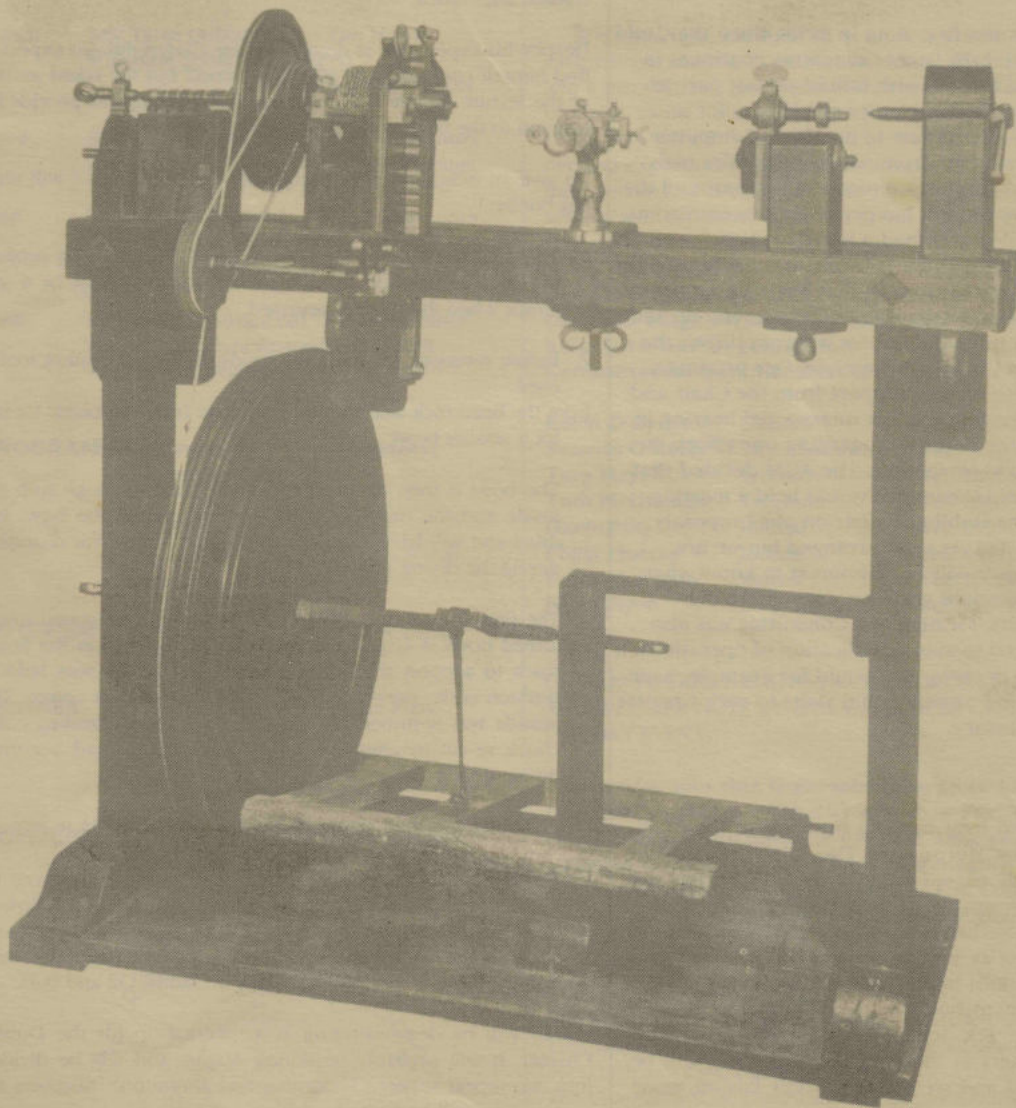


**Dublin** Chapter

Irish **Woodturners** Guild



Journal No. 6 - Summer 1994

## EDITORIAL

**W**e may be a few weeks behind with the Summer Edition but our excuse is that we have been waiting for the season to arrive! At the time of writing we are promised sunshine so we now have to think of those pieces of saved green timber shedding the moisture of the wettest winter on record and cracking up - we're never satisfied.

