

**Dublin** Chapter

Irish **Woodturners** Guild



Journal No. 5 - Spring 1994

## CHAPTER COMMITTEE NEWS

**T**he Editorial has included mention of some of the Committee's activities and to fill in some details we start with the Exhibition details. The dates are from 6th April to 16th April. Those wishing to submit work either for the Exhibition or the Craft Sale should contact the Secretary at Tel. 2895552 for entry forms and conditions of sale. These conditions spell out in some detail the conditions regarding acceptance of work and all the nitty gritty of delivery and labelling and the responsibilities of the exhibiting members.

The time has come around for the payment of Annual Subscriptions and you are reminded that at last years Chapter AGM it was agreed that in order to support the publication costs of this Journal an additional £5 would be added on. It was also decided that payment of subs would be direct to the Chapter in order that we would have an instant record of our Chapter membership and of course, the new mailing list for the Journal and other Chapter notices. Will you please therefore make your subscriptions (£20) payable to: The Irish Woodturners Guild, Dublin Chapter and send to: Tom Mc Donagh, Treasurer - Dublin Chapter, 3 Cherbury Gardens, Booterstown, Co.Dublin.

At the April meeting, the inclusion of an extra category in the competitions for "previous winners" is to be discussed.

### PROGRAMME for meetings on 1st Saturdays of the month at Larch Hill:

April - Router/Lathe work. Peter Mulvaney  
May - Finishing Philip Murray

### COMPETITION SUBJECTS

	<i>Experienced</i>	<i>Newcomers</i>
April	Wild bird Feeder	Lidded box
May	Craft item to sell at £5 or made in 30 minutes	Pair of candlesticks
June	Pepper and salt Cellars	Apple and Pear

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

		<i>Tel.</i>
Chairman	Kevin O'Byrne	2854713
Vice Chairman	Seamus O'Reilly	947905
Secretary	Tom Hayes	2895552
Treasurer	Tom McDonagh	2886351
	Peter Mulvaney	2802745
	Phillip Murray	941269
Editor	Garth May	2955132

Cover: Early seventeenth century turned and carved vessel in fruitwood

## EDITORIAL

**T**his edition brings us into the second year of the Journal and it is proving to be a necessary link with Chapter members who cannot always make the monthly meeting. Having said that, we have nearly fifty members attending each meeting which is very encouraging. Full marks to the Committee who have been very active and apart from making the Editor's job easier by chasing up a range of items to include in the Journal, they are pursuing the opportunity of another Exhibition & Craft Fair at Blackrock Centre. In addition, they have introduced a 'Mentor' arrangement whereby beginners can be assigned to members with more experience who will be available to provide assistance on a one-to-one basis. There are about a dozen pairings arranged so far and this is proving to be a very popular move to help the new members enter into the Chapter activities and pick up some advice at an early stage. Any new members who would like to take advantage of this arrangement, or any volunteers from those with some experience who are willing to act as mentors, should contact the Secretary.

At our meeting last December there was unanimous agreement with the principles put forward for consideration regarding the future structure of the Guild. These were subsequently circulated to the other Chapters for their comments and our Chairman has had encouraging response on the ideas put forward. The purpose of the exercise was to arrive at a consensus of opinion through the Chapters and this has been largely achieved. There have been no major changes proposed to those originally circulated and the Chapter will be putting forward a Motion for adoption at the Guild AGM which will embrace the main issues that have been discussed and agreed at local level. The AGM is in Portlaoise on 26th March 1994 ■

## PROFILE Tim McGill



Affectionately referred to as "Magoo" by his close woodturning friends, Tim is an innovative and inspired craftsman continuously surpassing previous set standards. Attendance at a Wood Ireland Exhibition six years ago was his first introduction to the Guild. Although he had bought a Myford in the late 1950's he had never turned wood, just using the sawing and mortising attachments to facilitate his plumbing business.

His teenage ambition was to be a cabinet maker, a closed trade in those days, and it was impossible for families outside the trade to gain entry. He bought Hobbies Weekly at 2p on a regular basis and produced many of their projects. His masterpiece was a scale model of the German battleship the Graf Spee.

At 14 years of age his first job was working for Duffys - a plumbers shop. He was paid the princely sum of six shillings a week for answering the telephone. Eventually he became an apprentice plumber. Four years into his apprenticeship his father arranged a position for him with Rusher Reilly - a plumbing contractor always in a hurry. At the age of 29 Tim's big chance came - Davis King asked for tenders to install white trough sinks in 15 artisan houses in Dublin. Although Rusher Reilly tendered successfully he decided not to do it, there would be too much plastering involved and it was a job more suited to a builder. The bold Tim was in like a shot with two weeks holidays coming up and him needing a few

extra quid, he offered to do it for the same price. As he said himself "I didn't have a car and I had to use the bike to carry the sand and cement". In the heel of the hunt he ended up installing two and a half thousand sinks. All over Dublin, Blackrock and Glastule. The business improved and at one stage he had eleven men employed.

