



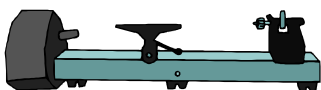
Dublin Chapter Newsletter

February 2010 Volume 3 Issue 14



Inside this issue:

Chairman's Address	2
News from around the chapter	2,3
View from the front	4
View from the back	5
Competition News	5
Turning and Learning	7
Exhibition News	9



Fair Weather Turner

December and January have turned out to be as different as chalk and cheese for me.

In December the combination of an enforced 3 week break from work and the excuse that I needed to get out and make Christmas presents, afforded me the opportunity to spend lots of much needed quality time in "Happy Place".

However, since the turn of the year, I'm ashamed to say that, I've barely set foot out there, to the extent that much of the mess that I made in the final rush to finish presents remains untidied. Indeed for the month of January, "Happy Place" would have been more aptly named "Neglected Place."

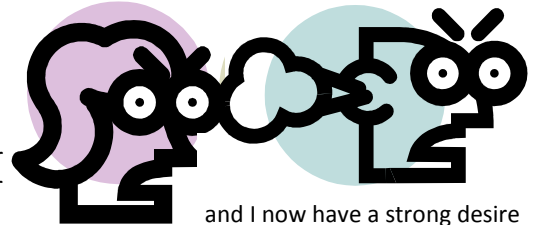
I have a multitude of excuses for this. The most pathetic is that the poor weather at the start of the month brought on a general lethargy, suggesting

that I'm a fair weather turner.

In my defence, I would point out that there were plenty of late evenings at work and also a week feeling sorry for myself with a sore back.

There is also the far from trivial consideration that in the latter part of December I had used up all of Mrs V's good will. In my house, women are from Venus, men are from Happy Place. On Venus you apparently don't spend your life in the shed, just turning up for meals when it suits you. Normally I wouldn't care, but keeping my good lady sweet is a very high priority at the moment. I'm pushing for a new lathe and negotiations for the release of funds are at a critical stage.

Anyhow, as January has passed, so have my excuses



and I now have a strong desire to get back out and start ruining perfectly nice pieces of wood.

By contrast, all those who put in an appearance at either our first meeting of the year on Saturday 2nd January or the workshop, which took place on the following Thursday, could never be accused of being fair weather turners, well done to you all.

A word of thanks to the many people who have contributed to this newsletter and a plea to keep the stuff coming in.

As always, you can send me anything for the newsletter by email to DWT.newsletter@gmail.com or feel free to catch me in person or by phone.

Varn

Coming Soon

Thursday 11 February - <i>Workshop</i>	(Scout Hall)
Saturday 6 March -	(Scout Hall)
Demonstrator: Frank Gallagher	
Competition: Goblet (Min height 115cm—any size for beginners)	
Thursday 11 March - <i>Workshop</i>	(Scout Hall)
Saturday 3 April -	(Scout Hall)
Demonstrator: Michael Fay	
Competition: A Puzzle	
Thursday 8 April- <i>Workshop</i>	(Scout Hall)
Saturday 15 May - <i>Seminar</i>	(Scout Hall)

2010 Membership

Please note that membership fees for 2010 are now due.

The 2010 membership fee is €59, consisting of €54 IWG membership fee (unchanged from 2009) and an additional €5 "levy" (as agreed at the AGM) to cover the loss that is being made in running chapter meetings.



When renewing your membership, **please**

take a minute to ensure that we have either an up to date e-mail address and/or mobile phone number.

There have been a number of instances in the last year where the committee needed to get messages out to members urgently, due to last minute cancellations and the like. The only practical way to do this is via e-mail or text message.

2010 Committee

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Chairman	Joe O'Neill	087 623 0162	DWT.Chair
Secretary	Colm McIntyre	086 155 1625	DWT.Secretary
Treasurer	Vincent Whelan	087 760 4918	DWT.Treasurer
Vice-Chairman	Jonathan Wigham	087 795 2296	DWT.ViceChair
Membership	Joe McLoughlin	087 261 0803	DWT.Membership
Competitions & Workshops	John Doran	087 639 3081	DWT.Competitions
Books & Video	Eamonn Boland	086 274 7600	DWT.Library
Exhibitions	Frank Maguire	087 285 3716	DWT.Exhibitions
Newsletter	Rich Varney	086 832 7985	DWT.Newsletter

We now have a central Gmail address for each committee member. When sending an e-mail you need to add "@gmail.com" to the end of the e-mail address given above, for example DWT.Newsletter@gmail.com

Notes from the Chairman

We are all relieved that the severe winter weather is now past.