This is the first time in print since the Guild AGM and the Guild Committee continues in the old format, with failure on our part to have pushed our proposals harder for a devolved structure to provide a Committee with members from all Chapters. The high level of support we received from around the country did not happen to be represented at the AGM which had a less than 10% attendance and it is ironic that having sought wider representation, and having nominated one member, the Dublin Chapter end up with three on the Committee whereas Ulster, the biggest Chapter, have none. Our proposals failed to receive support from the Chair and perhaps that was not unexpected bearing in mind the Editorial regarding our efforts in the Guild Newsletter. The AGM decided that the Guild Committee would hold a meeting with the Dublin Chapter on our proposals which has yet to be arranged but we are waiting. It will be of interest to know what the objections are. Our aim to have the Chapters 'forming' the Committee was also intended to avoid duplication of operations, a saving in costs, and would for example, have made the present Guild visits to each Chapter unnecessary.

Two long standing members of the Guild, Barney Heron and Tim O'Halloran have recently passed away and we extend our sincere sympathy to their families. Both Barney and Tim had a particular interest in furniture making as well as turning and Tim also had great skills in reproduction and inlaid work. I met them both for the first time at the '83 Letterfrack Seminar and they were regular attenders at the annual event. Both will be missed and we include in this Edition, some reflections on Barney, received from one of his many friends in the north.

**GM**

## REPORT

### One-day Seminar

This event took place at the beginning of May and was organised by the Ulster Chapter at a Technical School in Antrim.

Ciaran Forbes and myself were invited up and much of the day was taken up with a demonstration of Ciaran's production bowl turning technique with green timber followed by the finishing sequence. I gave a slide talk in the morning followed by a discussion after lunch.

Despite his experience at demonstrating, Ciaran did not expect to find himself confronted by 80 eager turners but the raked seating of the lecture theatre and back up video projection provided a solution to the large number attending.

To give an indication of the sequence Ciaran follows I will set it out briefly:

1. The outside shape of the bowl is roughed out and a projecting foot is recessed to take an expanding collet or 4 jaw chuck when the piece is reversed.
2. Before reversing to shape the inside, a Stewart System tool is used from the headstock side to remove a cone from the blank for use for a smaller bowl.
3. The bowl is then reversed and re-chucked to rough turn the inside and the rim. This is the last stage until the bowl has dried and will have adequate thickness to allow for distortion during the drying process.
4. The finishing sequence then followed with a seasoned rough turned bowl. A large foam rubber pad was held in the headstock to support the inside of the bowl which was held in position under pressure by the revolving tailstock centre. The outside was re-turned and the recess for the expanding collet chuck re-cut to eliminate any distortion that had occurred during drying.
5. The bowl was then reversed and the inside and rim re-turned.
6. The finishing was completed with fine scraping, followed by sanding with hand held sheets of 80; 100; 120 grit followed by 180 and 240 grit using a power sander. A reverse of more normal practice which is to finish with the finer grits hand held. The last operation was to apply Danish Oil and buff.

Ciaran will be demonstrating at a workshop for the Dublin Chapter. It will probably be during August and will be divided into two repeat sessions - morning and afternoon. Numbers for each session will be limited.

**Enquiries to the Secretary, Tom Hayes. Ring him at 2895552.**

**2** Cover:

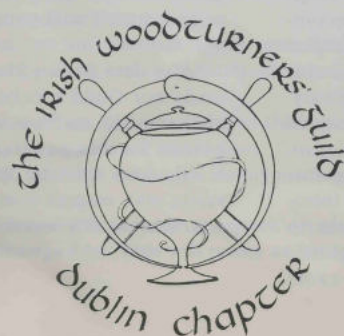
An interesting and rare "Turners Foot Lathe" of the 17th or early 18th Century

# CHAPTER COMMITTEE NEWS

## COMPETITION WINNERS:

January	2 Platters (Advanced) 1 Platter (Beginners)	Hugh Flynn Harry Kampf
February	Needlecase (Advanced) Goblet (Beginners)	Gerard Walsh Brian Tiernan
March	Side Table (Advanced) Miniature goblet (Beginners)	Tim McGill Seamus O'Reilly
April	Bird feeder (Advanced) Lidded box (Beginners)	Peter Mulvanney Paul McColough
May	Craft item (Advanced) Craft item (Experienced) Candlesticks (Beginners)	Peter Mulvanney Mick Healy Eamonn Mee
June	Pepper/Salt (Advanced) Pepper/Salt (Experienced) Apple/Pear (Beginners)	Peter Mulvanney Tim McGill Henry East