Unfortunately Tim's wife became ill with that dreaded affliction "Alzheimers" known as the carers disease. As she became increasingly dependant on him, Tim had to slowly wind down his business. She sadly passed away five years ago. As a result Tim is very involved with the Alzheimers Association, most of the proceeds from his woodturning goes to that worthwhile organisaion. It is mainly through his involvement that our Chapter has adopted the Alzheimers as our charity. With a large grown up family, and several living abroad, Tim has plenty of opportunity for travelling to make visits and see the world.

A slowly and softly spoken man, always ready to demonstrate or explain a procedure. His hands never still, he iterates each point with gestures and noises like: zip, buzz, zing and other sound effects. Mick Healy said of Tim "sure if you tied Tim's hands together you'd never get a word out of him". A frequent winner of our monthly competition with many an inspired piece often makes the writer feel like saying "Magoo you've done it again". ■

Peter Mulvaney

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## PROJECT - SHAKER CHAIR

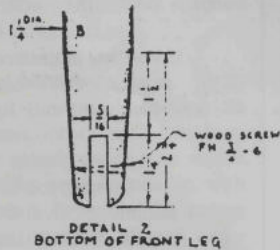
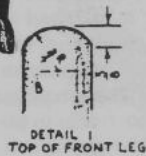
The Shaker chair is a favourite workpiece for many turners and the design incorporates the refined simplicity associated with all Shaker furniture.

The three-slat rocking chair illustrated here originates from the mid 1800 period and the drawings have been reproduced for those who may wish to try making one.



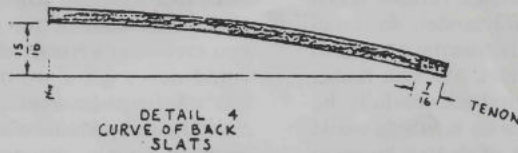
There are no instructions regarding the construction sequence so you will have to give this some thought. In case the dimensioned sketches do not reproduce clearly the components are listed separately. The chairs were originally made from Maple and were given a stained finish.

Letter	No.	Name	T	W	L
A	2	back posts	1-5/16 dia		38-1/2
B	2	front legs	1-1/4 dia		15
C	2	rockers	5/16	3-1/4	23-1/2
D	1	upper slat	1/4	2-1/2	14-1/4
E	1	middle slat	1/4	2-3/8	13-3/4
F	1	lower slat	1/4	2-3/8	13-1/2
G	1	seat—back rung	11/16 dia		13-9/16
H	1	back rung	5/8 dia		13-9/16
I	1	seat—front rung	11/16 dia		17-1/2
J	2	front rungs	11/16 dia		17-1/2
K	2	seat—side rungs	11/16 dia		13-9/16
L	4	side rungs	5/8 dia		13-9/16
M	2	pins	1/8 dia		1
Hardware					
N	2	wood screws	FH 3/4-6		



DETAIL 3  
RUNG

DETAIL 5  
SECTION A-A

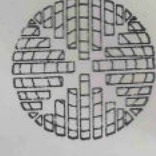
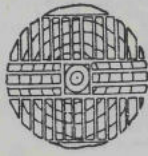


DETAIL 4  
CURVE OF BACK  
SLATS

0 1 2 3 4 5 6  
Scale in Inches - all Details



# TIPS, HINTS and IDEAS



## TURNING LONG TAPERS

Turn workpiece to a smooth cylinder and mark length of taper with a parting tool.

Cut large diameter on one end and smaller diameter on the other.

Set outside caliper to larger diameter and scribe mark on caliper knob (to count knob rotations). Move caliper to smaller end and count knob rotations as you close caliper to smaller diameter.

Suppose you counted five and a half rotations, divide workpiece into five and a half parts and mark. Return caliper to the larger end. Turn knob one rotation, this will be the correct diameter at the first line.

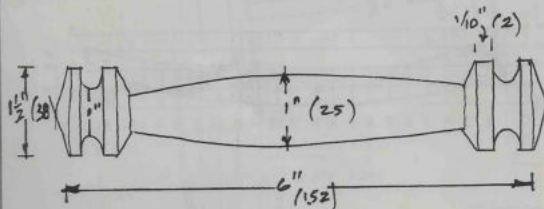
Use parting tool to turn workpiece to that caliper setting at the first line.

