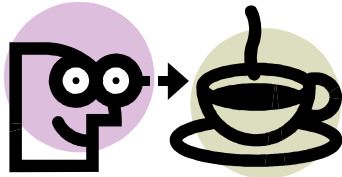


Dublin Chapter Newsletter

November 2008 Volume 3 Issue 6

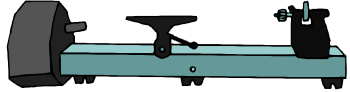
It's that time again. Love it or loathe it, the AGM is a necessity in an organisation such as ours and it gives an opportunity to discuss ways that we can improve the chapter for the benefit of everyone. It is also time when some of the committee get to have some of their time back at the expense of missing out on the monthly sandwich and cake fest (committee meeting). It has become clear to me over the last year, not only how much effort is put in by the committee in running the chapter, but also how rewarding that can be. So if, by the time you read this, there are still posts on the committee that need to be filled, please consider getting involved.



If you cannot commit to that, then please try to get involved when the call is put out for help on a smaller scale, such as tidying up at the end of meetings or in putting on the exhibitions. On a personal note, my thanks to those members of the committee who are standing down for their excellent efforts over the last few years and help to me over the last 11 months.

Unless I get the sack at the AGM (nothing is certain), you'll have to put up with my appalling editing for another year, kicking off with the next newsletter, in December. As ever I'm happy to take any submissions. You can reach me by e-mail at: rvarney@eircom.net or by phone on 086-8327985.

Varn.



Inside this issue:

- Tallaght Exhibition
- Turning and Learning, Part 6
- Final Competition Standings
- Once Upon A Time In The West

Coming Soon

December 2008-

Demonstration: Joe O'Neill

Competition: Christmas Item

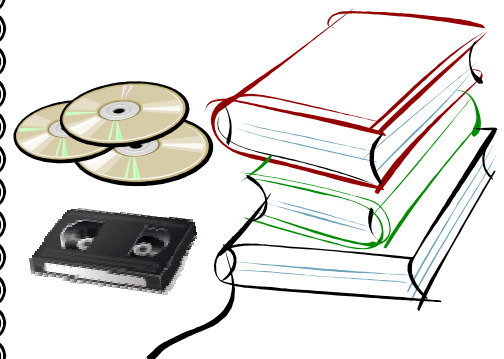
January 2009-

Demonstration: Owen Furniss

Competition: Bowl (Min 8 inch diameter)

Library Returns Please.

Before coming to the next meeting, don't forget to check to see if you have any books, videotapes or DVDs to bring back to the library.



Exhibition News

Woodturning Exhibition – Tallaght County Library.

8th to 12th December 2008.

The Dublin Chapter will be hosting our annual Exhibition on the above dates, from the Monday to Friday, in the New County Library in Tallaght instead of in the foyer of the South Dublin County Council.

It is planned the exhibition will be open between 10.00AM and 05.00PM each day, except the Friday when we will finish up at around lunch time, as the library closes earlier.

As per usual, we will also be selling items in aid of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, which have been made and donated by you, the members of this Chapter.

Don't forget that as well as our normal monthly competition at our December meeting, there is also the competition for the Tim McGill Trophy for the best piece chosen by the judge or judges, as well as some spot prizes.

The exhibition committee will be looking for members to help in setting up, manning the stand, and clearing up at the end of the week. It does not take much input, and is always a nice way to pass a few hours. You get a lot of satisfaction, for very little time and effort. We need two people to take care of the operation at all times.

Anyone wishing to have pieces exhibited, please contact me at the numbers given below.

Insurance for Exhibition pieces:

The County Library can cover items on display if anyone requires it. If anyone wants their items insured, they will have to contact me with a full description and value of each item, by the 17th November 2008.

Graham Brislane
On behalf of the Exhibition Committee.

Ph; 01-4941 963
Mob: 087-2914 770
Email; grahgill@eircom.net

Know Your Timber

Thanks to Niall Cahill for pointing me to <http://www.hobbitthouseinc.com/personal/woodpics/index.htm>
This website is a handy reference for identifying various woods with lots of pictures and a host of other useful information.