Where possible I like to make a plus out of a minuses, the weather was very bad and many were confined to barracks. This was a good time to visit the workshop and do a bit of tidying up and find that missing tool or rearrange the layout.

We had a very surprised gathering at our first meeting of the year at the Scouts Den Willington. Twenty nine attended in spite of the bad icy, roads not to mention the freezing cold. Joe McLoughlin had a grand log fire burning and a nice warm cuppa waiting for us as we arrived. Richard Murphy, our demonstrator was all set up and ready to go at ten bells. Anyone who was at this meeting was not disappointed and it was a good start to our year.

Owen Furniss our Webmaster has our new

website all ready to go and we invite all members to view it when it's ready. Richard Varney is keeping Owen up to date with our activities. Your contribution to our website be it photos, a short article, a drawing of your next project is always welcome. Do not leave it to someone else to do.

Joe, our membership secretary, is having a good response to members paying their subs on time. Please keep him happy.

John Doran, our competitions and workshop organiser, has lots of activities up and running. Do enter the competitions and bring along your entries- it is important to us and to you.

Eamonn Boland, our librarian, has some new ideas on books and videos, as it's more DVDs now. Do return items you are finished



with and if you wish to make a donation of a book or video or DVD it would be also appreciated. A public flogging will take place for those who have not returned books or DVDs or videos.

We are very fortunate to have so many giving great service to our chapter and wish to thank them for their efforts.

Joe O'Neill
Chairman, Dublin Chapter.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of a woodturning colleague...

Jim Byrne

Jim, who passed away over the Christmas period, was a member of the East Central Chapter, but he was often to be seen in the first few rows of Dublin Chapter meetings at Terenure college and will be sadly missed.

Our condolences to the Byrne Family.

SWAP SHOP

There will be a swap shop at the meeting on April 3rd, where members can bring their unwanted tools and sundries to sell/trade. Please do not bring any large items (such as lathes) into the scout hall.



Note: All transactions and any issues arising from them are strictly private between the parties involved.

Updated Website Launched

After some considerable effort by Owen Furniss over recent months, the new chapter website is now up and running. The site has been completely rebuilt from the ground up and not only looks fantastic, but has some great content which includes:

- News and Announcements
- Information about the chapter, membership and our meetings
- Competition results and photographs
- Newsletters from recent years
- Contacts
- Links to other useful websites

It is a excellent start but it is very important to ensure the website remains an up to date and reliable source of information to members, potential members and anyone who visits the website. The committee will do their part by keeping Owen up to date with news etc, but if any members have items, links or ideas for anything else they would like to see on the website, please pass this on to Owen or one of the committee.

Thanks are due to Owen for all his work on the revamp and to Niall Cahill who stood down as webmaster recently having looked after the chapter website for many years.



To check out the website for yourself, go to www.dublinwoodturners.com.

Date for your diary: MAY SEMINAR

The Dublin Chapter will be holding a one-day seminar in May. This will take place at the Scout Hall on Saturday 15 May 2010. Planning is in the very early stages, but further details will follow over the coming weeks on the website and at the March meeting.

The seminar will replace the normal monthly meeting, so there will be no regular meeting on Saturday 1 May 2010. Accordingly, the May Thursday meeting will be held on 20 May (the Thursday after the seminar) instead of 6 May.

Changes in the Library



Eamonn Boland is introducing a new annual pass for the library. This will cost €10 and entitle you to borrow up to two items per month for the year. This amounts to a potential saving of €40 compared to borrowing the items individually and it is hoped this option will encourage members to make more use of the library.

We would ask that everybody shows consideration to others by returning books, videos and DVDs to the library as soon as possible.

If anybody has requests for particular books or DVDs they would like to see in the library, please pass them on to Eamonn.

Say it with shavings

For those who are looking to keep that special someone happy this valentine's day with a heartfelt sentiment, I came across this card for sale at www.zazzle.com



If by Michael Box (with apologies to Kipling)

If you can use a skew,
And never lose your cool
And turn a perfect bead with
This very tricky tool
If you can grind a bowl gouge
But never turn it blue
Or turn a bowl so thin
You can see the light shine through
Or turn a pair of candle sticks
With a right and left hand screw
And hide that nasty crack
With the aid of superglue
If you can go to workshops
And still learn a thing or two
And help others with their problems
As proper craftsmen do
If you can master all these skills
Before you reach life's span
You can call yourself a turner
And might even be a man.

View From the Front...

