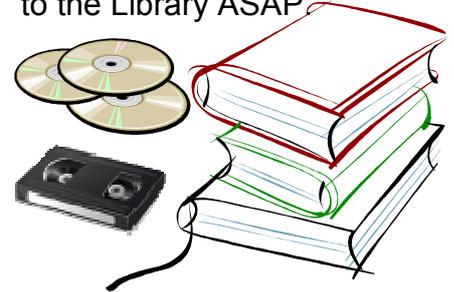
New name badges will soon be provided for Dublin Chapter Members. It is hoped that all members will try their best to use the badges at our meetings each month. It will help new and existing members to identify other members more easily. We have all experienced that embarrassing moment when you have to ask another person's name even though you chat to them each month.

## Committee Members for 2008

<u>Position</u>	<u>Members Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Chairman	Jonathan Wigham	01-4932890
Secretary	Tommy Boyle	087-6995111
Treasurer	Paddy Finn	087-9801142
Competitions	Tom Delaney	087-9504690
Books & Video	John Killoran	01-4903410
Workshops	Chris Lawlor	087-6484380
Exhibitions	Graham Brislane	087-2914770
Newsletter	Rich Varney	086-8327985

## Library Returns Please!!

If you still have any books, videos or DVDs lying around the house please return them to the Library ASAP



## Competition Pieces

March:	A goblet with one captive ring for Beginners An off centre goblet with two captive rings for Experienced & Advanced.
April:	A small box (plus special open competition).
May:	A gavel and anvil.
June:	A platter.
July:	A walking stick.



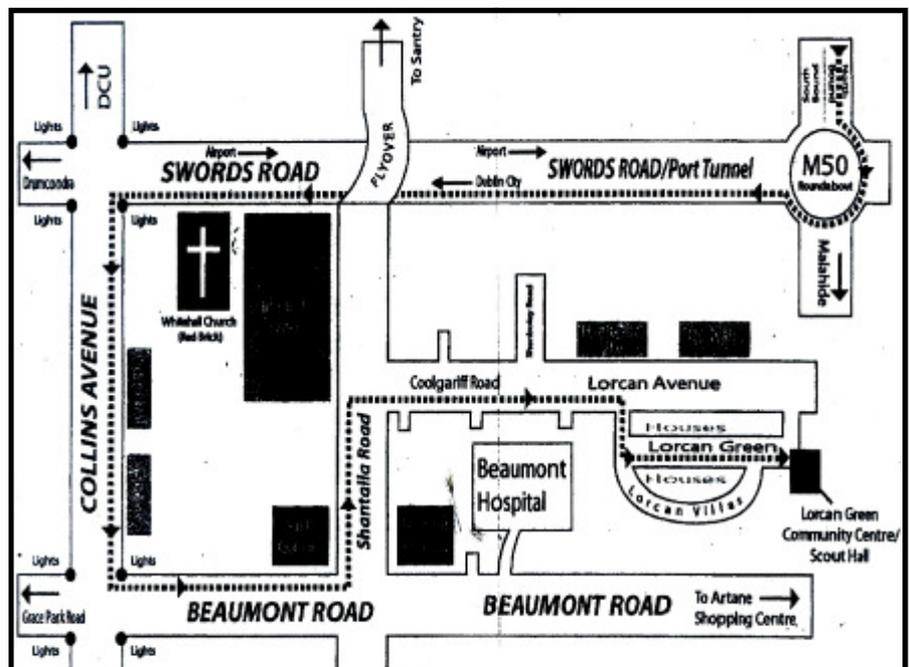
Tony Beattie is looking for old journals etc. that anyone no longer needs or wants.

