

# Dublin Chapter Newsletter

February 2009 Volume 3 Issue 8

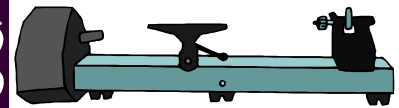
Thank you to everyone for their patience with me chairing the January meeting. Gladly the rest of the committee ensured that things ran smoothly and Owen gave an excellent demonstration.

Work on getting the newsletter finished has been a bit rushed this week due to the severe winter weather (well indirectly at least). Monday's snowfall resulted in demands from the kids to go and build a snowman after work. The idea occurred to me to pop out to the shed and turn a pipe and possibly even a bowler hat (who am I kidding), but I was informed that time was of the essence and I needed to get outside in the white stuff as quickly as possible.

I'm starting to sound more like my old man every day. The kids were having a great time, while all I could think about was how this snow was being smoothed and compacted under foot ready for the morning when I'd doubtless be skidding off the pavement doing a triple Salchow into the path of oncoming traffic. Those depressing thoughts abated as hostilities broke out when Frosty was accidentally decapitated while his nose was being attached. Suffice to say, there were frayed tempers and snow was flying in all directions. The upshot is that I still can't feel my fingers as I type this and I think my brain has also been affected by the cold!

As ever, I'm looking for material for the next newsletter. You can e-mail to: [rvarney@eircom.net](mailto:rvarney@eircom.net) or phone me on 086-8327985.

Varn.



#### Inside this issue:

- Demo News including Robert Sorby, and Demonstrators for the May seminar.
- DVD Review
- Competition News.
- Exhibition News
- Turning and Learning, Part 8

#### Coming Soon

Monday 23 Feb- Clive Brooks—Robert Sorby  
Demonstration (See page 2)

Saturday 7 March -

Demonstration: Adrian Finlay

Competition: Table Lamp

Saturday 4 April-

Demonstration: Peter Mulvaney

Competition: Three Legged Stool

#### Woodturning Classes

Joe O'Neill offers classes on Tuesday and Wednesday A.M. and Thursday nights.

Ph: 087 623 0162

Email: [rudyperudy@yahoo.com](mailto:rudyperudy@yahoo.com)

Peter Mulvaney offers courses for up to 3 students per class. Graduate Lathe per student.

One day courses also available.

Ph: 01 2802745

# Demonstration News

*Robert Sorby*  
SHEFFIELD ENGLAND

Clive Brooks from Robert Sorby will be giving a woodturning demonstration on Monday 23 February 2009 from 7:00p.m. until 10:00p.m. at the Scout Hall, Templeogue Lodge, Templeogue, Dublin 6W.

(See map below for directions).

Clive will be joined by Richard Gough, so there will, no doubt, be plenty of opportunity to buy the tools on show.

## *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).

# ***Santa Claus Takes Up Woodturning!!***

Santa Claus was very good to me this Xmas and delivered several new DVD's to add to my collection or my woodturning widows collection as my wife calls them. I have like many family households a number of TV's positioned around the house along with DVD players courtesy of Aldi. A wood turner would think that a spare TV etc would be available for viewing a DVD over the Xmas period. Not so, I resorted to getting up at 7.30 am on several mornings. Having crept downstairs, excitement rising that I would soon be enjoying Alan Lacer's DVD and having sole custody of the remote control opened the sitting room door to be greeted by "Guitar Hero" on the Xbox and "Hi Dad" from the couch. My youngest son unfortunately has inherited my habit of rising early.

I eventually got the opportunity to view Alan Lacer's DVD "Woodturning Shop made Tools and Jigs" which Santa delivered following an e-mail to Alan in America. Alan has a great web site at [www.alanlacer.com](http://www.alanlacer.com) which I would highly recommend. The DVD is approximately 2 hours long and well worth buying if you are interested in making tools such as hook tools, chatter tools, tool handles, thin parting tools and several jigs for reverse chucking bowls. The DVD is extremely well produced and includes notes at the start containing supplier details, steel requirements along with hints and tips. Alan's website has many features and links to some of his favourite sites as well as much more. He has produced several other DVD's on the use of the skew and other project work.

Alan uses materials easily obtained from the local hardware or plumbing suppliers for use as ferrules on his tool handles such as brass nuts, copper pipe couplers and stainless steel piping. He also demonstrates how to make a multi tool handle by inserting a short section of 3/4 inch steel rod into a tool handle having first drilled a 3/8 inch hole in the centre. He then drills a small hole in the side of the rod and inserts a set screw or knob to hold whichever 3/8 inch tool is inserted into the handle. The inserted rod section can be drilled to accept the users most commonly used tools if desired. Alan goes to great length to explain in simple terms the correct use and advantages of the tools he produces on the DVD. This is a DVD you would definitely watch again if you can find a free TV in your house or get up at 6.30 am to watch but somehow I think I'm still going to find it difficult!!

Richard Murphy

## **Committee Members for 2009**

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone</u></b>
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



# Competition News

January's competition item was a bowl (min 8" diameter)



John Doran (Beginners)



Barry Dunne (Experienced)

The Competition was judged by Joe O'Neill, John Killoran and Frank Maguire.



Michael Fay (Advanced)

## Standings

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>
<b><u>Advanced</u></b>			
Pat M Walsh	26	15	11
Fran Lavelle	19	13	6
Michael Fay	15	0	15
Seamus Carter	14	7	7
Henry East	13	0	13
Seamus O'Reilly	11	11	0
Owen Furniss	9	9	0
Albert Sloane	9	0	9
Adrian Finlay	6	6	0
James Gallagher	5	0	5
Pat J Walsh	5	5	0
Tony Lally	5	0	5
Michael McNamara	5	0	5
Malcolm Hill	5	0	5
Colm McIntyre	5	0	5
<b><u>Experienced</u></b>			
Frank Gallagher	28	15	13
Tony Hartney	24	13	11
Barry Dunne	15	0	15
<b><u>Beginners</u></b>			
John Doran	15	0	15
Sean Egan	13	0	13
Tony Newsome	11	0	11

Photos by Hugh Flynn

# DCIWG Competition Rules

**12/01/09**

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.  
1<sup>st</sup> Additional 10 marks  
2<sup>nd</sup> Additional 8 marks  
3<sup>rd</sup> Additional 6 marks  
4<sup>th</sup> Additional 4 marks  
5<sup>th</sup> Additional 2 marks  
6<sup>th</sup> 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.  
The turner of the year in both the Beginners and Experienced categories will also be promoted regardless of the number of wins and second places attained.  
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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each category will receive a certificate.

# May Seminar

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

**Demonstrators will include:**

**Tony Wilson (RPT)**

**Seamus Cassidy**

**Paddy Lynch**

**Open Competition, Trade Stands and Much, Much More.  
Save the date and watch out for more details over the next  
few weeks.**

# Craobh Cúig Déag

The first 'official' meeting of the new Dublin 15 Chapter of the IWG took place in January. The next meeting, due to take place on Thursday 19 February (see panel on page 7 for map), will see Michael McGee demonstrating a clock project. Here is Joe Laird's opening message to the chapter:

When I started to teach woodturning in Hartstown School, I did not envisage such a great group of students who would push me deeper into the woodturning world than I would them. After a few short months of teaching and with the same students tending to return for more classes, it was not long before the pressure to keep ahead of them with interesting projects was becoming a tough job. With the help of some very good friends we were able to put together some nice projects that would hold their interest and keep them turning. The next step would be to form a club as we had many turners, now looking for new direction and new challenges. I am happy to say after 3 years and 33 students later, we are taking the next step now by forming our very own chapter.

On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008, 26 enthusiastic people showed their support for this chapter to get it up and running, so from here it starts. With some paper work to be sorted and some plans to be made we will have our first official chapter meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009 in Hartstown School. I can not tell you all how delighted I am to be a part of this new venture and look forward to the next year working with you all. We will have some great demonstrators coming to share their skills with us over the next few months, share their ideas and give us feed-back on our competitions that will start up very soon. It is important to remember at all times that this is "our chapter". What we put in we will get back, and I know that we will grow into a very strong group that turners will want it to be. So can I be the first to wish us all well with our new chapter and help keep the world turning.

Joe Laird.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future to the committee and membership of the new chapter.

# Exhibition News

## Arts Grant



Each year the Dublin Chapter of the Woodturners Guild receives an Arts Grant from South Dublin County Council, to help with the running costs involved in hosting exhibitions.

This year we have received a grant for € 600.00, which the committee feel is a generous amount, given the financial turmoil in the world around us.

The committee on behalf of the members of the Chapter, wish to thank the County Council, and a letter of acknowledgement and thanks has been forwarded to them.

## Alzheimer Extra

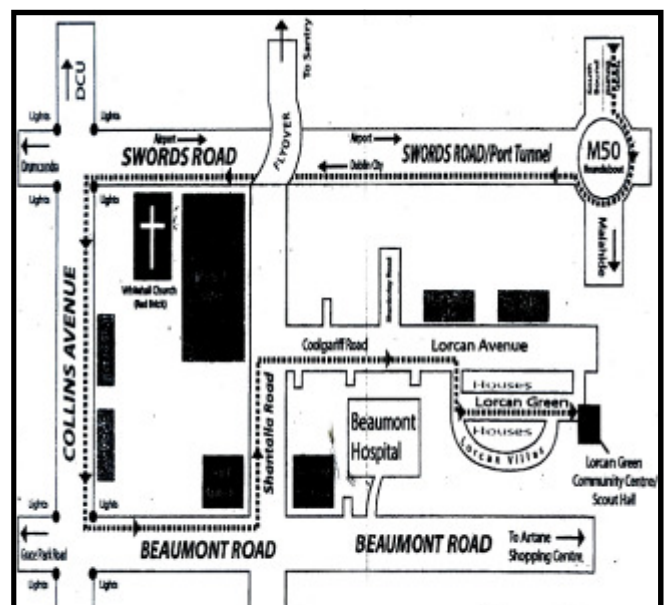
Thanks to Pat Walsh who found € 50.00 at work, which no one claimed. Pat has donated this money towards the Alzheimer fund. This money has been added to the figure from the exhibition in December, and a cheque for € 432.20 has been forwarded to Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

Graham Brislane.

On behalf of the Exhibition Committee.



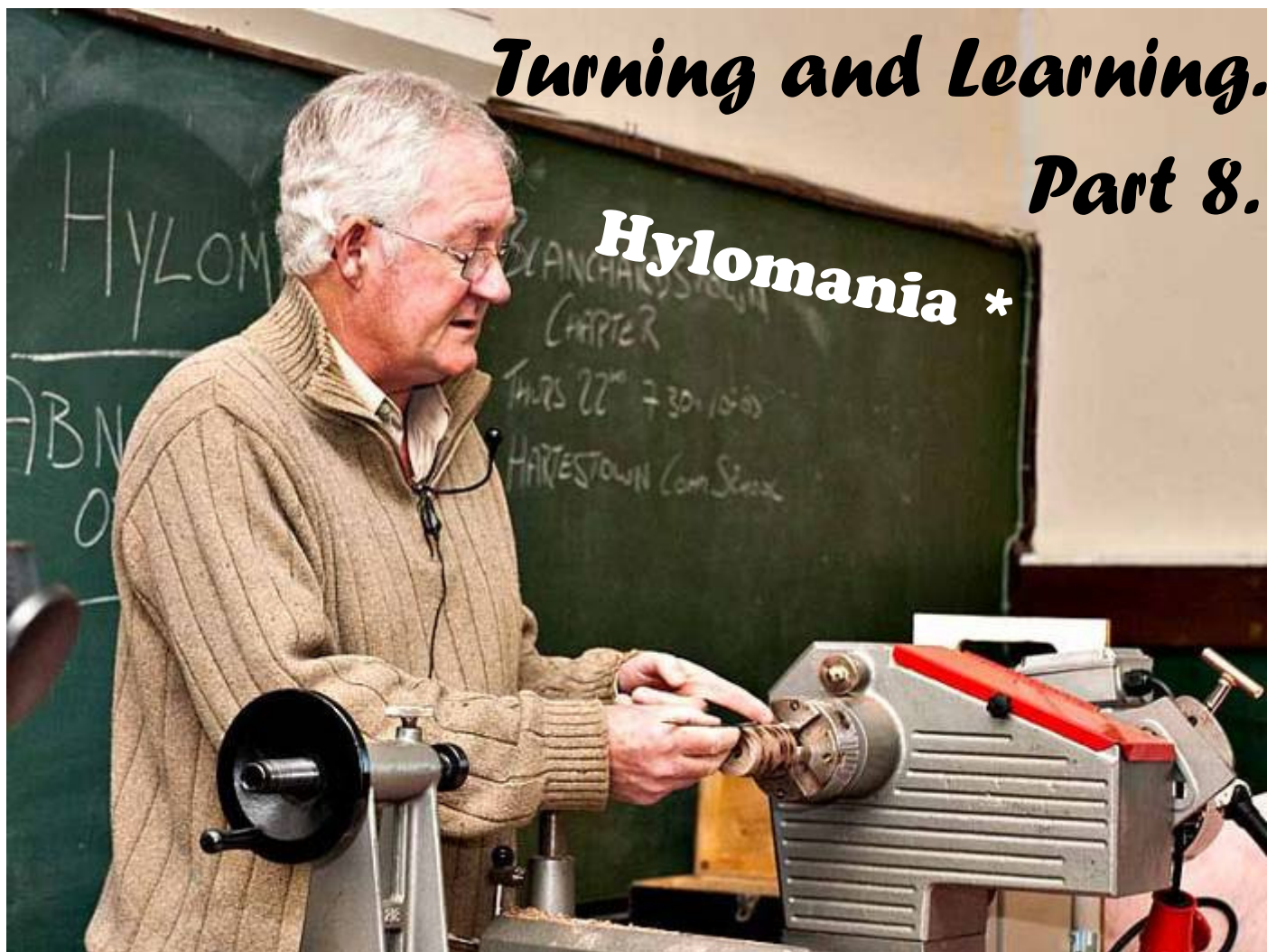
**Dublin 15 Chapter** meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30 pm till 10:00 pm, at Hartstown Community School, Clonsilla, Dublin 15.  
[www.craobhcuigdeag.org](http://www.craobhcuigdeag.org)



### Dublin East Central Chapter

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





# *Turning and Learning.*

## *Part 8.*

### *Hylomania \**

#### ***Banksia and Pewter***

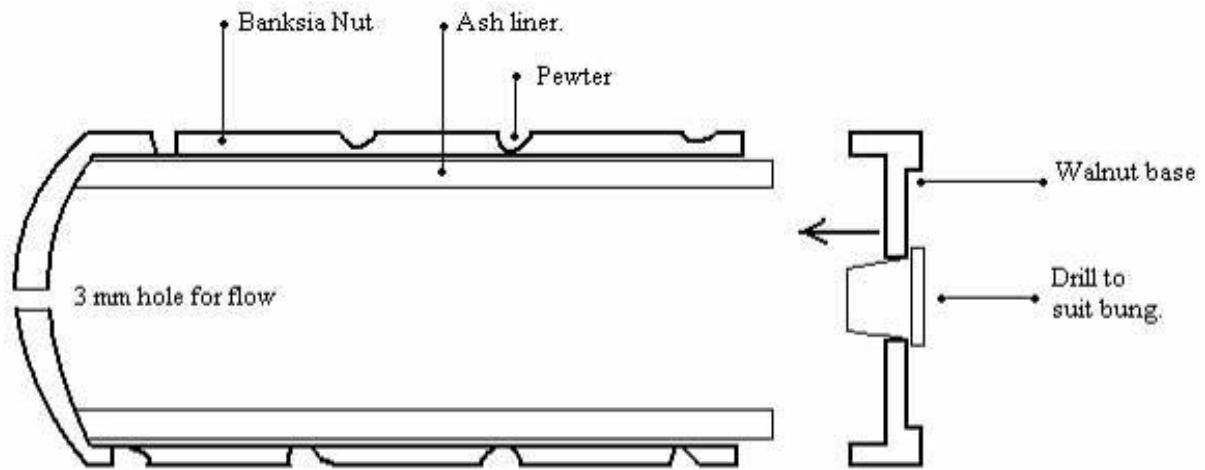
The demonstrator at the Dublin Chapter January 2009 meeting was Owen Furniss. His project was making a salt cellar. While this may seem a bit yawn-making, as soon as we heard the details we sat up and took more notice. He was going to make it from banksia nut, and then fill in the natural holes in the piece with pewter. When we saw the examples he handed round I think most of us felt that this was a project we must tackle. (See the sketch, on the next page, for some understanding of this very brief description of Owen's demo.)

Owen had recently been experimenting with using pewter as an in-filling medium, and had experienced some problems with sanding and finish. (I always think that one of the values of a demonstration is that it means we can avoid problems that the speaker has already experienced and overcome.) When the banksia cylinder is turned down to size some of the holes that appear naturally in the nut would allow the pewter to flow into the hollow section. To avoid this Owen turns an inner sleeve or liner of ash. Some holes, or partial holes, might also occur at the base, and he gets round this by turning a 'collar' of walnut for the bottom of the cellar. As a bonus this gives a balanced and enhanced look to the finished item.

The initial roughing and shaping of a banksia nut can be a messy business - with dirt and bits flying everywhere. Owen turned a spigot at each end and parted it in the middle as the nut was long enough to turn a pair of cellars. With the piece mounted in the chuck he cleaned off the face with a point tool (3-faced) and drilled the centre at a slow speed with a forstner bit, to take the ash liner, a number of which he prepares in advance. The walnut base was turned, and includes a recess on the bottom to ensure that the bung does not protrude and cause wobble. This recess can provide a useful remounting point for reversing and finishing the top. The base is drilled to suit whatever bung you use. Owen got his on eBay.







Owen's Salt Celler. Banksia Nut/Pewter.