January's meeting saw Richard Murphy return for more abuse from certain members of the Dublin Chapter. In an exclusive article, Richard reveals how he came to be up the front and why "It's good to know you have friends in times of trouble!!"

It was just about closing time in my local and I was quite content with the night's proceedings, plenty of drink, a bit of craic with some of the other residents of the bar; you know the scene. And then a mobile phone rang and rang for what seemed like forever with the most irritating ring tone. I turned to my wife and started to moan about the idiot who wouldn't answer that dam mobile but she wouldn't answer me, not surprising really as my wife was sitting on my other side and she was trying to figure out why I was chatting up somebody else's wife. Lucky for me that her husband was in the same state I was, as I didn't fancy his chances with my beloved - she has very high standards (although she keeps telling me she lowered them a lot when she married me!!) I live in hope she will raise them again?

The night before the demo it was miserable, I was saved or so I thought

Then the penny dropped as my better half informed me that I was the idiot with the mobile and if I didn't answer it she was going to use it as part of a medical procedure (she's a nurse so she knows about these things). I very quickly found my phone and having turned it the right way up I found myself talking to Jonathan Wigham, our illustrious chairman and being in a agreeable mood and not wishing to prolong the conversation as my beloved was tapping an empty glass off the table, I agreed with what ever he said and headed for the bar double quick.

Now that's when my troubles started because having returned from the bar with drinks my wife enquired as to what I would be making? I said I wasn't making anything I had been at the bar DUH. "I know that," she said "I meant for your Demo you thick!" (She has loads of pet names for me, honest). What demo I said (Remember what I said about plenty of drink earlier). The one you just agreed to do in January for Jonathan on the phone she says. "Don't be silly" I said, "Nobody is that organised it's only December it will be fine. Drink up dear!!"

Well he was bloody organised and the Wednesday before the demo Joe O'Neill (our new chairman) rings and I was in the pub again. "Just checking your OK for Saturday, that's grand see you there!" The look on my face must have been good as my wife nearly fell off the seat laughing at me. I had one ace in the hole "THE WEATHER" was brutal and I prayed hard it would get worse and I haven't prayed for a while!!

The night before the demo it was miserable, I

was saved or so I thought. I rang Joe and casually enquired if it was a good idea to carry on with the demo due to the weather and my concern for the safety of the members some of whom were getting on in years (Sorry lads but I was getting desperate), mentioned hips and ankles etc. Still no joy. Joe said the hall was prepared and sure a few might turn up and we could have a nice intimate little gathering (things were looking up, small intimate gathering sounded a whole lot better than the full horde) so I agreed to turn up. I mean, how bad could it be I was among friends. The group would be small and intimate. I kept those thoughts in my head as I headed for the scout hall and then it came to me, sure most of them won't remember the change of venue, ha ha, it will be grand!

The hall was great, big log fire, lathe set and ready, tea and coffee already on the stove and no bodies. Yippee, short intimate demo and home.



I was playing with the lathe supplied by John Doran, a Record Woodfast. Very impressive machine, variable speed ½ HP motor and good capacity between centre's and over the bed. Cast iron frame means it's very stable and during the demo I placed a small box on the headstock and it never twitched throughout the demo. The only comment I would make is that I found the variable speed controller very slow to react compared to my own lathe.

At this point I looked up to discover that instead of the small intimate crowd I was hoping for, a large crowd had appeared including the usual suspects: Finlay, Lally (I sensed payback was coming) Pacelli was sitting up the front with Ryan (no not Charlie he chickened out blaming the weather even though Cecil Baron made it and he lives further away,) no this was Gerry and he had pen and paper ready.

I had intended to turn a piece of Padauk, it's a lovely orange red colour with nice brown figuring. But having tried it at home I decided not to use it as I found the dust very irritating (no mask my fault) and it is listed as a minor irritant to lungs and nasal passages. So I loaded up a piece of walnut and got stuck in to

turning as a small box to contain an ointment jar which was about 30 mm in diameter and the same in height. Everything was going smoothly and then of course my family curse Murphy's Law struck in the form of a catch. I thought nobody had noticed until Lally asked "What was that Richard". I muttered something under my breath but settled for "Design change" as my retort, there were ladies present after all. Having completed the bottom of the box all that remained was to reverse it on a jam chuck and clean up the bottom.

Of course Finlay couldn't resist passing a comment and Tony Lally and Pacelli joined in.

