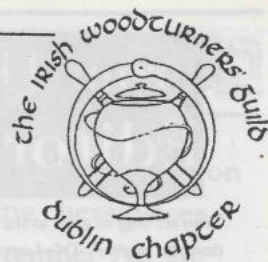


Dublin Chapter, Irish Woodturners Guild



Newsletter Volume 3, Number 6 Nov, Dec 1996

Page 1

Competition

December
Candle Holder

January
No competition due
to AGM.

February
Bowl
Demonstration

December
Robert Sorby Woodturning
Products

February
Joe O'Neill

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Most of you who read this will do so at our last meeting of the year in Terenure. Certainly '96 has been a busy year. Our numbers have increased dramatically and our involvement with 'The Outside World' has been most gratifying. I refer of course to our two major exhibitions, South Dublin County Council and the Square

complex. Also there were the 'Family Days' organised by the county Council. Just to remind you, the 'Family Days' were 'fun days' in the various public parks, at all of which, our members demonstrated the art of woodturning.

The "Piece de Resistance" ? well, pride of place must go to

(See "Chairmans Address": continued on page 2)



15th Annual Seminar, Monaghan

Irish Wood Turners Guild

15th Annual Seminar

October 18-20th 1996

Beech Hill College, Monaghan

15th November 1996

According to many old hands this was probably the best attended and the most successful seminar in years. About 150 visitors came, most for the whole weekend and the affair was well

supported by various commercial interests from all over Ireland and the UK.

Demonstrators included well known names such as Stuart Mortimer, Keith Rowley, and Tony Boase from across the water. A new face on the scene was Hayley Smith, also from the UK, who was making her debut at demonstrating and if the performance she gave over this weekend is any indicator of her abilities she should be

(See "National Seminar": continued on page 5)

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From The Editor

"You are only as good as the information you receive" This I am sorry to say is the current situation with the Newsletter. As any Editor will tell you, they spend most of their time trying to get the information in? it does not flow in of its own accord. As most of you know for the past year and a half I have been trying to produce a Newsletter worthy of our chapter here in Dublin, and might I say that it hasn't been that easy. People make promises and we, including myself, the Irish as a nation more often than not fall short of our promises.

The last issue of the Newsletter was late going to press and due to EU commitments and a photocopier that broke down. It was not ready for the Saturday meeting in Terenure College. The second article announcing the Exhibition and Sale in Tallaght was too late for most of you, but this reminder should have been in the previous issue, not in the week that the exhibition was to commence.

There are the people who contact our chairman on the Friday night before our meeting with details of a bargain priced DML 24 Lathe's for sale. Ok so the sixty or so people at the meeting in Terenure College got the basic details, whereas a phone call to me one week earlier would have reached almost one hundred and sixty of our Dublin membership with all the relevant details.

These are only two of the many examples of the things that don't go quite right. Yes there are many things that do work out but lets make things better for all of us.

This is not meant as a condemnation of anyone in particular but a reminder that these facilities exist in our chapter for all to use whether you wish to buy, sell or share information.

To outline, the Newsletter is

(See "From the Editor": continued on page 6)

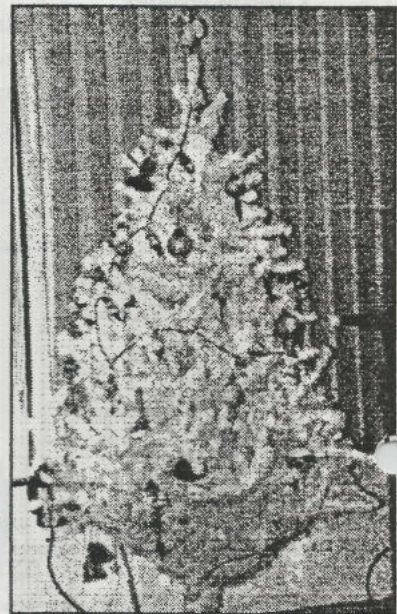
("Chairmans Address": continued from page 1)

our visit to 'The Rehabilitation Hospital Dun Laoighaire. This began several months ago when the Committee suggested that a suitably decorated Christmas Tree be presented to Aras an Uachtaran. This offer was immediately accepted but suggested that the President would present the tree to a hospital or some such. Well the rest is history. Under the guise of a competition you the members provided a really delightful set of decorations which enhanced the tree which Her Excellency Mary Robinson presented to the Rehabilitation Centre Dun Laoighaire.