PROGRAMME	Advanced/ Experienced	Beginners
AUGUST	Freestanding Coat-stand	Sugar spoon/scoop
SEPTEMBER	3" Sphere + or - 1/4"	Egg & cup
OCTOBER	Shelf, - turned, cut and re-assembled. Example to be shown at Larch Hill	Cord Pulls
NOVEMBER	Christmas decorations	Pair of Finials



## COMPETITION SCORING :

Early in the year the committee experimented with a 'Straight vote' System, where each member voted for just one entry. This was a misguided attempt to simplify the counting of the votes. It succeeded in this but was found to be too restrictive.

We have now changed to a scoring system, where each entry is marked in points out of ten. With this system a member can give equal scores to entries felt to be of equal merit. There has also been a new category since May called "experienced". This is for people deemed experienced to leave the advanced level due to their winning of it three or more times. Hopefully this system will be more flexible..... but.....PLEASE make your opinions known to Tom Hayes.

**The Committee are glad to report that they have co-opted Hugh Flynn as an additional member to help with our organisation. The details of the Committee for new members is as follows:**

<b>Kevin O'Byrne</b>	Chairman	Tel: 2854713
<b>Seamus O'Reilly</b>	Vice Chairman	Tel: 4947905
<b>Tom Hayes</b>	Secretary	Tel: 2895552
<b>Tom McDonagh</b>	Treasurer	Tel: 2886351
<b>Garth May</b>	Journal	Tel: 2955132
<b>Philip Murray</b>	Journal	Tel: 4941269
<b>Peter Mulvaney</b>	Journal	Tel: 2802745
<b>Hugh Flynn</b>	Co-opted	Tel: 2887830

CIARAN FORBES DEMONSTRATION WORKSHOP IN AUGUST. SEE NOTE AT END OF ARTICLE ON ULSTER ONE-DAY EVENT.

Please take note that Guild subs (plus £5 to fund the Journal = total of £20.00) are due for '94/'95 Membership. If you have not yet paid, send your subscription to :The Treasurer, Tom McDonagh 3, Cherbury Gardens, Booterstown, Co. Dublin or you are unlikely to receive the autumn Edition of the Journal.

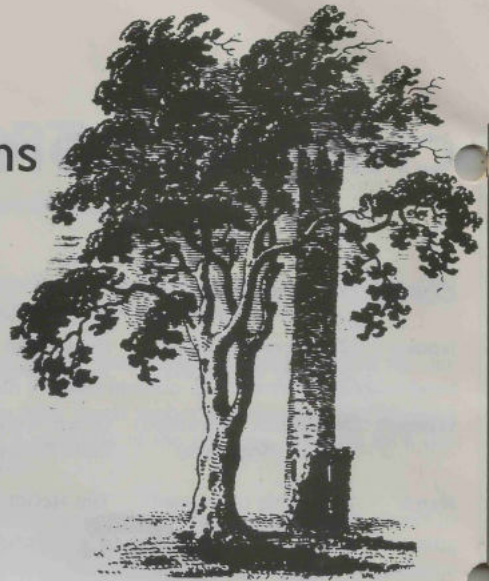
## FESTIVAL of the CLANE COUNTRYSIDE

This takes place over the week-ends of Sat/Sundays of 16th/17th and 23rd/24th July.

The Chapter will be exhibiting and demonstrating in the 'Craft Village' at this event.

For further details ring Tom Hayes

## Barney Heron Reflections



**C**haracters in the Irish Woodturners Guild past and present, temporary and permanent - abound. None to my knowledge have been as endearing or enduring as Barney. Adjectives a plenty subscribe to his character but none completely describe him; debonair, elegant, charming, are but three that spring readily to mind.

Barney Heron died peacefully in Galway on 10th May 1994. He was I believe 83 years old, - at least that is what he told me a few short weeks before his death. Sadly on that occasion, we knew that his wife Dodie was terminally ill but despite this cloud we were able to enjoy a few hours diversion watching Ireland playing France at rugby and his beloved birds in his garden in Cong. We had been delivering a Harrison Graduate short bed lathe to him. This was to be his pride and joy. Having endured that most unthinkable of all disasters, a workshop fire, which totally vaporised his precious possessions ("even lost my bloody wine") Barney had the guts to start again. Mischievously he was intent on doing better this time as he admitted to us that he had been fully insured.