Contact:

Tony Beatty  
210 St Peters Road  
Greenhills

Tel: 01-4509618

E-mail: [tony.beatty@upcmail.ie](mailto:tony.beatty@upcmail.ie)



## Dublin East Central Chapter

This chapter meets on second Saturday of each month in Lorcan Green Community Centre / Scout Hall at 2.00 pm.  
Tel: 086 8241470

## Special Competition for April

Cecil Baron will be providing wood blanks at the February meeting for a special competition to be judged at the April meeting. All of these pieces will be retained by the Chapter to be sold in aid of the Alzheimer's Society at the exhibition at Tallaght Hospital in May.

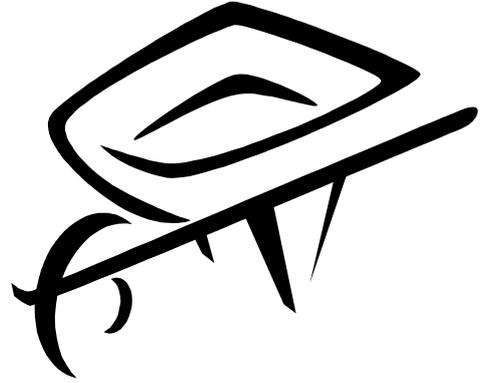
### Found on the interweb...

My wife came in today and asked if I would go do some turning. "Ahh!", I excitedly asked, "What do you need?" Expecting her to perhaps ask for a new dibber or possibly a rolling pin or a vase. "I have Persimmon, Hickory, Mesquite, a little bit of Walnut and a tad of Oak. What would you like?"

"Oh, I don't care. I need about six bags of shavings for the flower beds."

## Shavings

I have often been asked about using shavings in the garden as a mulch or on the compost heap. Well I use most of my sawdust and shavings on the compost heap provided it is well mixed in with plenty of green material and a little Sulphate of Ammonia. However I came across an article in a magazine recently on this subject which I would like to share with you. It says the following.



"A 1 to 2 inch layer of shavings or sawdust is an excellent mulch. It holds moisture well and prevents weeds from sprouting. Cedar, walnut and treated timber, however, contains chemicals that plants do not like so you should avoid these. Contrary to popular belief, sawdust will not leach nitrogen from the soil as long as it is left on the surface. It is true that the microbes feasting on the sawdust will seek an additional source of

nitrogen to flourish, but they will not rob much from the soil below if the mulch is kept as a separate layer. A year or so later is the time to dig it in around your plants you should then add some fertiliser and all should be well."

A last word from me to say it is most important to mix sawdust and shavings very well with the green material, turn the compost heap regularly and do not let it get too wet or too dry. Turning a compost heap is most important as it aerates and loosens it up this speeds up the process of making good compost.

*Barry Dunne.*



While we are on the subject of composting... I have a ~80 Litre round plastic (empty, I hasten to add) compost bin that is taking up much needed space in my garden. It's free to anyone that wants it on a first come basis.

Contact Rich Varney on  
086-8327985

*Eugene Grimley demonstrates inside-out turning at January's meeting.*

# Turning and Learning. Part 1.

## 2008. Just Another Year.

Farewell and well done, to Richard Murphy, and welcome and good luck to our new Newsletter Editor Rich Varney.

As I have had my beginner's status removed by the powers that be, I can hardly continue to churn out text under the heading of "*The Beginner's Guide to Survival*". However the wise or wily among us realise that we will always be learners, and so the heading above seems appropriate.

I told Rich that I would not be able to do justice to our learned Demonstrators by attempting a full description of their work. I did promise to keep an eye and an ear open for the little snippets and tips that I might add to my store of know-how.

Before moving on to the two recent demonstrations, just a quick word about the Chapter's AGM. Most of us just want to get on with our hobby, and the thought of volunteering for Committee work fills us with dread. We know that someone has to do the various jobs or we would cease to function as a Chapter, and possibly even the Guild would be on shaky ground. Hoping for the best we keep our heads down and avoid the Chairman's eye. Thanks to some divine influence some brave and selfless members sacrifice themselves for the common good. Thank you, thank you, to both the outgoing and the incoming members of the Committee. May your shadows never grow short, and may your lathes never be silent.

