

Dublin Chapter Newsletter

May 2008 Volume 3 Issue 3

One of my big bug-bears are companies that offer options on their websites to raise queries or contact customer services, but do not maintain these services. It never ceases to amaze me how often I find that these facilities do not work properly or that e-mails sent to customer services disappear into the ether or worse still, are deliberately ignored.

To be fair this is far more of an issue with companies that manufacture but do not sell directly. Whatever the reasons, I find it irritating when I can't contact a company via the links provided on their own website. This sort of thing has a big impact on my decision on what I buy and where I buy it.

With all of this in mind, I have to say how impressed I have been with Record Power and their website (www.recordpower.co.uk). Over the last 18 months, I have used Record's website to make queries on a number of occasions. Each time Record came back with a response within the day. And from somebody who had a technical knowledge of the product. It's a shame that this sort of thing should be the exception, but credit where credit is due. I sincerely hope Record keep up the excellent work.

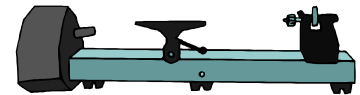
Companies that are geared to selling on-line (perhaps with the exception of Aer Lingus) thankfully take a far better attitude to customer service and maintaining their web sites. I buy all sorts of things on-line these days and hopefully the article on page 8 will be of help to others interested in doing the same.

If on the other hand, you find all this talk of computers and the web tedious, Gerry will help relieve your boredom in "Turning and Learning" and perhaps encourage some of you to try one or more of the workshops. There is also news for those of you who missed a great competition at the April meeting.

Two months—Two Newsletters!

No, this isn't the start of a move back to monthly newsletters. I've just shuffled things around to fit in with some holiday plans, so the next newsletter should be at the July meeting. If you feel the urge to contribute, you can reach me by e-mail at: 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.

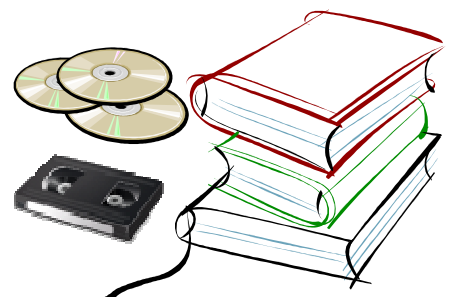


Inside this issue:

- Workshop News and Reviews
- Turning and Learning Part 3
- Competition news, rules, results and photos
- Buying on-line

Library Returns Please!!

Before coming to the next meeting please check to see if you have any books, videos or DVDs from the library and if so, return them.



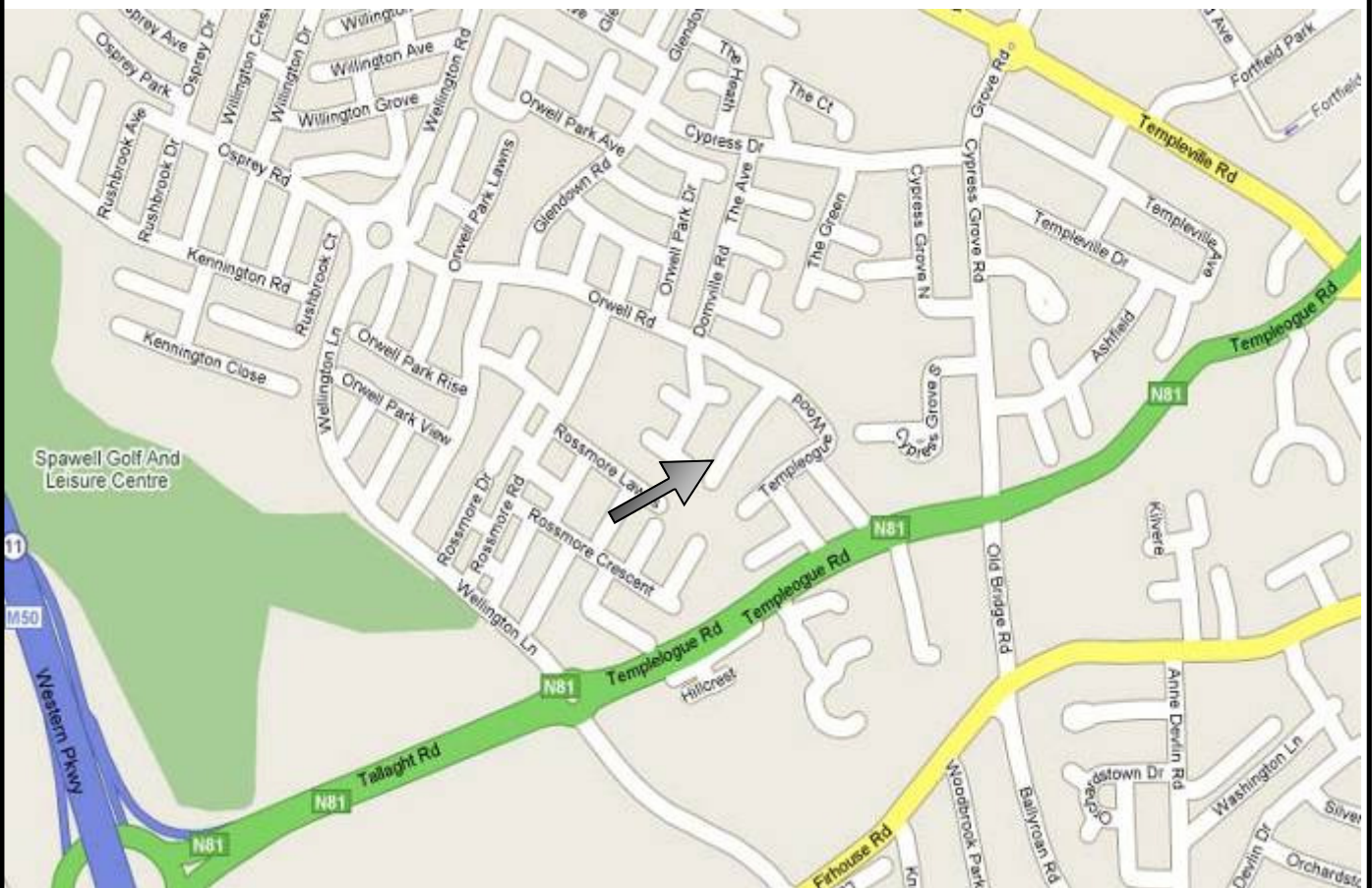
Visitors

Another reminder to members regarding visitors attending guild events:

Each chapter member is entitled to invite one visitor to any meeting or event. However both the member and visitor are required to sign an attendance form on arrival. Visitors are entitled to attend **one** guild event per year. Should a visitor wish to come to subsequent events they are, of course, more than welcome to become members.

There have been recent occurrences where visitors have arrived at meetings without the member that recommended them. This has put the treasurer in an awkward situation as the committee obviously do not wish to see people turned away, but also have to observe guild rules for insurance etc. There has also been at least one case of a visitor coming to more than one meeting. Obviously it can be hard to spot this in the bustle at the start of a meeting and such problems only come to light when the paperwork for the guild is being prepared.

Thursday afternoon workshop



This workshop takes place every second Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m at the Scout Hall, Templeogue Lodge, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. A lathe and chuck will be provided so bring a piece of wood, a few tools and your ideas. Contact: Joe McLoughlin (087-2610803).

Check out Gerry's review of the first Thursday workshop on page 4!

DCIWG Competition Rules

14/04/08

1. It is a condition of entry that all entrants accept the rules and conditions.
2. The ruling of the competitions Secretary is final and binding.
3. The competition is run at the monthly meetings with monthly winners in each category and annual winners announced at the A.G.M.
4. The specification for the competition item will be announced in advance and must be strictly adhered to. No Baize to be used on any competition pieces.
5. Entries will be accepted only up to the start of each meeting.
6. Competition items must not have been entered in a previous DCIWG monthly competition and must not have the name of the maker visible.
7. Judging: Three judges, one of whom may be a beginner will be selected at each meeting and marks will generally be awarded for, form, Finish and Function. Judging will take place in three categories, Beginners, Experienced and Advanced.
8. Marks: Every entrant will receive 5 points.
Additional marks will be awarded in each category.
 - 1st Additional 10 marks
 - 2nd Additional 8 marks
 - 3rd Additional 6 marks
 - 4th Additional 4 marks
 - 5th Additional 2 marks
 - 6th Additional 1 mark

The turner of the year will be determined from the accumulation of the monthly scores to a maximum of ten months. In the event of an entrant having 11 entries, the lowest score will be deducted.