Barney to me, until more recent times, was an enigma. Ever

present at Seminars, front row, keen, attentive, inquisitive, learning and relearning lessons from Forbes and O'Neill and yet seldom if ever did we see anything which he had actually made. A reflection not unfamiliar in the annals of the Irish Woodturners Guild. My recent visit to his lovely home in Cong, surprisingly therefore showed ample evidence of lessons well learnt. Bowls, platters, large and small, wine coolers etc in spalted beech, sycamore and chestnut. Many evoked little nuggets of discovery of some newly tried technique, which had worked, not for Barney the prepared exotic bowl blank. But there was more, much more, reminders of a bygone era and more fruitful times.

Apart from the fact that he lived in Cong, how many knew anything of Barney's past? I certainly didn't know for instance that he was making bellows in the 1940s, that later he made clogs and surprisingly was an accomplished furniture maker, examples of which are still to be seen to this day in the Chester Beattie Library. I dare say some may know of Barney through his association with "Barna Homes" and by that alone was responsible for introducing timber framed houses to Ireland in the 1950s. Through this connection he later became

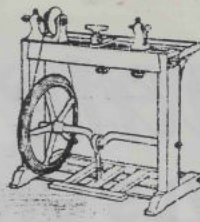
involved in the installation of wooden bowling alley floors. Through much of this time Barney operated from Kildare. His 12 acre patch in Celbridge on the periphery of the Castletown estate and his presence there would appear to have incurred the wrath of at least one member of the local dynastic family!

Much of this may appear irrelevant to younger colleagues in woodturning circles but it reflects responses to my enquiries following a lovely character's departure. As is often the case, it demonstrates only too clearly how little of "the guy next door" you really know. I well remember Barney holding forth in Peter Feldens in Letterfrack, castigating the monk - all in good humour - whilst at the same time explaining to Del Stubbs that a Galway hooker was a boat and not a lady of the night. More recently at seminars accompanied as always by John Kemp there was often lacrymal comment or anecdote "I well remember....."

Alas dear Barney has gone, he made our Guild a richer place by his presence and we will be the poorer for his passing. To your family and friends, Barney, we salute you, respect you. Above all your friends will remember you.

## Lathe Choice

### MYFORD ML8 LATHE



This English-made lathe has been in production since the 1950's and many thousands have been produced. It has recently been superseded by the Myford 'Mystro'.

The ML8 is available in three bed lengths of 30", 36", and 42" between centres, and can be bench or (except for the 42" version) cabinet mounted.

The sturdy and substantial headstock houses the spindle running in ball bearing with lubrication points accessible from the top. The spindle nose threads are 1" inboard and 1 1/8" outboard (L.H. thread) and the spindle is bored right through. The nose has a No. 1 morse taper. Six inch face plates, inboard and outboard, are standard. A 24 position indexing and locking mechanism is built in.

The lathe bed is a substantial single tube, slotted to allow the tool rest locking levers to project toward the operator. Both 10" and 6" tool rests are available.

Tailstock is bored through and has No. 1 morse taper. The adjusting handwheel is adequate and locks easily.

The original lathes were fitted with 1/2 H.P. motors, but more recent machines were upgraded to 3/4 H.P. No Volt Release started is standard. Spindle speeds are 2850, 1780, 1140, and 700 R.P.M.

The ML8 will swing 8" inboard and 12" outboard.

Parts and spares are readily available from the manufacturers, Myford Ltd, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1ER, England. Phone (0602) 254222.

The older machines were offered with circular saw and planer attachments which were quite effective, but these fittings are no longer available.

#### PLUS POINTS:

- + Sturdy, reliable lathe.
- + Compact.
- + Accurate registers on spindle noses.
- + The tailstock and tool rest clamps, though fiddly to set up are quick to adjust and lock firmly.

#### MINUS POINTS:

- The slotted tube bed clogs with shavings and is difficult to clear quickly.
- The outboard tool rest support bracket clamps to the bed tube which protrudes through the left hand end of the headstock. This fitting lacks rigidity and is difficult to lock firmly. Outboard turning is less than satisfactory.
- The tool rest and tailstock slides were designed to be removed and replaced by an operator of outstanding patience.