Who can forget Guadalupe? Well, Guadalupe is a fellow woodturner, introduced to us by His Excellency Daniel Dultzin, Ambassador of Mexico. His Excellency insists on being called Daniel. So Daniel it is. Daniel was present at a craft and trade fair in London, jointly sponsored by the Mexican and British Governments. Showing his skills as a woodturner was a young, seventy year old, Mexican, none other than Guadalupe! His lathe! was a 3' length of 9"x2" with a block of wood at either end, a projecting piece of pointed steel in each block held the blank in place. Power was generated by the string of a bow wrapped around the piece, his entire 'tool kit' was an old flat file ground like a skew and the

piece on display today was made in forty five minutes!! Assuming that I could make it, using all the resources of my workshop I'd be very proud. You'll understand what I'm trying to say when you see the photographs.

Now back to the mundane. Our January meeting will also be our A.G.M. Mick Healy and I will be bowing out of office and we both wish our successors as fruitful and happy a



team in office as we had. On my own behalf may I thank you all for the support and loyalty I've received from you all. I've had a marvelous two years and got to know many, many very nice people.

Good bless you all
Seamus



The phone rang on Saturday morning just as I was in the middle of the 'urgent' decoration of one of the bedrooms at home. Am I unique or do all households suffer from the 'must-have-it-done-by-Christmas' bug? A room that was perfectly

good for the last few years suddenly falls apart and according to my wife just "has to be done" without delay. Anyway I digress.

The call was from the Editor. "Have you anything for the Green Corner?" he asked. "Well no, but I'll do something over the weekend." That got him off my back but what in God's name would I write about. As I sloshed about with the emulsion, paste and paper I began to muse about being under pressure all the time. Sound familiar? If its not my work, its study (trying to complete an MSc thesis before too many brain cells die off!!), or the kids or the house or any of a hundred and one other demands on my time.

In all of this there just doesn't seem to be any time available for turning. As I pondered these mysteries of life it occurred to me that many members of the Guild are retired and perhaps have managed to shed some of the pressures that kept them from their true calling in the past. Did they have to wait until retirement to take up turning or did it just mean that they had extra time to devote to the craft? Must one wait before being able to indulge, away from the pressures of the rat-race? This is getting a bit philosophical for the Green Corner but c'est la

vie! As the poet said: "What of this life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare..." (or turn as the case may be!)

I would be very interested to find out how and when my fellow turners came to the craft. Have you the same difficulties as I have? Would you have taken up turning earlier if you had the chance? Is it something best left until you have the time to enjoy it, rather than becoming just another demand on your time?

Anyway enough of this.

Now all you turners will be aware that Christmas is coming and with it the opportunity to drop hints to loved ones about presses that would, as they say, 'not offend'. Well if my wife happens to read the Green Corner she might just note a new book that has been published. 'Meetings with Remarkable Trees' is as the reviews describe, a book of translucent beauty that introduces us to the authors selection of 60 venerable trees. The author, Thomas Pakenham, travelled the length of Britain and Ireland and selected his favourites from thousands of candidates. He selected on the basis of them being remarkable in some way: age, size, form or historical interest.

Pakenham chides us for our complacency over the legacy of trees that we have. Already I can hear Joe O'Neill cheering. This book gives us fresh reasons why our legacy of trees should be cherished. So Irene, if you happen to read this you can get it for me as they say from all good bookshops for £25.

Finally, Happy Christmas to all in the Guild. I hope Santa manages to bring you just the bit of turning gear you want and not another bloody jumper!

Philip

Demo by Eric Walsh on making chess pieces-- September 7th 96.

Eric explained his interest in making chess sets commenting that these were not run of the



mill items, a wide variety of shapes was possible and indeed anyone interested in

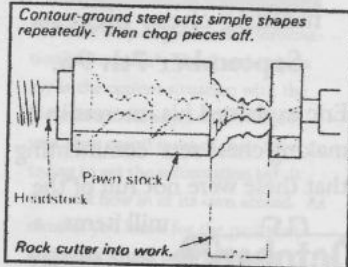
trying their hand would find plenty of inspiration from the designs available in books. He recommended making a template first by sticking a paper sketch to metal and cutting away to produce the desired profile.

Eric used aluminium for todays demo on turning a pawn but recommended something harder like steel for repeated work.

With a piece of teak mounted on a screw chuck and leaving the other end free he pencilled in his cutting positions and with vernier and parting tool roughed down to first thickness. By pushing the template hard against the wood he was able to gauge the positions at which to begin shaping and as well checked constantly to ensure compliance with the planned shape. The top of the

(See "Demos": continued on page 5)

pawn was turned first and again checked for size with



the vernier referring to template and the picture original from time to time. This routine was followed with the remaining profiles, checking as before for size and shape before moving on to sanding and finishing as normal. Eric advised turning one piece at a time rather than trying to mount a longish blank between centres and running into difficulties with maintaining centres. His favoured finish for these items is friction polish but others say melamine is better where a lot of handling is expected.

We wish to thank Eric for a demo well executed and much enjoyed by all present...

Chris Hayes

Demo by Mick Healy Christmas tree Decorations

Mick reminded us that decorations made from wood were a useful way of

using up odd pieces of timber which are usually left over from expensive or attractive woods that might otherwise be thrown out. He had shown us on another occasion how to approach the making of the "globe" type with icicles attached (also featured in the Sept/Oct news-letter) and for this demo he wished to show his method for producing the "bird box" style.

His starting point was to take a 6in long block about 2in square, mounted in a chuck for convenience, and after roughing down to a cylinder shaped the top finial first using just a small sized skew and gouge. After sanding and polishing he parted off and repeated the process for the bottom piece. He recommends a high gloss finish for this type of decoration and finds melamine or acrylic lacquer excellent for the purpose. Even better still is the Rustins Plastic finish though a mite expensive for some tastes.

For contrast he choose a

piece of walnut for the centre part - about 6in by 2in square. This was hollowed out with the small gouge as far as possible and finishing with the skew - tip, the shorter the blade of the skew the easier it is to control, and Mick favours breaking off a few inches (or millimetres if



you prefer) from the blade. Ideally it works best at 3 to 4 in long.

After sanding and polishing the final bit, all 3 pieces were glued together and a small hook or part of an earring attached to the top.

Embellishments can be added just like anyone other project and the only inhibiting factor is your imagination. So get cracking and do some!

Return visit of the Dublin Chapter to the North Federation of Woodturning Groups.

As a consequence of extending our best efforts to make our British friends welcome last March when a group of 12 spent a weekend here, a party of 10 from Dublin including Hugh Flynn's wife, Kay, were the guests of members of the North Federation over the last weekend in September. Because this federation covers a very large area compared to Dublin we were dispersed over three counties and this required considerable travelling and driving for most of our hosts.

We all finally became reunited on Saturday morning at the Dialstone community centre, Stockport for a day long session of demonstrations, and an exhibition of tools and machinery of all kinds for woodworking, and all the other things associated with turning and carving. We were not too surprised when one of our number succumbed to irresistible temptation and bought a DML 24 lathe for 100 pounds! Brand new of course. However he was a worried man until he got it safely through the check in and no questions asked.

The main attractions were the demonstrations of course with many well known professionals showing us the way or at least, their ways. Somebody like Jules Tattersall who could

come in and perform on a brand new German lathe which he had never seen before and still turn out beautifully made hollow pots was constantly surrounded and admired for his technique.

We saw demonstration of carvings and some of the most intricate work imaginable on display. My own favourite has to be the pole lathe used by a full time forester called Don Witing. Absolutely no electrics, steam or anything but human muscle involved. Don splits his logs with wedges and roughly shapes these with a wooden 'horse' and a drawknife.

When asked how he managed after dark he quoted the old saying, "when the badgers come out the bodgers go in". There's no answer to that.

At the end of the day we were treated to an excellent buffet meal at a local pub and enjoyed another convivial exchange of ideas (and jokes) This was the occasion for a formal welcome from both sides and a presentation to our secretary, Hugh Flynn.

Sunday was true to form for Manchester - it was raining! That didn't bother us, we spent most of the afternoon in Pete Murphy's Workshop. Pete makes his living from turning and is trying to build up a mail order business as well supplying all those handy bits we usually get from Craft Supplies, via Abbey Woods. We had a very enjoyable bull session here meeting more turners and trying out different machines for the fun of it. Thanks to Pete for making us feel so welcome.

Overall I believe the visit was useful to both sides in that it promotes friendship and understanding and establishes links for the future. It can only be good for

wood turning when people of shared interests get together and pool ideas and techniques. There is every reason to suppose that this exchange will become as popular and as common as the annual seminars...

Chris Hayes

("National Seminar": continued from page 1)

very successful in her chosen field of turned and embellished work, including silver wire inlays, scorched and textured surfaces. A fascinating new dimension to wood turning.

We had many well known home-grown demonstrators too, some familiar faces and some not so well known, but all showing us a very high level of skill and talent in the many pieces carved or turned over the two days. Among this group were Glen Lucas, Willie Stedmond, Emmet Kane, Mike Regan, Mark Harvey and Ricky Richardson who all managed to draw admiring comments from the attendance whenever they appeared.

Local woodworkers also contributed to the weekend events and we acknowledge the efforts of people like Seamus Kerr, Felix McCoy and Bill Barnard and not forgetting Tom Dunlop, one of the organisers, who managed to find time to show us his tried and tested methods of sharpening chisels and gouges. His skill at this (without any jigs) attracted a very appreciative audience and included at least one of the above professional demonstrators at one session I attended!

Much as I could write reams about the wonderful things we saw over this weekend you will understand that it is not practical to do so in this short summary. Just to mention in passing that among the demonstrators it was Stuart Mortimer who drew the largest and most avid crowds and to see him

(See "National Seminar": continued on page 6)

Terenure College

Page 6

(*National Seminar*: continued from page 5)

start from a block and produce a beautifully made barley twist lamp in next to no time is to understand why. I am sure that many others like myself will have gained a deeper insight into the attractions of turning thanks to the efforts of so many dedicated experts.

A first class dinner in the local hotel helped to round off a very enjoyable Saturday which was followed by the awards for the winners in the competition for best turned pieces. The professional demonstrators were the judges for this so nobody could claim that it was anything but fair. Although the Dublin Chapter was well represented in the competition we were not up there with the winners this time.

I am sure that all who attended this very successful seminar will agree with me that the organisers are to be congratulated for their efforts and it would be remiss of me if I were to finish without thanking the staff of Beech Hill College too for their considerable contribution to our comfort and welfare.

Chris Hayes

(*From the Editor*: continued from page 2)

published six times yearly in February, April, June, August, October and December. The provisional deadline is a week before the Saturday meeting in Terenure College of the above months. Phone early if you have something to share with the membership.

Looking to the future, I am pleased to announce that the chapter will have its own Net page on the World Wide Web. There will be a shortened version of the Newsletter for all of our fellow turners around the world to enjoy. We could not afford to post the complimentary copies of the Newsletter to all of our fellow turners. We should be able to get information from their pages also.

Last month Ed Farrell and myself agreed to get everyone who borrows a new book or video from our Library to write a short review on the item giving basic details of who it is aimed at, for example beginner, experienced or advanced. Value for money and entertainment value. As a bonus to the reviewer the rental fee has been dropped for anyone willing to write a review. Ed will have copies of all the reviews for those who wish to look up the suitability of a book or video they may be interested in. I will also in the next couple of months be publishing some of the more interesting reviews in future issues of the Newsletter.

As the Christmas season is upon us all that is left for me to do is wish each and every one of you a happy and peaceful Christmas season...

Competition League Table To November 97

Advanced Winners

1	H. Kampff	2157	7
2	P. Doyle	1736	6
3	T. McGill	1569	5
4	J. Wetherall	1446	5
5	P. Sheridan	1436	5
6	P. Mulvanev	1435	5
7	H. East	1146	4
8	M. Healy	1083	3
9	O. Furniss	1078	4
10	H. Flynn	903	3
11	W. Caffrey	705	2
12	T. Newman	565	2
13	J. O'Neill	382	1
14	S. O'Reilly	247	1

Experienced Winners

1	D. McMahon	2007	7
2	T. Lally	1616	6
3	E. O'Reilly	1516	5
4	A. