

Dublin Chapter Newsletter

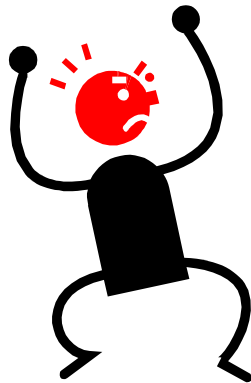
January 2009 Volume 3 Issue 7

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

I'll start by wishing everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2009.

Things are starting to settle down for me, after a hectic few weeks. Christmas morning at my house was greeted by the usual excitement as paper was ripped from the presents under the tree. Unfortunately, this gave way to disappointment, frustration and finally tantrums, as it gradually became clear that Santa had not brought everything that had been asked or hoped for.

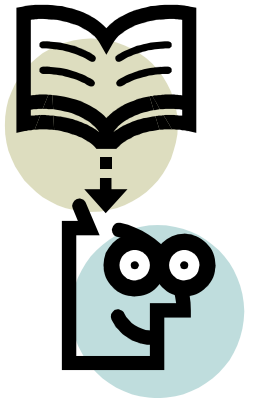
I have been dropping hints for months that anything for the shed, particularly a bigger lathe, would be appreciated. I'd even left leaflets lying around, (well stuck to the fridge door and the bathroom mirror), but somehow certain people managed to take these hints to mean that what I would really like is socks. At least the children were happy with their lot and I cheered up a bit after I went out pushed one of the neighbour's kids off of the new bike he was rubbing my nose in.



Committee business at the end of 2008 was also rather fraught and, without any volunteers for secretary and treasure, it is no exaggeration to say that the chapter was minutes away from being disbanded as the AGM reconvened at the December meeting. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Colm McIntyre, Joe McLoughlin, and Cecil Barron who stepped in to fill the vacant positions.

For those who were not at the AGM, I'm looking for ways to cut down the effort in printing and posting out newsletters. Some months, I have to send 80 to 90 copies out by post to those not at the meeting. The best way to achieve this would seem to be to e-mail a link to the newsletter in PDF and plain text format for those who have access to a computer to download. I will still, of course, post copies to people who can not access it electronically or pick up at the meeting. So please pass on your e-mail address (or mail it to me), if you have not already done so.

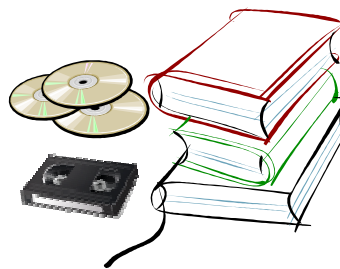
John Killoran has some new books and DVDs on order for the Library, and when they arrive we will be offering the first loan of each, free of charge, to anybody that is willing to write a short review. This need not be more than one or two paragraphs and can be hand written if you don't have a Computer.



I'm always on the lookout for bits to fill these pages, so if you have anything that may be of interest, please let me know. You can reach me by e-mail at: rvarney@eircom.net or by phone on 086-8327985.

Varn.

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.

Committee Members for 2009

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Chairman	Jonathan Wigham	087 795 2296
Secretary	Colm McIntyre	086 155 1625
Treasurer	Joe McLoughlin	087 261 0803
Competitions	Cecil Barron	085 772 7509
Books & Video	John Killoran	01 490 3410
Workshops	Chris Lawlor	087 648 4380
Exhibitions	Graham Brislane	087 291 4770

May Seminar

The Dublin Chapter will be holding a one-day seminar on Saturday 2nd May 2009 at Terenure College.

Plans are now being finalised and more details will follow in the coming weeks.

Coming Soon

Saturday 7 February -

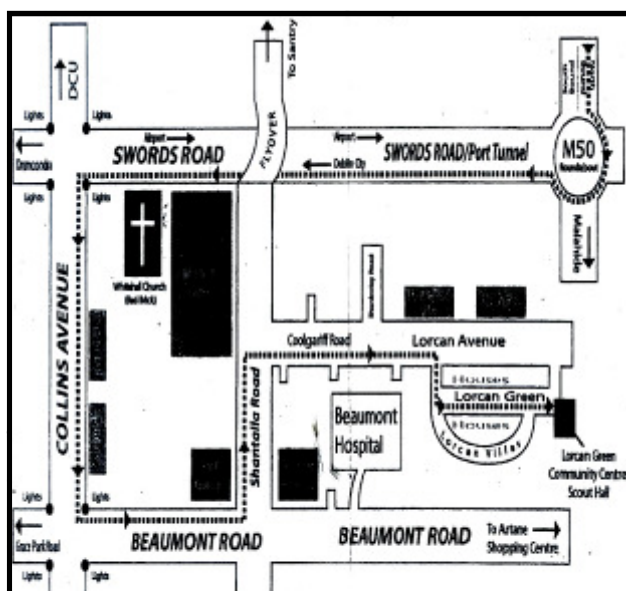
Demonstration: Richard Murphy

Competition: Flower Pot Stand

Saturday 7 March -

Demonstration: Adrian Finlay

Competition: Table Lamp



Dublin East Central Chapter

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

Competition News

December's competition was for a Christmas Item



Pat M. Walsh (Advanced)



Frank Gallagher (Experienced)

The Competition was judged by Peter Mulvaney, Shay Nolan and Liz Boden.
Note: no entries in the beginners section.

Standings

	<u>Pts</u>
<u>Advanced</u>	
Pat M Walsh	15
Fran Lavelle	13
Seamus O'Reilly	11
Owen Furniss	9
Seamus Carter	7
Adrian Finlay	6
Pat J Walsh	5
<u>Experienced</u>	
Frank Gallagher	15
Tony Hartney	13

Photos by Tommy Boyle

At the AGM in November, it was unanimously decided that as turner of the year in the experienced category, Colm McIntyre should be promoted to the Advanced category. Revised competition rules, correcting this oversight, will be published in with the next newsletter.

Tim McGill Trophy

At the December meeting, we had 19 individual items entered by 10 entrants.

The judges studied all the pieces and the winner was Pat Walsh for his 6 Christmas decorations, followed closely by Tony Lally's box with finial lid.

Thanks to all who entered, and all the pieces went towards the Alzheimer Society sale, during the exhibition in the Tallaght County Library. There is further news on the exhibition elsewhere in the Newsletter.

A special thanks to Cecil Barron for many of the spot prizes, and to Richard Gough who supplied the Record Speed an eez, Evo-Stik wood adhesive and Rustins steel wool.

Once again thanks to you all for your support.

Graham Brislane.

On behalf of the Exhibition Committee.

Thursday afternoon workshop



The Thursday afternoon workshop is now regularly 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).

Turning and Learning. Part 7.

Still Learning - Winter in Dublin !

If the winds and frost of winter occasionally make you hesitate to approach the lathe, there is nothing like the presence of your peers, colleagues and occasionally your competitors to make this reluctance disappear. That is why I find the formal chapter demonstrations, and the less formal occasional workshop to be such a help. Isn't it just great to meet up and swap tips and tales (of both progress and the odd disaster) with like-minded men and women.

Small groups.

Recently the Dublin Chapter started additional monthly working sessions in the Scout Hut in Templeogue. These differ from the well-attended Chapter demos by being made up of groups of at most ten people. The scope for direct exchanges of raw materials and ideas is fantastic, and is just what is needed by the turner who is determined to progress his or her craft. For example in the past few months we have identified where to pick up "super glue" which is not in tiny expensive bottles; how to buy PVA bond in economic quantity; some wood sources; and where to get reasonably priced Velcro backed hand-sized abrasives with backing pads.

When one person is turning a piece the rest of us can be close enough to feel part of the process and from time to time take over at the business end of the tools. This is a great help as we begin to do part of the work on projects we have not previously tried. This leads to very effective problem solving, and it is not unusual for us to admit (maybe just to ourselves) "It now seems so logical - how come I have been making a bags of that for so long"?

Why Don't We?

Small groups can be conducive to coming up with suggestions - some of which might be fed back to the larger group i.e. Chapter. One recent suggestion has been that Chapter might find a way to set up an **informal panel of experts**, to whom the rest of us could go from time to time to ask how to overcome a problem we have experienced. I know you could put such a question to a full meeting of Chapter but this might lead to getting so much conflicting input of expertise that you might in fact end up confused and discouraged.

Another suggestion was to hold a Chapter level **swap shop** where members might bring along unused or unwanted tools, jigs, fittings etc. These could either be swapped or possibly loaned to other members. I think this was suggested at Chapter about a year ago, but was done in a half-hearted way and came to nothing.

Confidence.

Working in small groups can help our confidence. For example one of our members brought some splendid pieces, including some segmented items, to show us at our November meeting in Templeogue. He had never entered an item in a Chapter competition, despite what we assured him was the excellence of his finished work.

Encouraged by our remarks he actually gave the demo at our December session. Using a prepared blank for a lamp he ran through the different stages and commented on the various tools. He had prepared a square billet of mahogany about 40mm with four slips of pine (about 25mm deep) glued outside the mahogany. The shapes of the mahogany appearing through as he turned was evidence of how accurately he had assembled the blank. To satisfy some of our curiosity he also bored through the lamp centre with perfect accuracy.



A chap connected with the scouts in Larch Hill was watching the demo. Although there has been a lathe in his shed for the last two years he has never turned before. On being pressed and given the minimum of explanation he handled the tools brilliantly. While there was nothing exceptional in the lamp project - lots of you have done this - my point is that both our demonstrator and the newcomer might not have performed so confidently in front of a larger or more formal audience. Our demonstrator may not want his name mentioned, but John Doran (oops) is a turner to watch.

Coffee and Chat.

During our most recent session in Templeogue we enjoyed Joe McLoughlin's hospitality, and not least the chat that went with it. Mention was made of recent work and just to show that you are not dealing with just any old rubbish in our little group, among the materials we used were jarrah (*eucalyptus marginata*), eleagnus, duetzia and more mundanely, last year's Christmas tree.

Talent on Display.

I got the chance to see this year's National Craft Design Fair at the RDS. Even though I was there on the opening morning the place was humming. With something over 600 stands - not to mention a huge Food Fair hall - it would have taken a few days to cover everything.

Naturally I did a quick buzz around to find the wood turners! There were at least five concentrating exclusively on turned work, and many others had a range of woodwork. As an exhibitor would have to sell a lot of items to cover the high cost of a stand, I was careful not to speak to any of the five turners while any potential purchasers were nearby. It is probably an exhibitor's worst nightmare to be distracted by an eager but impoverished turner chatting away inanely while potential sales are lost. (However one turner mentioned casually that you never knew if they were purchasers or mere "tyre kickers". What a brilliant expression!)

Hervé de Wergifosse and **Roger Bennett** are both experienced demonstrators and are probably known to the members of many chapters. Hervé had many beautifully executed wall mounted pieces, some inlaid with metal, and had a centrepiece of a very striking work from burr elm entitled "Elephant Man" - if you saw it you would realise how appropriate the name is. Roger had a wide range of his delicate decorated bowls and jewellery. Some of it can look deceptively simple but many of you will know from his demonstrations just how painstakingly intricate his work is - for example one item he showed us at Dublin Chapter had over 4,000 tiny pieces of silver wire embedded.

At the stand of **John and Nicola Fox** from Ballyshannon there was a wonderful and varied range of turned items including bowls, lamps and very cleverly designed mushroom shapes. Business was brisk and John was having to go and fetch more items to keep the shelves stocked.

Ian Murray of Station Turnings had some very large bowls of which I was very envious. He had started turning after asking himself "Well, why not?" and having started with a modest lathe gradually worked up to his present model which can handle up to a quarter ton - hence the big big bowls, which were turned to a very high standard indeed.

Jack Kearney from Goatstown in Dublin again had a wide range of items. The most eye-catching consisted of large glass jars, painstakingly filled with rare and exotic shells, with tops and bases of turned wood. Each of these were made into lamps and each resembled an Irish lighthouse and were titled appropriately. Originally someone else had turned the wood tops and bases, but on the basis that "if they can do it so can I", Jack learned to turn and now does his own turning on his trusty Nova DVR.

The standard throughout the Fair is very high indeed and only turners of immense ability would feel comfortable in this venue. All those I met were at home in this challenging environment, and I for one hope to be back to meet them at the 2009 Craft Fair.

Gerry Ryan December 2008.

Biting the Bullet

Following the conclusion of the reconvened AGM, December's meeting saw Joe O'Neill giving a two part demo. Firstly Joe showed how to make a pen from two bullets. Joe informed us that this ammunition was supplied by Liam McGarry and explained how to drill the cartridges for the pen barrels to be inserted. It's pretty important to make sure that the cartridge has been spent before starting drilling as Joe stated that he managed to shoot the cat while preparing for the demo.

Once glued in, the barrels are trimmed as usual and the bullets are placed on the mandrel with the narrow ends facing each other. Joe then moved straight onto sanding (no turning is required) and burnishing with wore wool. Finally a coat of Brasso was applied. Joe does not recommend using lacquer as it will eventually mark. An occasional polish with Brasso will keep the pen looking good.



After the break, Joe commenced the second part of the demonstration, a finial box. Unfortunately at this point I abandoned my post taking notes in order to operate Joe's video camera. So those that missed it will have to be content with Tommy's picture of Joe turning the box, or borrow the DVD of the demo from the library.

Needless to say there was the usual mixture of interesting tips and funny stories we have come to expect from Joe and it all added up to a very enjoyable morning.

Photos by Tommy Boyle

Rich Varney

Exhibition News

Woodturning Exhibition – Tallaght County Library. December 2008.

The Exhibition was not as successful as previous years, when we were based in the South Dublin County Council offices, but the hospitality from the staff at County Library was second to none.

Our main contact in the library has said they would welcome us back next year, and has made some suggestions as to how we might create more revenue for our chosen charity. This would include doing demonstrations, staying open later for a few evenings, and possibly putting a few items on show in the County Council office foyer. This last suggestion would have to be given the all clear by the County Council.

We had exhibition items from 8 chapter members on display, which showed a great variety of turned items. Also in use was our new photo display unit, which had some photographs from past exhibitions, mainly the Dublin Castle Exhibition. Thanks to Hugh Flynn for supplying these photographs.

Monies raised from donations and sale of items for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, came to a total value of € 382.00, compared to €864.00 the previous year.

Thanks to those who helped in setting up on the Monday, manning the show during the week, and helping to clear up on the Friday. Members should also be thanked for Exhibition pieces and turned items towards the Alzheimer Sale.

Once again thanks to you all for your support.

Graham Brislane
On behalf of the Exhibition Committee.

Well done Owen Furniss.

Thanks to Owen who brought along some old “Woodturning” magazines he no longer wanted, and offered them to members in exchange for a donation towards the Alzheimer fund. About half of them went, and raised € 32.00



Woodturning Classes

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

For Sale

Deceased members
SIP pedestal drill.
Price €150.
Ph: 01-8315809.

Woodturning Classes

Joe O'Neill offers classes on
Tuesday and Wednesday A..M.
and Thursday nights.
Ph: 087 623 0162
Email: rudyperudy@yahoo.com