Current value of an ML8 would be in the region of £400 to £500, possibly with a saw and planer attachment. Incidentally, the 1954 catalogue for my machine list it at £54.

**The next issue will include a report on the lathe which Tom has recently changed to. This will make an interesting comparison.**

## RACAL HEALTH & SAFETY LTD.

**A** very useful and informative talk was given to the Saturday meeting at Larch Hill on 2nd July by Tony Keegan, the RACAL man in Ireland. There was a full discussion and presentation of the various products and the old adage that 'prevention is better than cure' is very pertinent with regard to the risks of wood dust inhalation. Tom Hayes has also been in contact with RACAL on the matter of filters and the reply is printed below for members information.

Dear Mr. Hayes,

Thank you for your letter of May 2nd, 1994 concerning the Airlite Powered Respirator. You are correct that Racal Health and Safety do not recommend that the Airlite filter should be cleaned by vacuuming. Our only recommendation for filter cleaning is a gentle tapping motion to remove the excess particles.

The Airlite filter is an electrostatic filter, that uses electrical charge to filter dust from the air on to the fibres that make up the filter. Vacuum cleaning the filter can damage the structure of the filter layer which would then allow dust to penetrate through the filter to the wearer to breathe.

The electrostatic action is gradually reduced over time and the filter clogs with dust. The compromise of dust holding capacity versus filter performance is met when the airflow indicator indicates that the filter requires changing. This can only function if the filter is not damaged and is allowed to clog naturally.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Paul Rabin

Technical Manager

The Electronics Group RACAL

# *the female branch*

## PART 3 - BOWLS UNDER THE BED

**B**eing the wife of the committed woodturner has its compensations. If you can overlook the initial set-up period (one to two years) you will be rewarded eventually by the sight of items begin to trickle from workshop to living quarters. You pounce on them hoping for a fascinating heirloom or, at the very least, a workaday bowl. You soon learn that it is not that easy; many stages have to be completed before you can get your hands on anything. You come up against the wet-turned, rough-turned, experimental or pre-finished and occasionally an item fully finished. However, touching it is taboo, it is already designated either for a craft show, for re-designing, or for an order. You hold back from asking when those few things you ordered a couple of years ago might see the light of day. I mean how could you possibly complain when you are frequently treated to all those lovely mis-shapen objects that turned out just too good for absolute rejection.

Another compensation is the excitement you experience in never knowing from one day to the next which wooden items in the house are yours for personal use and which are 'being stabilised at normal room temperature'. In five years I have had seven different pestles and four mortars, eight kitchen clocks, a dozen salad bowls, and at least six lamps. On one memorable occasion I watched a pepper mill on its way to the workshop for 'a few improvements' and was moved to enquire if he realised that it was

not one of his but had been a gift from a friend. It made no difference; it was cannibalised. The one brought back bore no resemblance to the original but I was assured that he had only changed the mechanism to a better one. I was mystified as to how he was able to compare them when to my knowledge he had never used the old one.

However, the compensations don't end there, for with a little application, the intrepid woodturner's wife can keep her learning curve continually on the up and up. For example, in no time at all she can spot oak or ash just by examining the shavings on her carpet. If she has a really keen eye she might soon graduate to something more difficult like observing the difference between, say, zebrana and beli or padauk/African and padauk/Andaman. And often a quick glance at the colour of the ring round the old shirt collar will confirm whether he is into the exotic or native that day. Or, better still, ask him to remove his goggles and inspect his eyebrows.

And how could you possibly complain when you are constantly supplied with firewood. Other households have to buy neat little logs that fit snugly into the grate but it is not so in the house of the woodturner. Steaming piles of drying wood litter the hearth and not a recognisable log among half moons and quarter moons, rotten blocks shedding wet bark and bowls of all sizes, cracked, split, shattered and eaten with

fungus. You explain to your friends that by the end of the evening most of it will be dried out and then we can all enjoy a real wood fire. Later, while the woodturner is not watching, you slip a nice dry-looking piece on to the red coal embers and are delighted to watch the room fill with smoke and the fire go out. Now you know that green elm does not burn. Next time your friends refuse your invitation and suggest a rendezvous at their house. There you have the pleasure of watching your spouse take apart their beautifully stacked log basket in the hope of scrounging something to turn.

You have to get your own back and that requires patience. Not a murmur of complaint must pass your lips as he litters the house with magazines, shavings, the half-finished and the rejects. Let him talk woodturning at you and on the phone for hours. Give him free range of your hearth, microwave, kitchen utensils and materials. Watch in silence as the dinner he'd been called for six times dies the death on his plate. Ignore (within reason) the parcels of goodies that the postman brings and knows to deliver straight to the workshop. Only, when you have exercised all this restraint, can you put your foot down and demand that the best of the woodturnings are not for sale. If he insists, don't despair. You can always hide the best bowls under the bed.

Ruth McNally

# *the female branch*

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Ruth McNally

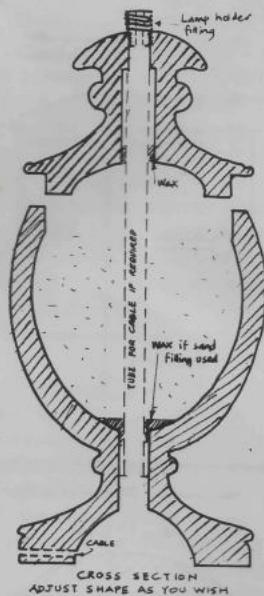
# HOLLOWED-OUT TABLE LAMP

Tom McDonagh

**D**etails of a table lamp turned from a solid piece with part of the centre hollowed out, were shown in Journal No. 3 - Autumn 93. I do not own a bit large enough to hollow out sufficiently and large urn-shaped lamps (6" to 8" diameter) turned from elm and yew developed bad cracks. The yew gave most trouble as I left much of the sap wood for contrast.

Some recent yew lamps, hollowed out as shown below fared better.

1. Cut timber to length with about 2" extra
2. Turn to cylinder and square off both ends
3. Part off top from bottom at a point at top of urn shape
4. Mount bottom on face plate and hollow out leaving 3/4" - 1" wall. A cardboard shape can be used to ensure correct diameter and depth of hollow.
5. True up face of wall and ensure first 1" of the hollow is at right angles to the face
6. Rough out shape of urn and foot. Remove from faceplate and drill 5/16 or 3/8 hole in bottom to take pointed centre of 4" prong counterbore/driving centre
7. Mount top on faceplate and cut 3/4" spigot to fit hollow at 5
8. Hollow out so that 3/4"/1" walls will remain



9. Drill 1" hole through neck to 1" from top
10. Glue top and bottom together making sure that grain pattern is aligned. Leave under pressure between tentres to allow glue to set
11. Mount on 4 prong drive/counterbore and turn to final shape, sand and polish having removed sufficient to eliminate the faceplate screw holes
12. Counterbore and hollow bottom to remove as much stress as possible. Clean and polish bottom
13. Drill for cable and drill the counterbore hole to meet the hollowed out centre

14. Drill for lamp holder nipple. Wire up and restrain cable. Fit plug with 3 amp fuse

The removal of the centre reduces the weight of the finished lamp considerably. If you consider it desirable to increase the weight again for stability, the centre can be filled with sand. One method is detailed below.

- (a) Cut length of suitable tubing to reach from hollowed out bottom at 12 to top of 1" hole at 9
- (b) Centre tubing at neck using a loose-fitting dowel through nipple hole at 9
- (c) Hold tubing in centre of hollow and pour in a small amount of hot wax or candle grease around the tubing and allow to set
- (d) Fill hollow with sand to about 1" from bottom of hollow in urn shape and pour in hot wax or candle grease to retain sand and allow to set
- (e) Use the tube to wire the lamp in the ordinary way.

Editor's note: The hollowing of the lamp featured in Journal No.3 was done with a gouge and scraper - fairly roughly and the reason originally was to solve the problem of not having a long hole boring tool. The hollowed area allowed the use of a conventional wood bit to drill through for the cable. The bonus of preventing cracks was appreciated later.

## SHAVINGS

### B\*\*\*\*\*Y SHAVINGS

**H**ow many of you have said that? If you're like me often, especially if like me, you work at one end of the domestic garage leaving room for the car to be housed at night (it's more likely to be there in the morning than if left outside), thus wood, bench with lathe - plus three concrete blocks to help dampen the effect of 800rpm and 15 inch unbalanced chunk of trunk, band saw, tool racks and sundry hand and power tools all provide great hiding places for shavings

A brush and shovel takes care of the floor but what about the blizard of shavings elsewhere. Ah! we say, an old domestic vacuum cleaner, cylinder type. Yes, wife's cast off, jumble sale, car boot sale, or in my case, Peter's cast off. Does this work? yes, but with everything in sight covered with shavings the bag in the cylinder fills rapidly, so five or six emptyings and if you're not watching the hose and nozzle get filled up as well and the shavings therein are thereout when hose is released to enable bag to be emptied.

The answer? oh yes a dust extractor - look at ads, the cheapest £185 plus carriage - painful. Solution, obtain a heavy gauge plastic drum with snap on lid (4/5 gals), either cut existing spirally convoluted hose in two or get spare length, cut accurately two holes in lid the root diameter of the hose convolutions and screw in the two hose ends. Snap lid onto the drum, connect one hose to cylinder cleaner and fit nozzle on other, switch on and off we go. Initial success but what's this! sides of drum collapsing inwards - switch off.

A check shows that longer shavings have jammed in nozzle (plastic shaped like a piece of tube with the business end flattened). Think, ah a nice long taper cut on business end of nozzle should give shavings a chance to align themselves and two rings cut from 3mm ply and pressed in to act as ribs for the drum sides should counter inward collapse, job done, try again, switch on.

Success - yes, shavings move readily through nozzle the drum fills (level of contents seen through plastic) and in filling the drum only a handful of shavings - mainly dust - have passed into the bag. Happy, yes, but what do I now do with the £185 (plus carriage) I didn't spend?

John Wetherall

## TIPS AND IDEAS

When turning goblets support the cup end, whilst turning the stem, with a practice golf ball, they are of strong plastic, the size of a normal golf ball and the surface is littered with holes into which a live centre will locate.

J.W.

Make up a centre finder by mounting a piece of perspex in the lathe, turn into a disc, score a series of circles about the centre, drill marking holes at centre and at points that match the holes in your face plate.

J.W.

## FOLDING A BANDSAW BLADE

Store bandsaw blades by folding them in 3 coils and hanging them on pegs on the wall. Until you have developed the knack of folding a blade, wear gloves to protect your hands and wrists.

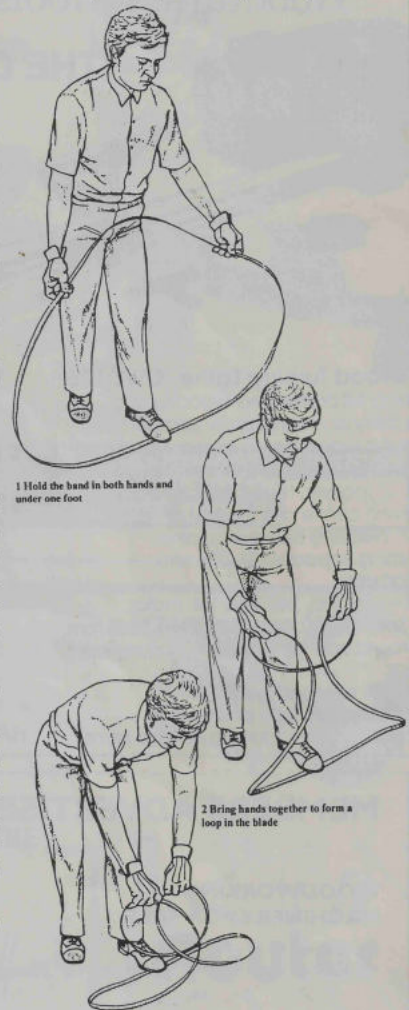
With the teeth facing away from you hold one side of the loop under one foot (1).

Bring your hands together allowing the top of the loop to

bend towards the floor (2).

Cross the blade over itself to form 3 coils (3).- then let it fall lightly to the floor.

To unfold a coiled band, hold it securely while you separate the coils slowly and allow the blade to spring open away from you.



(A non-Turning tip.)

Don't waste the waste!

Last year I made the best compost ever with a mixture of woodshavings (well soaked) and grass cuttings with an occasional layer of soil, covered with an old piece of carpet and plastic to keep the heat in and the rain out. It now looks like peat.

Ed.