Turn caliper knob one more rotation and repeat at the second line.

Continue along workpiece. Complete taper using parting tool cuts as guides. Divide length into caliper knob rotations (example 5 1/2). In some cases it might be necessary to make divisions on half or even quarter rotations ■

K O'B

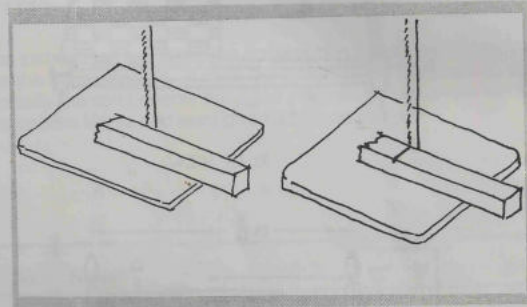
## AN IMPERIAL GIZMO (WITH METRIC SUBTITLES)



A useful carrying device for the handles of a plastic bag. Also useful practice for spindle turning!

CPM

## SQUARING BANDSAW CUTS



Make a kerf cut on one side  
Turn and use kerf as cutting guide

## FINISHES

As so many types of wood finish are now used it is useful to know which finishes will take over each other and which will not. The list below gives the average behaviour:

### Oil finishes-

Will accept french polish, polyurethane or wax.

### French polish -

Will accept cellulose, polyurethane, oil or wax.

### Cellulose -

Will accept polyurethane or wax

### Polyurethane -

Will accept oil or wax.

### Polyester -

Will accept oil, polyurethane or wax

### Wax -

Will accept no other finishes

Wax must be totally removed from any surface before using other finishes.

NOTE: Some paint and varnish strippers have small amounts of wax in them which can lead to problems with other finishes and all wax must be removed before another finish is applied. ■

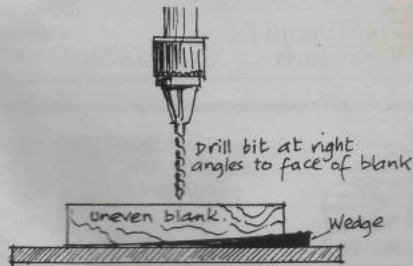
PM

Regarding wax finishes, a magazine reviewed these some years back and two points are recalled:

1. Of all the bees-wax based polishes tested, the cheapest floor polish gave equal results to the most expensive super de lux special furniture polish.
2. Wood does not absorb wax as it will oil. The first coat will infill grain and the surface may take a second, but subsequent coats will make the surface tacky. Do not add further coats until use and wear has removed the original film of polish.

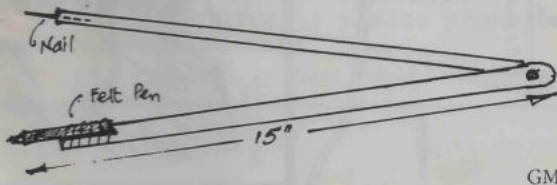
**DRILLING A BOWL BLANK FOR FITTING A SCREW CHUCK**

1. The hole must be at right angles to the face of the blank. If not the blank will not screw on with the face parallel to the face of the chuck and any tightening of the blank will distort and possibly snap the screw.
2. If drilling a blank of uneven thickness, ( which is often the case when the blank is from a slab which has been chain sawn ) - and if a drill press is being used, - wedge up the underside of the blank to ensure that the top face is at right angles to the drill bit.



Use off-cuts of hardboard or plywood to cut into discs of various size with centre hole. They are useful as backing to blanks fitted to screw chucks where full depth of screw is not required and to provide extra lateral support to the blank. Use also for marking around before bandsawing blanks

Alternatively, make a large pair of wooden compasses. I have a pair which are hinged at the top with a butterfly nut and screw, the point is a nail with the head filed off and set in the bottom of one arm and the other arm carries the marker which is a felt pen taped in position. Apart from using to mark out blanks they are also handy for centering faceplates before fixing onto blanks.



**TREES OF IRELAND - Native and Naturalised**

Written by E. Charles Nelson  
Illustrated by Wendy Walsh

Although the Christmas Tree is neither native or naturalised, that is where I found this volume - which is now a very prized addition to a collection of Tree books. Over thirty native and naturalised trees are documented with a wide range of information on each including a detailed description, their distribution, vernacular names, propagation, history, folklore, etc. For the person interested in timber there is a section under each tree describing the qualities of the wood and listing its uses. This is a well composed book which provides all the essentials as a reference, but also, the range of information is sufficiently wide to provide interest to all readers.

Apart from the individual attention given to the various species, there are a number of chapters dealing with the broader aspects of the history of trees in Ireland, the Law related to trees, propagation and conservation etc.