Turning and Learning. Part 6.

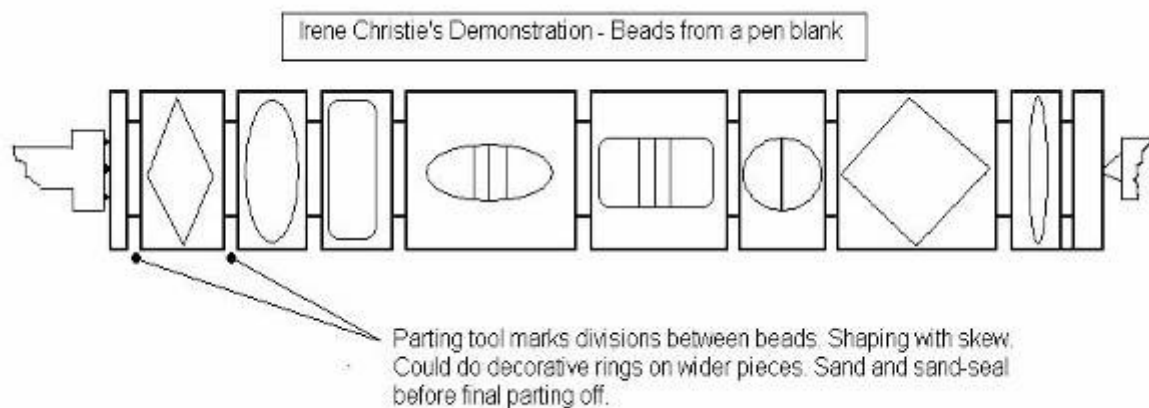
September 2008 Demonstration: Irene Christie

Woe betide anyone who makes the common mistake of addressing Irene Christie as Christine. This happens so often that she had a special tee shirt with "MY NAME IS IRENE" in large letters on the back specially for this demo. I don't think she should worry as we are not likely to forget her after this lively and informative demonstration - delivered as usual, with great good humour, by this talented and beautiful young turner with her delightful Swilly accent. (That should keep yours truly and our editor safe for a while). [*Wow Gerry, that is some line in plamassing. Ed.*]

Using a miniature lathe, manufactured for Delta, and available from Tripart in Galway, Irene gave a really entertaining demonstration of making beads, brooches, rings, ear-rings, necklaces and bracelets. Stressing how useful even scrap or partly damaged parts can be, no matter how tiny, she paid tribute to the late Des McMahon who never threw away any scrap of wood. She once asked him why he kept drawers full of tiny scraps. He took up a miniscule piece and suggested that it would make an ideal bobble for Santa's hat! She is an enthusiastic scavenger of other peoples throw-aways and loves to get wood or bits for tools, mentioning bits of pipe, used candles, failed turnings, beer mats, polystyrene, curtain poles and knobs for these, bits of log or branch, and spoiled pen-blanks. She never finishes a project without looking at what is left in the chuck and seeing a possible piece of jewellery.

Jewellery

As usual I could not hope to give a full description of this demo. I would strongly recommend to other chapters to get Irene along as a demonstrator, and hope our own chapter have her along regularly. I drew a sketch of one example of the variety of beads Irene might make from a pen-blank. In addition she showed how to make several bangles from a single piece mounted in the chuck - how a disc rounded on one side can be cut into 10 or 12 segments on the band saw, resulting in tooth-shaped pieces for an exotic necklace - and how the centre left after turning a bracelet can be used to turn a brooch which will match the bracelet. The samples of her work which Irene had brought along were proof indeed that she is both skilled and imaginative - and challenged us to try something new.