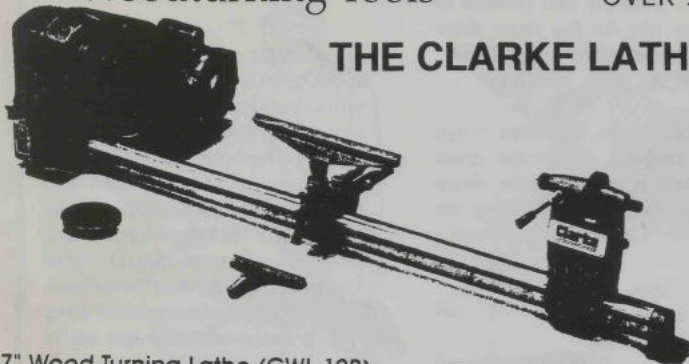
# DOWNTOWN TOOL & D.I.Y.

137 Capel Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 8732930 / 8732875 Fax: 8732875  
 Long Mile Road, Dublin 12. Tel: 4507085 / 4502283

Woodcarving Tools  
 Woodturning Tools

FINE WOODWORKING TOOLS  
 MANUFACTURED IN SHEFFIELD FOR  
 OVER 200 YEARS

*by* — Robert Sorby



## THE CLARKE LATHE

### 37" Wood Turning Lathe (CWL 12B)

Offering full professional wood turning capability at an amazingly competitive price this superb new 5 speed, round-bed wood lathe is supplied complete with 6" and 12" tool rest, face plate, drive centre, revolving centre and 3 piece chisel set.

- 37" (940mm) between centres.
- Turning capacity 12" (305mm) diameter.
- Powerful 1/2hp, 240 Volt/1ph motor.
- 5 Speeds: 480, 843, 1325, 2150, 3065 rpm.
- Ground cast tube bed with locking key way.
- No volt overload switch.
- Headstock spindle protrudes at outboard side for turning of large items.

### Optional Accessories for 37" Wood Turning Lathe (CWL 12B)

Accessory	Part No.
Cup Turning Chuck	6500641
Screw Chuck	6500642
4" Cap. 1 MT Tailstock chuck	6500643
9" Diameter Sanding Attachment drive Table	6500644
4 Jaw independent Lathe chuck	6500645
Bowl Turning Rest	6500646
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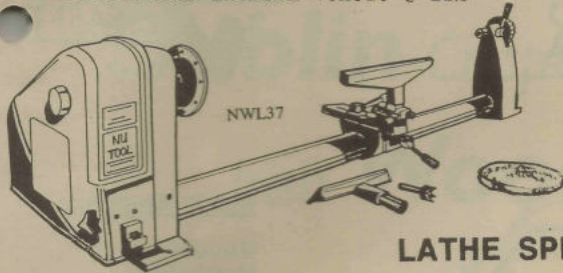
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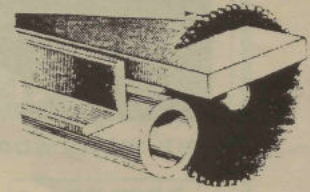
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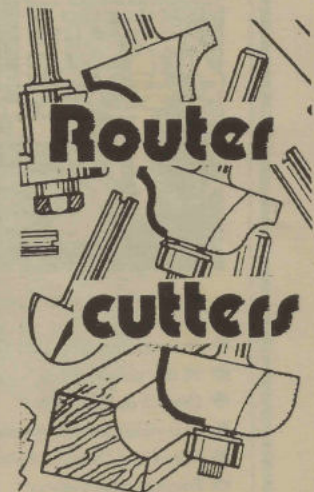
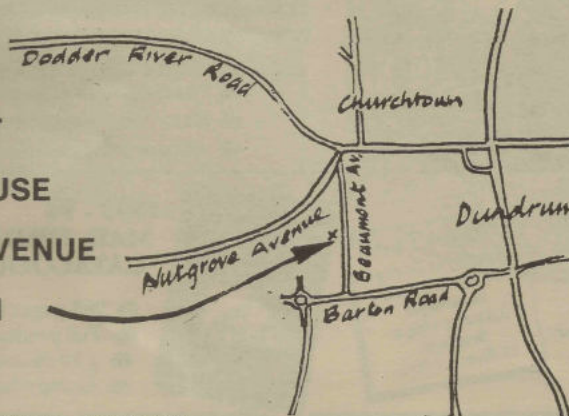
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