## Story-time.

With Joe O'Neill doing the December demonstration we were guaranteed some good yarns and were not disappointed. He realises that he could easily lose the continuity of his project while telling jokes, so Joe explained at the start, that before a "demo" he does a trial run and jots down the different tasks in sequence. This he claims means that he never forgets where he is. He proved this by showing us the sheet, but then forgot where he put it. After his short history of the Wesleyan Church in Canada he could probably have done with his checklist. (Item 1 should be "Don't lose this list".)

Another tip of Joe's, to ensure he stays ahead of his audience, and to silence the smart-alecs, is to jot down the Latin name of whatever he is working on. So for his Ear-ring Holder he announced that he was working with a piece of Yew - "Or as I normally call it, *Taxus baccata*"! That got him some respect all right. In between stories Joe was cracking on with the work and he certainly got a great finish on the wood with his favourite EEE polish finished off with a cream that he has been using for many years.

To his credit Joe can always be relied on for one or two tips on safety. He used a dust mask more often than most demonstrators, and he recommended the type he was using - I think it was "dust-be-gone" or something on those lines. Another good tip was to round off the tips of callipers if you are using them to check dimensions with the work piece in motion.

This will avoid some occasional dangerous catches. Like a lot of tips we kind of know we should do it but don't quite get around to it. Apart from safety he mentioned a few more little gems of wisdom, including how to grind down a masonry nail for making small coves, and how best to grind the three faces on a piece of round bar for the three-point tool. Finally he showed a very simple way to evenly mark our 20 holes on the circumference of his work piece just by moving the tool rest to the centreline, and then moving 90 degrees and then dividing sections. Many thank Joe for all the tips, and for the entertainment.



*Joe O'Neill gets everyone into the holiday mood*



## Inside Out.

Eugene Grimley, Secretary of the Irish Woodturners' Guild, was our first Demonstrator of 2008. (Actually I think I recognised his face from among the many photos of the Ballina attendance that are reproduced in the latest IWG Journal - we are really lucky to have such a good journal.... Yes, Joe O'Neill's picture is there too.)

Eugene gave a brilliantly clear demo of an "inside out" turning. I cannot remember many demonstrations that kept the audience so quiet and attentive. A good number of those present felt that at last they were prepared to "have a go" at something they had considered too challenging. I for one was very impressed that he used only one tool for 95% of the work, and he didn't sharpen the gouge even once.

Without trying to describe Eugene's work in full I stored away the following bits and pieces:

- Good old-fashioned Resin W, and just a few spots of it, was enough to bond the sections together
- While the sections have to be reasonably level and square, the work does not require rocket science
- He is not above "scavenging" material, and table legs worked admirably
- His mix of 50/50 sanding sealer and thinners dried extra quickly
- Keeping a bit of webrax in the polish tin and using it as an applicator is a great idea
- His ingenious use of a sock to prevent his square wood "drive centre" from damaging the finished inside of the work piece
- He pressed an ancient drum sander into service to finish the curved outside leaves
- If we could not afford the excellent Steb centres he was using, we could just stick on a piece of scrap wood to avoid the point of the centre splitting the sections apart
- He did not forget safety tips which were important due to the extensive "shadow" areas just waiting for unwary fingers.

Finally, the members are unlikely to forget Eugene's motto - **"Don't ever say it cannot be done"**.

Gerry Ryan.



Illustration by Christián van Bussel

December's competition item was a Christmas item.



*All competition and demonstration photos by Hugh Flynn.*

James Gallagher—Advanced



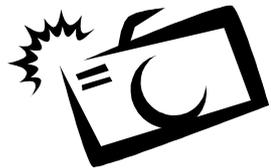
Gerry Ryan—Experienced



Liz Boden—Beginners

### Photo Request

Niall Cahill is looking for photographs of the January **2007** competition (Gavel and Anvil) winning pieces for the website. Hugh Flynn was sick that time and someone else took the photos. For completeness, he would like to track down the photos before it's too late. Alternatively if the winners themselves have photos of the pieces Niall can arrange to upload them.