9. **Promotions:**
Beginners are promoted to the experienced category following two wins or one win and two seconds.
Experienced are promoted to the advanced category following three wins or two wins and three seconds.
All promotions will take place at the end of the year and are announced at the A.G.M.
10. **Prizes:** The monthly winners in each category will receive a certificate.
Turner of the year prizes:
Advanced: Tom Newman Trophy and €100
Expreienced: Perpetual Trophy and €100
Beginners: Perpetual Trophy and €100
In addition 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category will receive a certificate.

Turning and Learning. Part 3.

Carving Masterclass

At the Chapter meeting in April 2008 we were treated to a demonstration by Christy Glynn, a real master in the art of woodcarving. Coming from a family with a long tradition of cabinetmaking and restoring, Christy educated, entertained and bewildered us in equal measure. As a craftsman who literally picked up his undoubted skills as a youngster hanging around the family workplace, he just instinctively knows how to carve wood.

Christy is a 'natural' and is living proof that you do not need a whole battery of expensive tools to turn out great work. I suspect he had his tongue firmly in his cheek and pulled our legs quite a lot during the demonstration.

"What tool did you use for that technique, Christy"? "Ah well it might have been this, or maybe this", as he vaguely waved a couple of dirty battered old chisels in the air.

"What material do you think might be most suitable for what you are doing there Christy"? "Well, eh, ah, maybe oak or ash or just wood, ye know". Throughout the session Christy frequently mentioned - "Now for this next bit I might use a special tool" - and he always picked up the very same straight-edged chisel, and it was clear that if he wanted to he could have done all his work with this common-or-garden tool which is identical to one we all have somewhere at home! Yes, I think he enjoyed having a bit of fun with us.

Having said that, he also showed us how an expert uses tools like the spoke-shave, scraper and v-chisel. The inevitable tribulations associated with using a strange lathe did not dampen his good humour, even when as many as four experts had to cluster around to get it working. However he seemed happiest carving and it was not long before the lathe was moved to one side.

Making a Clawed Ball - Painlessly.

Even with the pure carving part of his demo, Christy had to work against the odds - there was no suitable way to mount the heavy clamp he used to hold his work-pieces. Chris Lawlor had to be pressed into service as an extra holder, but he probably was glad to help as it meant he had a great close-up view of a master at work. In quick succession, and working mostly without a mallet, Christy carved a ball and claw leg, a decorative shell, and a very impressive leaf design. The whole thing seemed so effortless, especially when he sketched out the leaves on paper, cut the paper outline with the corner of his favourite chisel, transferred the design in pencil on to the wood, and in jig-time carved out the leaves.



All this as he gave us a fascinating glimpse into some family history. He left school at 14, and mentioned that although they lived in a small cottage he can remember his father managing to make a 13 foot table at home, despite the lack of space. He recalled his mother working away in their workshop, often as late as ten at night. His grandmother was a bench polisher and he had an aunt who polished coffins. He remembers his mother setting up himself and three brothers into competition by telling each of them in turn that one of the others seemed to be turning the work out much faster. Incidentally he mentioned that his mother's maiden name was Bride - "So she was a bride before she married". Hopefully someone will write, or has already written, the history of this family of Dublin craft-workers. This was not the first demonstration Christy did for our Chapter, and hopefully he will be back to do many more, so we can once again bow to a master.



Thursday Workshops

In the endless pursuit of learning we next headed for the Scouts' Hut in Templeogue where Joe O'Neill was due to kick-off the first in a fortnightly series of afternoon "hands-on" sessions. Joe McLoughlin, our host, stressed that these were to be fun, informal learning sessions where someone would bring a bit of wood and some tools, and those present would share their different approaches, techniques and tips; and a cup of tea would be available. Joe's small audience of five had the ideal circumstances for learning combined with enjoyment.

Teas and coffees and a chat got us off to a flying start, and we had lots of space and light - plus we had Joe O'Neill all to ourselves for a couple of hours. In a blur of activity, Joe turned a series of small boxes, seemingly without any great effort. At the same time he managed to fit in an abundance of tips and procedures that were of great value to the beginner, and sparked off priceless discussion among the more experienced - and while all this is going on he slips in his own special brand of humour, (not to mention some excellent safety tips). I really don't know how he does it!

There is a great future for this type of informal learning and development session. All we need to do now is to support it - and all that means is turning up and being prepared to enjoy yourself at your activity of choice. Our Chapter can build on all the great work that has already been done, and can spread the Gospel further afield.

Regular Workshop Series

There is no letting up in the quest for more knowledge, so on the 15th of April we are at the home of Seamus Carter where about a dozen of us enjoyed great hospitality and a feast of learning. There were lots of tips to be gathered even on the brief tour of his "machine shop". Seamus delights in making up jigs and fixtures to speed up his preparation work, and when you see the amount of brilliant segmentation he does, you understand the problems associated with turning out thousands of precision parts.

The Carters' living rooms are an Aladdin's Cave of beautiful turned objects, and his wife is obviously a tolerant woman, as she accepts the presence of literally hundreds of items from Seamus' craft all over his house. No doubt Seamus does the dusting. Really a superb display. I naturally expected that when we moved on to see him at work, that we would find a huge array of the latest in turning tools. Seamus took great delight in proving ... "that it is not all about tools".

He did this by giving a virtuoso turning performance with a common household hatchet, or small axe. He produced beads and coves, and executed planing cuts with equal ease - and greatly enjoyed himself in the process. A host of tips and hints were passed on by Seamus, and others cropped up in comments from those in attendance. All this while Seamus carried out some of the stages in completing ships compasses, table lamps and other items.

Great credit is due to the members who hold workshops and invite us into their home and workplace. They seem to go to endless trouble and do a huge amount of preparation just to give the rest of us a chance to look, listen and learn more about our pastime - or should I say, our passion. Support your Local Workshop !

Gerry Ryan. April 2008.

2008 Workshops

Colm Hyland will be doing a segmented turning workshop in June (date to be confirmed).

There are other workshops in the pipeline. Anyone looking for more details or interested in attending the workshops should contact Chris Lawlor (087-6484380).

Competition News

April's item was a small box



Pat Walsh —Advanced

Aprils's judges were Seamus Carter,
Seamus O'Reilly and Eamon Boland



Sean Egan—Beginners

Future Competition Pieces

June: A platter.

July: A walking stick.

August: Picture Frame
(Maximum 10 inch diameter)

September: Nest of boxes (Special
competition for the National
Seminar- details to follow).





John Killoran—Experienced



Christián van Bussel

Competition Results 2008

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>
<u>Advanced</u>						
Michael Fay	65	9	15	13	15	13
James Gallagher	50	15	0	11	13	11
Pat M Walsh	44	0	13	7	9	15
Tony Lally	27	0	9	6	6	6
Albert Sloane	25	11	0	0	7	7
Cecil Barron	24	13	11	0	0	0
Henry East	15	0	0	15	0	0
Malcolm Hill	14	0	0	9	0	5
Seamus O'Reilly	11	0	0	0	11	0
Richard Murphy	9	0	0	0	0	9
Michael McNamara	5	0	0	0	0	5
<u>Experienced</u>						
Colm McIntyre	52	11	13	13	15	0
Gerry Ryan	44	15	9	6	7	7
Tony Hartney	37	0	15	0	13	9
Brian Kelly	31	13	11	7	0	0
John Holmes	30	0	7	11	6	6
John Killoran	26	0	0	0	11	15
Frank Gallagher	24	0	0	15	9	0
William Edwards	20	0	0	9	0	11
Fran Lavelle	13	0	0	0	0	13
<u>Beginners</u>						
Steve Harbourne	54	Promoted	0	15	15	9
Liz Boden	41	Promoted	15	0	13	0
Tommy Murphy	24		0	0	0	11
Sean Egan	21		0	0	0	6
Martin Downey	18		0	0	0	7
Ronnie Butler	9		0	0	0	9

All competition and demonstration photos by Hugh Flynn.

Buying On-line

Internet shopping is becoming increasingly popular and with the current strength of the Euro against the Dollar and Sterling, there are currently some great bargains to be had buying from US and UK companies. There are many scare stories about the internet when it comes to financial transactions and identity theft, but with a little care there is no reason why buying on the internet should not be as safe as using your credit card in a shop.



Whilst this article is primarily about buying on the internet, many of the points apply to all forms of distance selling. If you don't have or want to use a computer, it is worth remembering that many companies are still happy to deal with customers over the phone or by mail order.

Gone phishing

All of the main bank websites have advice regarding on-line security and most give up to date details of the latest scams and tricks being used. It is well worth checking this information out regularly. I don't plan to preach to the converted or bore the pants off the uninterested with a lecture on computer security. However, the one thing I can not over emphasise is the importance of having your computer protected by Anti-virus software and a Firewall. There are some extremely good free packages around including AVG Antivirus Free edition and Zone Alarm Firewall. It is also very important to keep your operating system and anti-virus software up to date with the latest patches and security fixes.

Considering all the talk of firewalls and phishing, it is easy to see why many people may be put off of ever going near a computer with their credit card. But in reality, protecting your computer and personal information is no different to being in the habit of locking up your workshop. The software that I have mentioned above is easy to download and use and will provide adequate protection at a simple level without the need for an IT diploma.

Your Rights when distance buying

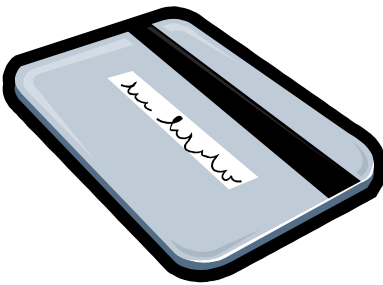


Within the EU you have broadly the same rights when buying on-line as you do in the high street. In addition consumers are entitled to a seven day cooling off period, which begins on the day that you receive your goods. Some types of goods are exempt from this and unless there is a problem with the item, the cost of shipping will not be refundable. VAT is payable either in the country in which the on-line seller or customer is based. More information on your rights as a consumer in Ireland and Europe are available at www.citizensinformation.ie. If buying from outside the EU, remember your rights are less clear cut and you may also be liable to pay import duty and VAT on your goods.



Where to buy.

The general advice is to choose a reputable retailer such as a familiar high street store or use an on-line directory such as www.safebuy.org.uk or www.shopsafe.co.uk that lists only shops that offer secure credit card transactions, and have obvious delivery prices and clear returns policies. If you do find a good deal on a particular website and are not sure, do a search on Google to see if you can find other satisfied customers. A good reputable company will give lots of hits. Find out how easy the website is to contact. Look for links titled 'Contact us' or 'Help'. It can be worth making a call to make sure the line's working and that someone picks up. If the site lists only an email address, send them an email to see how quickly the company replies. Check the small print. How much does delivery cost? Are goods in stock? Can you send them back if they're not what you expected? Generally delivery charges and details of the returns policy are listed in the Help section.



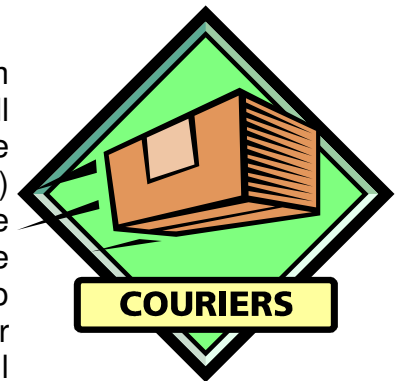
If you do decide to buy you will normally need to register as a customer first. This generally involves setting up a user name and password and entering your contact and delivery details. Before entering confidential information such as credit card numbers, ensure the web-page is secure and data is encrypted. Secure web-page addresses always start with the letters "https", rather than the standard "http", you should also see a padlock symbol at the bottom of the page or top of the browser window.

Buying from Auction sites.

Sellers on sites such as Ebay and Amazon marketplace are rated by the purchaser for each transaction. This rating and the feedback given allow other buyers a chance to see how reliable a seller is. Sellers may be individuals or companies offering items for sale or auction. Generally the site will offer some level of protection if you do not receive your goods from the seller, although this may vary and it pays to check the terms in respect of this on the site.

Less is more? Well more or less.

Shipping costs can vary greatly, particularly on goods ordered from outside Ireland. Some foreign websites will not deliver to Ireland at all and others do offer to deliver but charge exorbitant rates for it. Some companies will offer free or cheaper shipping (up to a certain weight) when you spend more than a certain amount. I never cease to be amazed by the variance in the costs of shipping particularly from the UK for the same item from different companies and it always pays to shop around on that front. For example I have seen delivery rates for the same item from different web-sites ranging from under £10 to well over £100. The rate for shipping is stated more clearly by some on-line sellers than others, but generally, if you are not sure an email will clear it up. You will sometimes be given various shipping options offering to get your order to you faster for a higher price.



At the checkout

Always remember to check that you are on a secure web-site before proceeding to enter your card details. You should always receive a confirmation number when you make the order. It is always a good idea to note this and print any confirmation screen and/or email from the e-tailer confirming your order.



On-line retailers I have found to be reliable for wood turning related products include...

www.axminster.co.uk
 www.craft-supplies.co.uk
 www.craftusa.com
 www.toolbank.co.uk

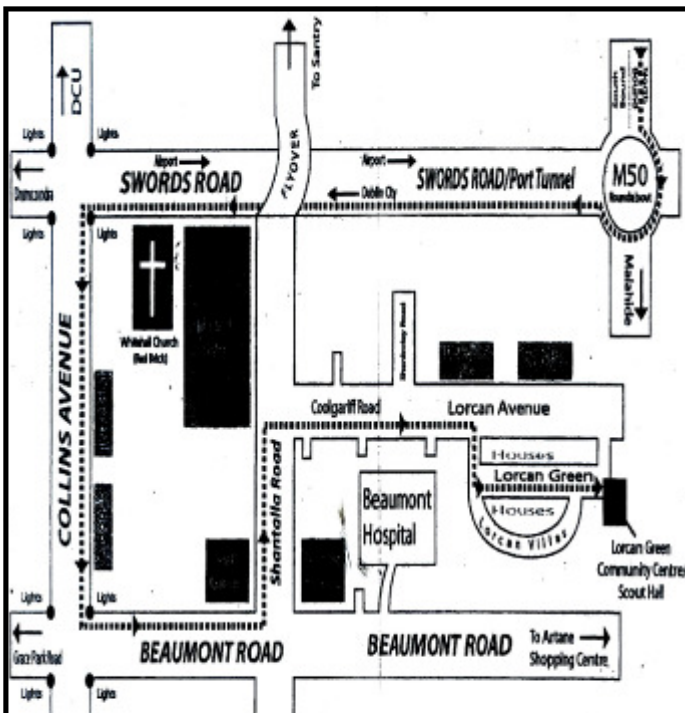
www.poolewood.co.uk
 www.dmttools.co.uk
 www.rockler.com
 www.chronos.ltd.uk

I'm certainly interested to hear of anyone else's experiences making purchases on-line and recommendations for good sites or ones to steer clear of.

Rich Varney

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



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

After a fantastic wedding, Arnie and his wife had just headed off to enjoy their honeymoon. But just as they got through the first set of lights, Arnie pulled the car over and ran into a building.

After waiting patiently for an hour his new bride came into the building and found she was at the local woodturning group's meeting. Having found Arnie, she yelled "What's going on?". Arnie responded, "My God, we've only been married for an hour and you're nagging me already"

Forthcoming Demonstrations

7 June	Charlie Ryan
5 July	Seamus Carter
2 August	Christi�en van Bussel
6 September	Irene Christie