Irene's Tips

So many good ideas were being delivered at great speed that it was difficult to write and at the same time to take everything on board, but a few of the ideas I will remember and use (except perhaps the last two), included:

- Find out what is fashionable. Youngsters may not welcome what you think is trendy
- Spanners are a good guide when producing lots of beads of the same size



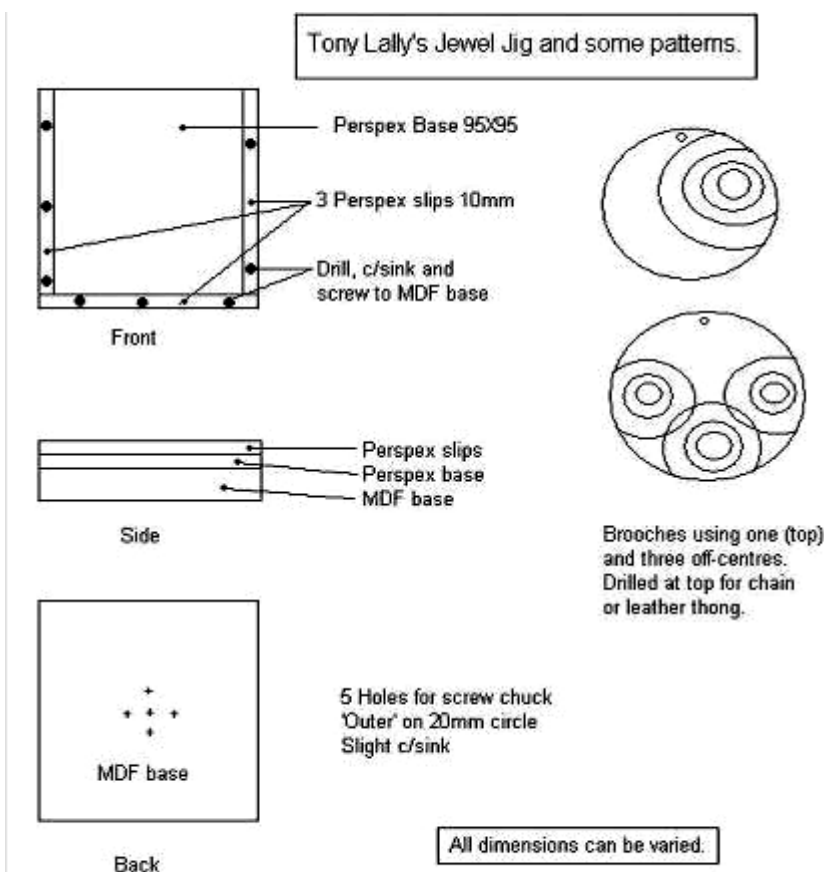
- Little bits of laburnum are very good for this type of work
- Use a beer mat with a hole in it as a squashy washer between chuck and headstock
- If a bangle or bracelet looks dull or 'grainless' - why not try some inlay
- If there is a flaw in a bracelet cut out a small section and round-off the cuts
- This cut in a bracelet will also provide a small amount of 'expansion'
- A wax finish is not a good idea as it may tarnish or leave mess on clothing
- A bra worn round the waist is handy for carrying small easily-lost tools etc
- A bra can also be used as a face mask, or as a pair of ear-muffs

Many thanks to Irene Christie for a most innovative morning's entertainment. In the occasional breaks in her talk she encouraged us to tell a few stories. The award this month was to Joe O'Neill for the following. An inebriated late-night reveller phoned for a taxi and asked to be picked up in Constitution Hill. The taxi driver could not understand the drunk's instructions. "Can you spell it sir?" he asked. "Ah sure it's just Conshtitushn Hill" said the drunk who wasn't too good at the spelling. The driver insisted he spell it, so the drunk in exasperation said "Ah hang on a minute and I'll go round the corner to Oak Street".

"Mini Workshop" :Templeogue; The Scout Hall.

The series of monthly work sessions continues and I was delighted to be one of a small eager band who listened to, and participated in, a practical demonstration by Tony Lally.

Tony again made his version of a baby's commemorative rattle, but his main concentration was on the use of a jig for small wooden bangles or medallions. This was just a week after we had seen Irene's work on jewellery. We found Tony's performance to be a very timely and interesting addition to her work.



I have attempted in a sketch to give some idea of both Tony's jig and the type of patterns that can be produced. Using iroko squares which he had prepared in advance - and he had some for everyone in the audience - Tony rattled off some beautiful and artistic pieces. His jig design incorporates a Perspex base. The work pieces are hot glued to this, and can be removed when finished without pulling away layers of ply or MDF. He pointed out that Formica could be used instead. (Ah the memories of struggling to get the sheets to line up perfectly with the wood before the whole damn thing was permanently bonded crookedly). My sketch does not mention the importance of using washers or a spacer on the screw chuck to stop it hitting the inner base of Perspex.