Fine sandpaper, such as 1200 and 1500 grit etc. can be obtained from most motorfactors.

*Mick Byrne*

January's competition item was a money box.

(Illustration by Christi en van Bussel)



Michael Fay—Advanced



Steve Harbourne—Beginners



Tony Hartney—Experienced

## Competition Results 2008

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>
<b><u>Advanced</u></b>			
Cecil Barron	24	13	11
Michael Fay	24	9	15
James Gallagher	15	15	0
Pat M Walsh	13	0	13
Albert Sloane	11	11	0
Tony Lally	9	0	9
<b><u>Experienced</u></b>			
Colm McIntyre	24	11	13
Brian Kelly	24	13	11
Gerry Ryan	24	15	9
Tony Hartney	15	0	15
John Holmes	7	0	7
<b><u>Beginners</u></b>			
Liz Boden	15	15	0
Steve Harbourne	15	0	15

## Escape to Happy Place

There are two places at home where I can pretty much guarantee being on my own. One is the office - I work from home and it often seems that if I'm not in there working, I'm still at my desk, surfing the internet or keeping in touch with friends. Everyone says I spend too much time in there, Jacq (my wife), the kids, the dog, even me!

The other is Happy Place - that haven from the stresses of life. I can go out there and do whatever I'm in the humour of doing. Many people don't get it, only the occasional like-minded individual can understand that having somewhere to do nothing in particular is the whole point of the exercise. Jacq certainly thinks I spend too much time in Happy Place "playing" with my "toys."

Until recently Happy Place was a 12' by 8' wooden garden shed. I could barely move in there. By the time you have a lathe and one or two other tools standing around, plus assorted garden tools and boxes of heaven knows what, 96 square feet is not a big area. Added to this, the floor was springy to say the least. I never expected to be able to turn huge eccentric pieces on the DML, but if I ran anything that was even slightly unbalanced on the lathe, the shed moved around like a bouncy castle with 20 kids on it. And then there was also the issue of security. All in all, it's fair to say that I had become pretty unhappy with Happy Place and was spending less time there.

After a long concerted campaign of petitioning, whining and begging I finally convinced Jacq (or "An Bord Pleanála" as she is known around here) to release funds, and more importantly garden space to a more suitable and bigger replacement. When outline permission was suddenly granted, I was like a rabbit in headlights. I was torn between getting in builders or doing it myself, which would never have gone down well with the boss for a variety of reasons. Not least of these being that I still had to break it to her that I needed to house the contents of the shed in her conservatory for the duration. Things didn't move on for ages, while I weighed up what to do. I'd given some consideration to a steel structure, but not much as I was put off by the thought that it might be very noisy and some that I had seen about the place looked like little more than glorified shipping containers. (Hope I'm not offending anyone with a container in their back garden)

I then came across a company "Shanette Sheds" who provide steel buildings made from insulated Kingspan panels. They looked passable as far as Jacq was concerned and I felt that the insulation would help keep the place warm and soundproofed. Another big factor was that I would be able to have a good level of insulation without needing the wall thickness that would be required in a block built structure. This was important to me, given that I wanted the internal floor space of the shed to be as big as possible, while strict limits had been placed on the external dimensions.

So with my mind finally made up the new 18' by 12' shed was ordered and I set about emptying and dismantling the old one. Three months down the road the new shed is already cluttered, but that is because for the most part, stuff is sitting on the floor while I sort out storage. It's still early days, but thus far I'm extremely happy with the decision.



Happy Place is living up to its name once more.

*Rich Varney*

### Forthcoming Demonstrators

1 March 2008      Peter Donagh    (North East Chapter)

5 April 2008      To be arranged.

3 May 2008      Roger Bennett