## Gremlins

We should always have sympathy for the demonstrator who runs into problems in a demo with work that he or she normally finds a doddle on their own lathe. No matter how good the hosts' lathe is, there always seem to be malevolent gremlins ready to undermine the visitor. *[They seem to live in every lathe I've ever used, particularly my own. Ed.]* In Owen's case the tailstock resisted being removed from the lathe - often necessary due to the cramped space. It was even more determined not to be remounted without putting up a struggle. Some problems of alignment had also interfered with the smooth running of the demo.

During the coffee break it was discovered that the head and tailstocks were at odds with each other and failed the 'kiss test'. This was put right and the headstock swung back to dead centre. Of course, as we have all found out to our cost, moving your centreline half way through a job can bring difficulties of its own. But no problem to Owen, who sailed through his session with great good humour and never blamed the available tools.

## Filling with Pewter

Owen stressed the advisability of using lead-free pewter. Using a torch, he melted the pewter from its original bar which he held in a vice grips. He allows the melted metal to fall on to a flat surface where it spreads into flakes. When cool, the flakes are easy to handle, and convenient to melt directly into the holes using a soldering iron. The holes should be slightly over-filled. When cool, a thin superglue is applied to each 'blob'. Being thin it will dribble down into any spaces and will secure the pewter. A 60 grit sanding will take down a lot of the excess pewter. Owen



recommended using an extractor/hover at this stage. Next came a further turning with the three point tool and skew, and a further application of superglue and accelerator.



## ***Finishing***

Reversing the cellar, Owen finished the turning by shaping a shallow dome at the top. He chose a position where no holes would appear on this surface (except the 3mm hole he drilled for the flow of salt!) The final sanding is through all the stages from 120 to 1,200 grit. Owen had a neat approach to this by having strips of all these grade stacked in order. When he used each one he simply re-stacked them in the same order. This sounded like a 'no-brainer' but I for one would end up with a jumble of sizes. The final step was to apply a finish and Owen uses Chestnut melamine lacquer with a rub of a rag. The finished item, and the samples he passed around were elegant and brilliantly executed, and would tempt anyone to have a go.

Owen modestly dismissed this high quality demonstration by shrugging and saying, "Well, that's the way I do it".

## **\* Hylomania.**

According to Joe Laird, this is a word for '*Abnormal love of wood.*' It's great to know we all share an abnormal love that isn't even a sin.

## ***Even More Learning***

I think I must have hylomania, because I was devastated to find that the Gorey seminar in March clashes with our Dublin Chapter meeting and also with an event in Larch Hill. Why can't we be in three places at once! It seems some of my colleagues are also effected by this mania - otherwise why would they turn up at Templeogue for another turning-fest just five days after the Chapter meeting. Abnormal indeed. Incidentally, I discovered another darlin' word when we met. Mick Byrne had been making a batch of dibbers for Joe, our budding horticulturalist, so he ran him up a 'Fid' as well. (Clue: a fid is a suitable gift for Joe as he is involved in Scouting.)

We had a great range of experience among the ten participants - from Michael Fay (multiple winner of our Advanced league) to Jack O'Rourke who joined the Chapter last week. After comparing notes and suggestions on items we had worked on since we last met we got down to business. Tony Lally was back on the lathe and started with a bud-vase in cherry. He urged us to let our imaginations run free on design on this particular item - "What suits **you** is right". It can be instructive to watch a turner's hands, and I later tried out the swivel action he used with a gouge when shaping the shoulder of the vase.

It worked well for me too. Tony then dashed off a number of very shapely finials in Iroko. He had brought one for everyone in the audience so we could follow the fine detail of the work without much difficulty. As he was naturally working towards the end in the chuck (what we technical bods call 'the thick end') he was often working 'uphill'.

He did this with an ease which I envied, because when I work up against the run of the grain I often get catches or finish with raised or raggedy edges. I know! I know! Use the bevel, and for God's sake learn how to use a skew properly!! Tony suggested that if you are set up to make a finial, you might as well make a good few, in a variety of profiles, materials and sizes. Pop them in a drawer and whenever you want to add a finial to something you may well have one in stock.

Over coffee and biscuits we agreed a programme for the next few months. John Doran will do a laminated table lamp in February. Peter Mulvaney has promised to run a session on sharpening and I will certainly not miss this. Michael Fay was volunteered into agreeing to demonstrate in the future. And so, with thanks to Joe for the use of the hall, ten dusty but happy hylomaniacs set off into the winter twilight as happy as pigs in shavings.

Gerry Ryan. January 2009.

(Photos by Hugh Flynn)