However, what makes this book stand apart from others is the superb watercolour and pencil sketch illustrations of the individual trees listed. Wendy Walsh is a noted botanical artist and these plates are finely executed, each providing a pencil drawing of the tree and larger watercolour details of leaves, flowers and fruit.

Also of interest are the Acknowledgements by the author which conclude with "craftsman extraordinary, Brother Ciaran Forbes, who also lit my pathway among the trees of Ireland"

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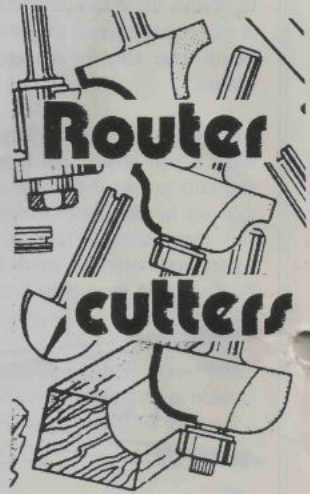
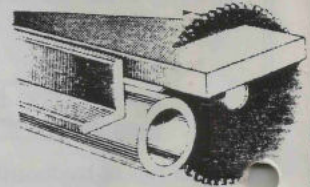
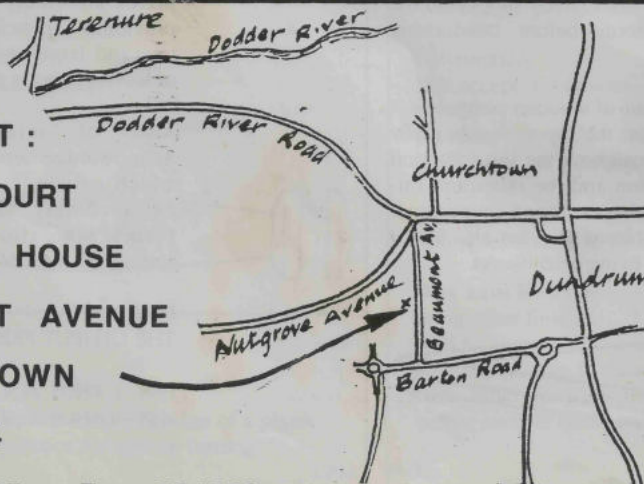
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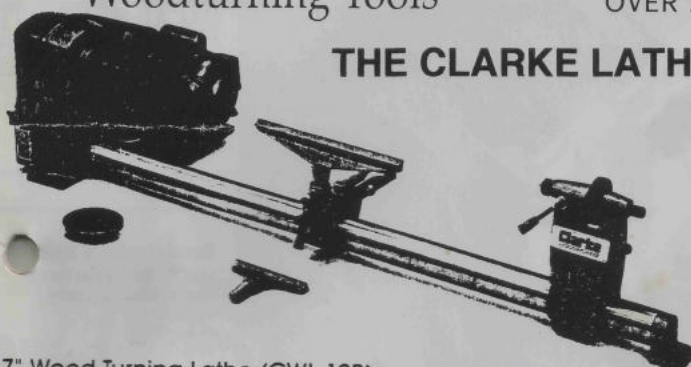
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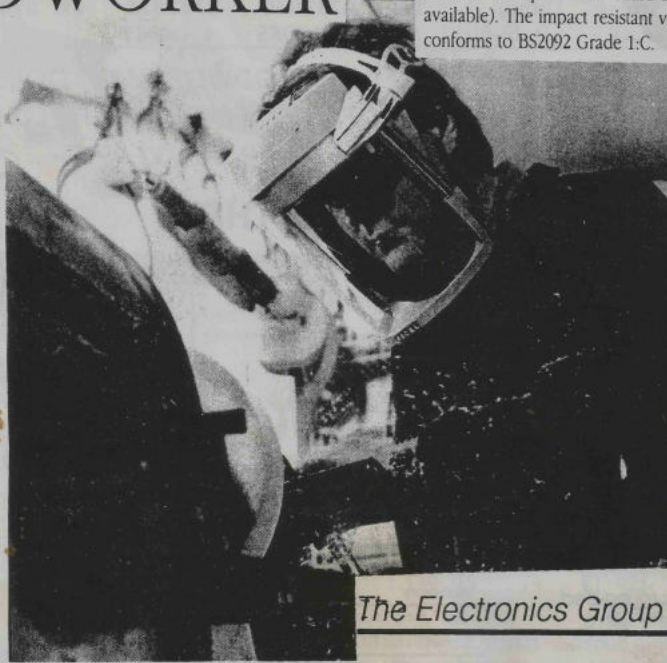
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