Tony did not sand the work as Iroko dust is harmful and he didn't want to damage his faithful disciples. The distance apart of the 'off-centres' is not great, so little wobble is experienced, but could of course be a problem at high speeds. I was surprised at how easily the new centre could be seen each time a

new position was selected. It is certainly not apparent from my sketch, but Tony's finished pieces had a very distinctive appearance of ancient Gaelic design. These mini workshops or work sessions are very enjoyable and can be recommended to all.



Sharp Ideas.

Admiring the tool edges at this, as at so many workshops, I wondered if, at a Chapter session, we could have a demo on sharpening. We might also have someone on hand who would put an edge on some of the tools we have ruined! We would gladly pay a fee for this, and would probably be able to keep the correct edge after this bit of expert help.

October 2008 Demonstration: Peter Mulvaney

Our Chairman, Jonathan Wigham, introduced our guest with the immortal words, "I am delighted that we have Peter Mulvaney here this morning to show us what we can do with a piece of branch wood". Peter announced that he has decided to retire as President of the Guild, and that this morning's demonstration was in a sense his last official function. Hopefully, despite this, he will still be sharing in future exchanges of experience and ideas with his colleagues. The demonstration was in two parts. Firstly Peter showed us how to produce poplar spindles quickly, and in large quantities. The second half was given over to making four turned candlesticks from a single piece of branch wood - while retaining the original shape of the base, including the bark. These could be used independently of each other or on occasion pushed together to make an integrated whole. Peter had brought along some really excellent examples of such work.

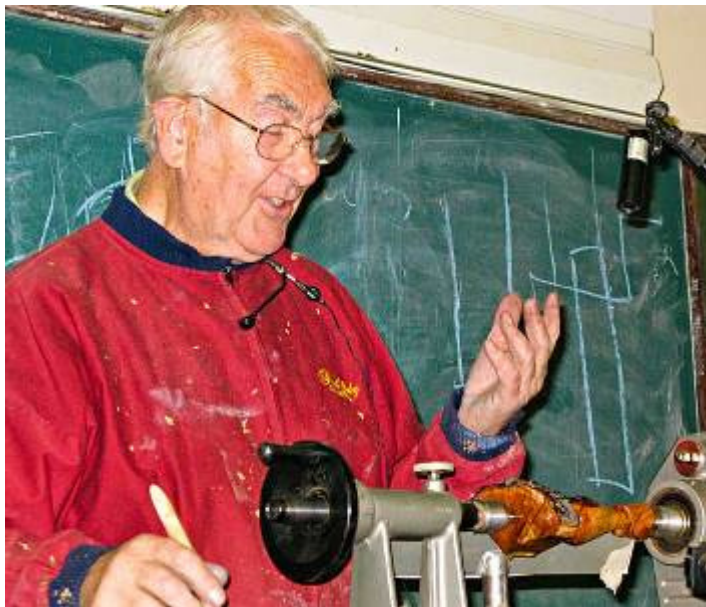
Repetitive Spindle Work

To make a batch of small spindles for kitchen units Peter firstly showed a quick way of mounting the work. Using a socket from a spanner set in the chuck, and a home-made wooden cone chuck for the tailstock end, he positioned the tailstock so that blanks could be inserted, and finished work removed, just by winding the quill in the tailstock. As the tool rest did not have to be moved lengthwise, a piece of masking tape on the rest could contain any markings needed for the centre, square ends, coves, beads etc.

Using a skew and some specially adapted tools for beads and coves, Peter showed what a good teacher he is by slowing down his work to give a very detailed display of all the techniques necessary to make small elegant square-ended spindles.

I was particularly struck by his ability to get across the reason why many of us go wrong with the skew chisel. He showed, and spoke about, what he was doing as he deliberately wandered off course - so that the point inevitably dug in and resulted in the all too familiar tear. I must have read about six or seven illustrated articles on the correct use of the skew. But I can say that Peter's demo finally opened my eyes, and now I think I understand 'The Use of the Skew Chisel'. Thank you Peter.

Peter Mulvaney in action
(Photographs by Hugh Flynn)



Four Candle Sticks in One. *[Isn't that a Two Ronnies sketch? Ed.]*

The work piece was a piece of branch wood or log around 12 inches long and 5 or 6 in diameter, and he had previously cut it into four on a band saw. As each piece now resembled a triangle with one side like a rough shaped quadrant, so finding the centre wasn't too easy. Peter shared with us his method and we could pass this on for a consideration! Peter used a specially ground spade bit to make the holes for the candle holders. This bit could be used on occasion as a drive-centre.

I do not have either the space or the expertise to go into detail on the tricky job of cutting in from the base end to get to a cylinder shape. Peter needless to say made it seem simple.

What appealed to me most about this project was that each of the four candlesticks took on an individual profile as it 'grew' upwards from the bark-covered base. This means that the turner is free to work with the texture and grain, and to bury his mistakes. Making all four identical would be just as much a pain as we experienced with the monthly competition for October (two identical candlesticks).

Peter finished off with a brief sanding, and a rub with Webrax. Then a quick blast of the hair dryer and some tung oil. The oil was also applied to the bark covered base.

Thanks to Peter Mulvaney for an action packed few hours.

Gerry Ryan, October 2008.

Thursday afternoon workshop



Following a number of scheduling changes, this workshop is now taking place once per month on the Thursday following the Saturday Terenure meeting from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Scout Hall, Templeogue Lodge, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. Contact: Joe McLoughlin (087-2610803).

Competition News

The October item was a candlestick from a scaled drawing



Bernard Gallagher (Beginners)



Tony Hartney (Experienced)



Michael Fay (Advanced)

The October competition was judged by Richard Murphy, Henry East and Owen Furniss.

Photographs by Hugh Flynn

Final Competition Standings 2008

	Total		Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Oct
<u>Advanced</u>												
Michael Fay	130		9	15	13	15	13	11	9	15	15	15
Pat M Walsh	96		0	13	7	9	15	13	15	11	13	0
James Gallagher	84		15	0	11	13	11	15	0	13	6	0
Tony Lally	59		0	9	6	6	6	9	5	0	7	11
Cecil Barron	57		13	11	0	0	0	0	13	9	11	0
Albert Sloane	49		11	0	0	7	7	0	11	0	0	13
Henry East	15		0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malcolm Hill	14		0	0	9	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Michael McNamara	12		0	0	0	0	5	0	7	0	0	0
Seamus O'Reilly	11		0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richard Murphy	9		0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Seamus Carter	9		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0
Sean Ryan	7		0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0
Joe O'Neill	6		0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
<u>Experienced</u>												
Colm McIntyre	92		11	13	13	15	0	11	5	11	13	0
Gerry Ryan	87		15	9	6	7	7	9	5	9	7	13
Tony Hartney	87		0	15	0	13	9	7	6	13	9	15
<i>Fran Lavelle</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>Promoted</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0</i>
Frank Gallagher	63		0	0	15	9	0	0	13	0	15	11
Brian Kelly	48		13	11	7	0	0	6	11	0	0	0
John Killoran	39		0	0	0	11	15	13	0	0	0	0
John Holmes	37		0	7	11	6	6	0	7	0	0	0
William Edwards	29		0	0	9	0	11	0	9	0	0	0
Pat Lambert	7		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
Tom Delaney	5		0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
<u>Beginners</u>												
Steve Harbourne	102	Promoted	0	15	15	15	9	15	11	11	11	0
<i>Martin Downey</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>Promoted</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Tommy Murphy</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>Promoted</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>
Sean Egan	52		0	0	0	6	15	11	13	0	0	7
<i>Liz Boden</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>Promoted</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Frank Maguire	39		0	0	0	0	0	0	15	13	0	11
Danny Gleeson	18		0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	9
Bernard Gallagher	15		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Ronnie Butler	9		0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0



Congratulations to Michael Fay, Colm McIntyre and Steve Harbourne on winning their respective categories.

Well done to Fran Lavelle who is promoted to Advanced for next year and also to Steve Harbourne, Martin Downey, Tommy Murphy and Liz Boden who are all promoted to Experienced.

Finally, kudos is also due to Seamus O'Reilly who won the spindle competition at the National Seminar.

Once Upon a Time in the West

From the 3rd to the 5th October all roads led to Enniscrone (we'll unless you took a wrong turn like I did) for the 25th Anniversary IWG Seminar. If you didn't know about the seminar, the aliens that abducted you for the last year must have decided to keep you totally out of the loop. The turnout looked to be pretty good and going by what I've heard from others who attended from the Dublin Chapter, the event was a great success. Having everything under one roof seemed to work out very well. So much so that I think it is hard to envisage a return to separate venues for demonstrations and meals at seminars in the next few years.

The quality of demonstrations was, as always, top drawer and the competition pieces were fantastic. Photos of all of these are at <http://www.irishwoodturnersguild.com/images/Seminar08/album/index.html>. Rather than write a full blown report on the demos I attended, I thought I'd just put in some odds and ends in the form of a few pictures (they look better, but not much, on the website), notes and comments that stuck in my mind from the weekend:



The broken chucking point is shown above and on the right is Tony Wilson with the completed couscous bowl.

"I'm glad that happened, I love it when things go wrong." Tony Wilson demonstrating how to handle yourself when your work piece breaks free of the lathe. I'd have been dancing around in a fury for a week after that, but what followed from Tony was a master class how to remount work that has been damaged.



Billy Henry stated "If you are not getting the occasional catch, you are not doing enough turning." By that logic, I'm obviously spending a lot more time in front of the lathe than I thought. Billy's melon box is pictured, left.



Just a few of the many competition pieces that caught my eye.





After a change of schedule, only 5 punters including myself made it to Mark Baker's Saturday morning demonstration entitled "Turnings with a difference: a slightly different view to make something unique." The rest of you don't know what you missed, but it is pictured on the left so you can get an idea! There was a considerably larger turnout on Sunday morning to Mark's demonstration on platters. The room was packed.



David Springett (left) shows how to turn a sphere the easy way. He also explained how to get a wooden arrow through a glass apple. A pretty neat party trick. I liked it so much I bought the book!



Woodturning Classes

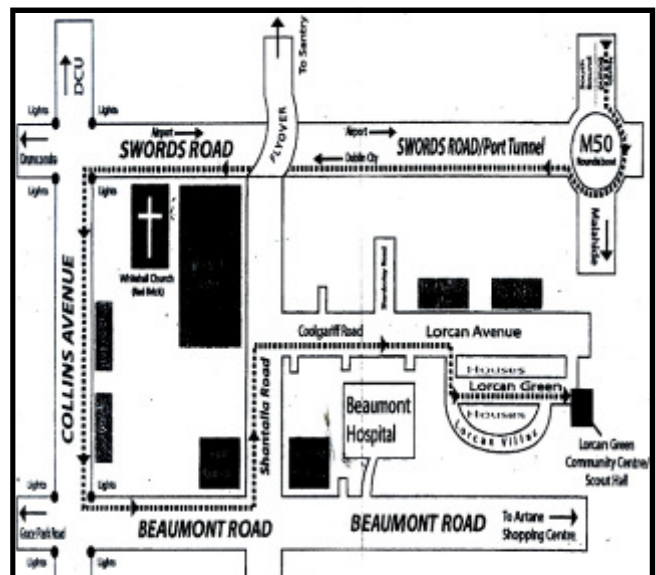
Up to 3 students per class.
Graduate Lathe per student.
One day courses also available.
Contact: Peter Mulvaney
Ph 01 2802745



"That should stay on the lathe." Tony Wilson again, this time turning a diamond shaped winged bowl. Tony suggests marking the location of the protruding edge of pieces like this on the tool rest to help when confronted with the faint ghost image.

So all in all a great weekend. I went to see three of the demonstrators twice, and seeing as you can't have your cake and eat it, this inevitably meant there were some demonstrators I did not see at all. So if anyone would like to jot down some notes on what they saw at the seminar please let me have it and I will put it into the next newsletter.

Rich Varney



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