It only took me two attempts to size the chuck and that's a record for me! I started to gently clean off the bottom of the box to enable me to bring up the tail stock but the box had other ideas and popped out of the chuck. Of course Finlay couldn't resist passing a comment and Tony Lally and Pacelli joined in. Small intimate friendly crowd didn't spring to mind at that moment. I pressed on with the box and of course it popped out again and this time rolled across the floor; I was starting to hate this box. I suggested a number of ways to stop this happening and asked if anybody had some Sellotape with them. "No" came the answer from the back of the crowd, Finlay I imagine.

Anyway I decided that if I could hold it gently with my fingers I would be fine but I forgot about friction and my fingers weren't heat proof. I tried blowing on my fingers as I held the rotating box with one hand and the spindle gouge in the other but I'm only a man and multitasking is not one of my strong points. And I was starting to get dizzy from all the blowing. At this moment I could smell burning flesh - mine, and then a hand appeared in front of me with a roll of masking tape and then disappeared. "Would this help"? Was all I heard amidst the roars of laughter as Finlay retreated to the back of the crowd? I was reliably informed later that the tape had been found earlier but had been diverted by a friend on its way to the lathe, Thanks buddy. (Remember Payback).

Having completed the base of the box I carried on with the top which thankfully was uneventful. It's nice to know that when you need a friend at a demo there will always be someone to throw a spanner! Anyway Happy New year to you all and you never know I might even do another demo sometime. Right I'm off to the pub and I'm not answering the phone for anybody, "Oh darling are you ready yet? Ok I'll wait!" ●

Twenty nine members braved the elements to see Richard Murphy's demonstration at the January meeting. Here Pacelli O'Rourke describes how things appeared from the other side of the lathe.

I was wondering why Tony Lally was wearing a fiendish grin and muttering something about 'pay back time', when I remembered that Richard Murphy was doing this morning's demo. Now, I won't take the focus off the description of the demo hereafter – suffice to say the banter flowed sweet and free in both directions! Richard chose a piece of walnut for this project. Dimensions overall are at the discretion of the turner, or, more probably, determined by what's available in the workshop. In any event, the only really suitable wood for this project would be close-grained and very stable. I reckon Richard's blank was about 9" by 3". The idea is a clever one. Most of our female loved ones have various jars and bottles of cosmetic 'lotions and potions' on their dressing tables. The idea here was to house such a jar in the body of the box, with the plastic lid sitting proud, accommodated in the dome of the finial-lid.

Suffice to say the banter flowed sweet and free in both directions!

The blank had been roughed down to a cylinder, a spigot turned on either end. Make the spigot of such a diameter that you get maximum grip along each of the chuck jaws. The blank was now parted into two pieces—one for the body, the other for the lid.

First, true up the end of the body piece. Now, take the external dia. of the cosmetic jar with the vernier callipers and transfer this measurement to the end of the body piece.



Caution! Only let the left point of the callipers come in contact with the spinning wood. Next, measure the depth of the jar (excluding the lid). Remember, the lid needs to sit proud of the body. Richard used a spindle gouge to bore to this depth down the centre. He also had a proper depth-gauge. However, any projectile, including the shaft of the gouge, can tell you when the bore-hole is at the right depth. For hollowing out, Richard used a centre-to-rim shear scrape with the spindle gouge, initially, for this purpose. Then he changed to a square section skew-scraper which he finds gives a very clean cut down the side and across the flat bottom. Patience and a light touch is a must once you are coming near the marked

circumference. Of course you can go for a loose fit, but I think Richard was committed to a 'snug' fit, which he achieved. *Note: 'snug' does not mean 'tight'. If there is little or no tolerance, the wood can move and split, especially if the jar is made from glass.* Next, take an area of about 1/8" down, to within 1/8" of the jar housing to form a flange around which the lid will sit. Create a slight inward/downward bias on this area so that there will be a true, thin line between lid and body when seen from the outside. Frequent tries for fit of the jar are required at this stage. Once satisfactory, the inside of the box can be sanded, sealed and finished. Be careful not to oversand, thus losing the quality of fit achieved.

Richard prefers cellulose sanding sealer, which has the advantage of almost immediate drying. Be extremely careful, however, in the workshop, to protect your lungs etc. from harmful fumes. For finishing he applied some neutral Kiwi shoe polish (with acknowledgements to Cindy Drozda). Work can now begin forming the outside of the box. Richard chose a type of 'egg cup' profile, parallel sides curving in from about 2/3rd the way down to flow into a decorative pedestal. The body is not parted off at this stage, but before removing it from the chuck, mark it and the chuck so as to be able to re-chuck it in the same position, thus reducing the likelihood of it running out of true.

You can take stock off, but you can't put it back on!

The next stage is to turn the lid. Once again, true up the end. Take the outer diameter of the body flange. Mark this measurement onto the lid-end. Remember, the dome of the lid has to accommodate the lid of the cosmetic jar which will be inside. It really is crucial that you are light handed as you approach the scribed diameter of the hollowed area of the lid. As Richard wisely commented, 'You can take stock off, but you can't put it back on!' Again, the challenge is to achieve a snug fit. It is painstaking, but the body needs to be continually offered up to the lid until the required fit is achieved. Now the lid can be hollowed to take the jar-lid. Satisfy yourself that the body plus jar-lid sits nicely onto the lid of the piece. Now the interior of the lid can be sanded, sealed and finished.

Both lid and body can now be fitted together, and the tailstock brought up to provide extra support. *Note: Always align the grain, as between lid and body, while the piece is being worked on.* Now is the time to fine tune the 'marriage' between lid and body. Again, Richard used his highly favoured box-scraper

at this point. The outside of the lid is next shaped. This consisted of a dome shape from which evolved two 'onion' forms, the smaller being the pinnacle of the finial. It is now possible to sand, seal and finish the finalised parts of both lid and body. Caution! The finial is a point of maximum visual impact in this piece. Be extremely delicate in speed of rotation and lightness of touch as the parting off of the finial point is approaching. Any kind of aggressiveness at this stage could cause fibres to be wrenched, thus spoiling the stunning effect of a well formed finial. Be prepared to slacken off the tailstock before the final parting. Richard issues a further caution regarding the point of the finial: Don't make a spike out of it. Aesthetically it is not the most pleasing, and further, it presents the possibility of your loved one suffering damage to her upper limbs going near the item! Once satisfied with all external aspects of the piece, it may now be sanded sealed and finished entirely. Finally, comes the parting off of the body. Once again, a careful, delicate approach.

Always align the grain, as between lid and body, while the piece is being worked on.

To all intents, the finial box is now finished. But not quite for our intrepid demonstrator! Being well versed in the desirability of a perfect bottom, Richard now constructed a jam chuck to hold the body while cleaning up the aforementioned nether region of the piece. No matter how lightly he worked on it, however, it showed a spirit of 'wanderlust' until Adrian Finlay slapped a roll of masking tape down on the lathe bed. The perfect solution. Within moments, Richard held up his delightful finial box in walnut, to a resounding and well deserved round of applause.



PS. Richard made a passing reference to 'Murphy's Law' at one stage. The only such law I witnessed during his demo was 'Me Murphy – you walnut!' Young Murphy, you did us proud! •

Photos by Tony Hartney and Vincent Whelan

Competition News

Ready, Teddy, Go!

The new competition season opened in December with a departure from the usual festive items. The competition had a low turnout, with all five entries in the Advanced section (probably due, at least in part, to the complexity of the project). Despite this, the quality of the few entries was excellent. Seamus O'Reilly's teddy picked up first place (and looked suitably pleased about it!). ▶

James Gallagher was awarded second place. ▼



Tim McGill Trophy

December saw an additional competition for pieces donated to be sold at the Tallaght Library Exhibition in aid of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. There was a good turnout of pieces for this competition and the Tim McGill Trophy was deservedly won by Michael Fay for his candlesticks. ▼



Brass Monkeys would have perhaps been a more apt follow up to December's Teddy bear, than a baby's rattle, given the inclement weather. Nonetheless, the competition still saw two advanced entries and five in the experienced category.

Frank Gallagher picked up first place in the Advanced section. ▶

Graham Brislane won the Experienced section. ▼



2010 Competition Items:

Here are the competition items for the rest of this year...

March: Goblet (Min height 115cm—any size for beginners.)

April: Puzzle (Joe O'Neill has plans for anyone stuck for ideas)

May (Seminar): Open Competition

June: Platter

July: Box

August: Candlestick Holder (pair for advanced/experienced, one for beginners)

September: Laminated Turning

October: Off-Centre Turning

November: Hollow Form

December: 2 Christmas Tree decorations (these do not have to match)

Thanks to Hugh Flynn, Tony Hartney and Vincent Whelan for the competition photos.

2010 Competition Standings

Advanced	Total	Dec	Jan
Frank Gallagher	26	11	15
Seamus O'Reilly	15	15	
James Gallagher	13	13	
Tony Lally	13		13
Fran Lavelle	9	9	
Colm McIntyre	7	7	

Experienced	Total	Dec	Jan
Graham Brislane	15		15
Tony Hartney	13		13
John Doran	11		11
Gerry Ryan	9		9
Frank Maguire	7		7
Paddy Finn	5		5

There were no Beginner entries in December or January.

Turning And Learning with Gerry Ryan

Chapter Demonstrations.

Joe O'Neill - Bowl Basics.

At the December '09 Dublin Chapter meeting our newly elected Chairman, Joe O'Neill, gave an excellent example of multi-tasking. With great panache and flair, he performed as Chair, Demonstrator, Announcer, Master of Ceremonies, and, not least, Storyteller.

As always with Joe, because he is a great turner, you find that you are picking up much really valuable information.



Working on a yew blank of about 8" X 3", mounted on a screw chuck, he used a bowl gouge on the base with a type of shear cut which also began to round the bottom sides. With a smaller (1/4 inch) gouge he worked on the side of the blank - from base to front - with the flute facing forward.

As the rich pattern of the yew grain revealed itself, Joe explained that with such a striking grain it would be a mistake to turn fancy curves or coves - just a single and simple curve will show off the grain to best advantage. Cutting the recess in the base with the same small gouge he reversed the blank. With a hole already there from the screw chuck, Joe made short work of the main hollowing.

He managed at the same time to impart many common-sense but valuable tips - for example showing in slow motion how it was necessary to have the end of the handle well out past the lathe centre so as to have the bevel rubbing as you work back from the rim of the bowl to the centre. He also demonstrated the difficulty in dealing with the centre

mound or build-up if the tool rest is too low.



He paid great attention to checking the wall thickness several times, before finishing the inside profile with a 1/2 inch round scraper. Now this may be all basic stuff but well worth remembering (especially in my own case, as just two days previously I had gone through the base of my best piece of bowl-turning to-date!) Joe's off-the-tool finish was really fine and he hardly needed to stress the importance of going up through the grades of sander without skipping. He reversed the bowl, for finishing the base, on to an MDF disc with a block of polystyrene to take up the slack.

Joe never neglects to pass on some safety tips and these are just a few I remember -

- Dust!! He used a 'Dust-Bee-Gone' which lasts and lasts with an occasional wash
- Don't over-reach with tools; he has had a few snap right through
- Tool rest. Always check if it is loose. Don't adjust while lathe running. Don't sand without moving it to one side
- Keep a bottle of 'De-bonder' handy when using superglue

Joe illustrated the last with the sorry tale of having affixed himself to the lathe bed when brushing off some spilled glue. He waved for help to a passing neighbour who returned the greeting with a wave and passed on! Thanks Joe, for a happy and instructive session.



December Group Work.

A dozen or more of us were glad to escape the pre-Christmas madness and the spate of Craft Fairs, so we sneaked off to Templeogue to pick up some tips from Cecil Barron and Seamus Carter.

Cecil went through some of the items he regularly makes for Fairs. He dashed off an example of a small glass jar for which he turned a decorative round wooden 'over-lid'. A combination of a good fit and some hot glue were all that were needed to result in a very crafty and useable item. He recommended where possible to use jars where the jar is wider than the lid (otherwise the new wooden lid can seem out of proportion).

Another of his regular items is a disc of about 25 cm with 5 holes of 2cm, evenly spaced in a circle, and a 6th hole in the centre. When the item is as well finished (a bit like a flying saucer) as you would expect from Cecil, and the holes contain six tea lights/night lights, the effect is outstanding.



In an amazingly short space of time Cecil produced a honey dipper (ash or beech are very good), and a baby's rattle of ash, with two captive rings. For the latter he used a 1/4 inch ring tool - and cutting with the tool above centre, and the shorter side riding on the wood, he finished with rings with a section that was truly circular. His tip on the honey dipper was that the 'rings/fins' you leave should be less wide than the gaps between.

Seamus had brought a sample of a cleverly turned snow-scene consisting of a round base with a Christmas tree, a candle and a Santa. He worked at such a speed and in such detail that it is impossible to do justice to it here. The finished scene was painted and

details included buttons, eyes, nose, hat and scarf. Even the turning of the base from a square of MDF was made to seem so simple that I would recommend to any Chapter that they would invite Seamus Carter to give a demonstration based on his snow-scene.

Many thanks to Cecil and Seamus. I would like to distance myself from all those who hold Seamus personally responsible for the snowy conditions that followed!

Chapter in the Snow.

Nothing dampens the spirit of the true turner! Despite the unavailability of the facilities in Terenure College - and the presence of frozen snow on the roads, the January meeting of Dublin Chapter was held (and reasonably well supported) at the Scouts' venue in Templeogue.

Admittedly we were missing the luxury of our PA system, our lathe-mounted cameras and our TV monitor, but Richard Murphy gave a virtuoso demonstration. As my hearing is, to say the least, somewhat dodgy, I missed a lot of his pearls of wisdom. Luckily Pacelli O'Rourke was taking notes, so you will read of Richard's prowess elsewhere. We noted in particular Richard's novel use of shoe polish.



Still Freezing.

By the following Thursday the roads were even more treacherous but nine fanatics re-visited Templeogue. Really, some people just cannot seem to get enough. This made me wonder if there is an expression that begins "**Old turners never die, they simply - - -**". (Editor please note this for a future competition.)

Jack Kearney was our demonstrator for the day and made an exceptionally elegant tea-light holder in ash and fumed oak. Jack uses a variety of off-cuts of flooring which allows him to come up with a range of quite exotic but affordable materials. The lights sit in a small glass container which he picks up quite cheaply in IKEA.

He quickly "dressed" the face of two 15 cm discs, then sanded them with 120 and 180 grit, before gluing with PVA and clamping. He continued work on "one I prepared previously". He shaped and finished the outline in a graceful arc with

the fumed oak piece as the base. Drilling out for the tea-light holder he deliberately does not penetrate the full depth as his design involves the holder sitting a little proud of the wood.

Having sanded to about 600 he applies Liberon paste wax (and Chestnut 22 if a second coat is required). The work-piece is then reversed on the chuck - using the light recess - and the base is dressed.

As a second project Jack made a small dish from three glued discs of engineered floorboard (an ash veneer or layer on birch ply). The ply turned very cleanly and only the ash layer needed careful cleaning-up. By sanding to 220, using sanding sealer and finishing up to 500 grit a striking effect was achieved. He then turned a walnut finial to mount inside the dish and achieved an attractive jewellery and ring holder. Regrettably we did not have a camera to record Jack's work.

In the course of our regular exchange of materials and ideas, in my ignorance I asked for information on the way in which vinegar and wire-wool can be used to darken or even ebonise wood. Lots of advice and tips were forthcoming and show the benefit of working in small groups. Still learning!

Gerry Ryan, January 2008

Photos by Hugh Flynn and Graham Brisbane

Encouragement

If with pleasure you are viewing
Any work that I am doing,
If you like me or you love me
Tell me now.

Don't withhold your approbation
Till the Father makes oration,
And I lie with snowy lilies o'er my brow.

For no matter how you shout it,
I won't care much about it
I won't see how many teardrops you have shed.

If you think some praise is due me,
Now is the time to slip it to me,
For I cannot read my tombstone,
When I'm dead.

More than fame and more than money,
Is the comment warm and sunny,
Is the hearty warm approval of a friend.

For it gives to life a savour
And it makes me stronger, braver,
And it gives me spirit to the end.
If I earn your praise bestow it.
If you like me let me know it.
Let the words of encouragement be said.

Do not wait till life is over
And I'm underneath the clover.
For I cannot read my tombstone
When I'm dead!

Family Life and Prayer Centre, Knock Shrine
Thanks to Pat Lambert.

Woodturning Exhibition Tallaght County Library. December 2009.

The Exhibition was slightly more successful than last year, and the hospitality from the staff at County Library was second to none.

We had exhibition items from 6 chapter members on display, which showed a great variety of turned items. The previous year we had 8 chapter members exhibit their items.

Monies raised from donations and sale of items for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, came to a total value of €467.63., compared to €382.00 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. Also a special thanks to Michael Fay who did a demonstration on the Thursday evening, which was a good success.

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.



Michael Fay and Cecil Barron with the items for sale ▲



The Exhibition pieces ▲



▲ Frank Maguire and Ronnie Butler admire one of the bowls.

Frank Maguire keeping an eye on some of the items on display ►



More of the examples of the excellent standard of work on show. ▲►



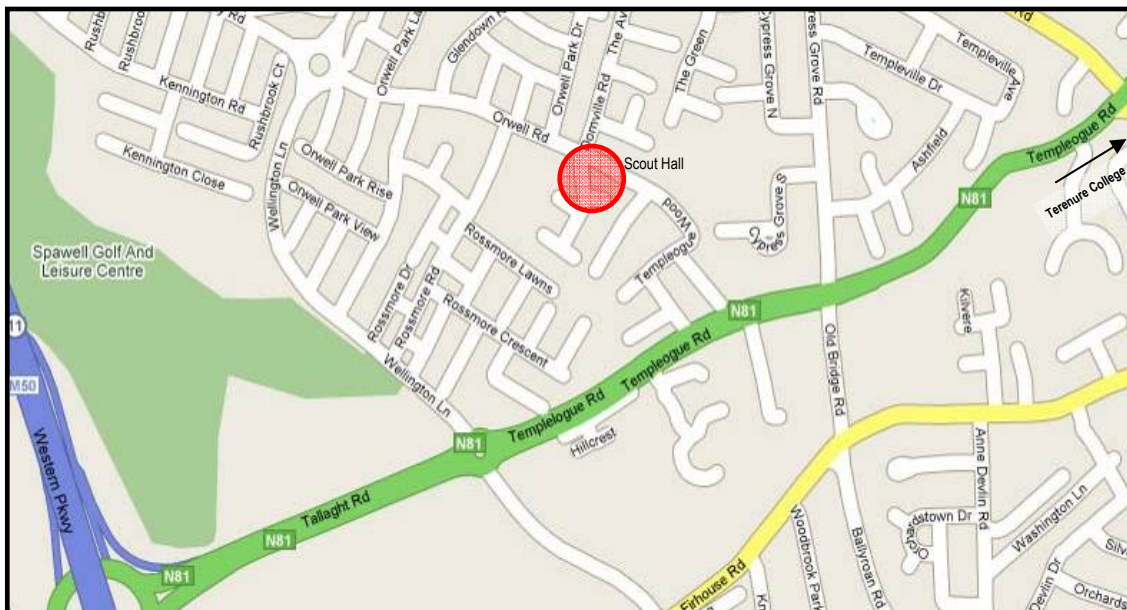
◀ Michael Fay has done a runner?



Thanks to Frank Maguire and Graham Brislane for the photos of the exhibition

Don't Forget...

Until further notice, all meetings will be at the Scout Hall, Templeogue Lodge, Templeogue, Dublin 6W...



...and please remember to show consideration for local residents when parking around the Scout Hall.

Classifieds

For Sale

Wood Burning Stove



Price €200. Contact Michael
McNamara: 086 202 9207

Woodturning Classes

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

Ph: 087 623 0162
Email: rudyperudy@yahoo.com

Woodturning Classes

Up to 3 students per class.
Graduate Lathe per student.
One day courses also available.

Contact: Peter Mulvaney
Ph: 01 280 2745

Wanted

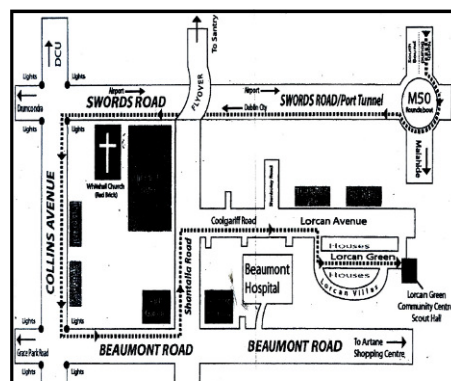
Workshop space wanted for
turning "garage sized".
Area: Bray, Dun Laoghaire,
Cabinteely.
Can pay modest rent.

Contact Mark: 087 759 5598

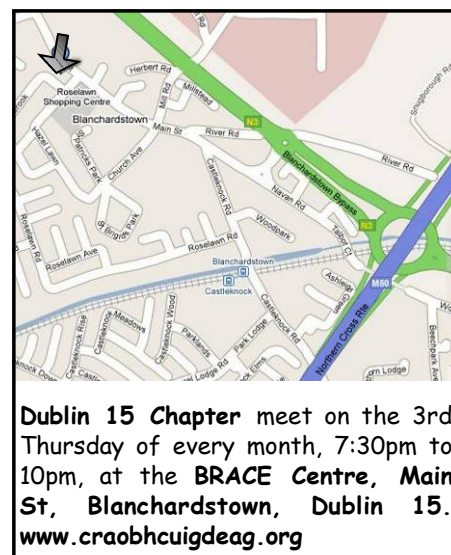
Woodturning Classes

Joe Laird woodturning Studios
Half-Day, Full-Day, Evening and
Weekend classes available (up to
5 students) for all skill levels.

Ph: 01 825 8079 / 087 269 8027
www.joelairdwoodturning.com



Dublin East Central Chapter meet on
the second Saturday of each month in
Lorcan Green Community Centre /
Scout Hall from 2.00 pm.
Tel: 086 8241470



Dublin 15 Chapter meet on the 3rd
Thursday of every month, 7:30pm to
10pm, at the BRACE Centre, Main
St, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
www.craobhcuigdeag.org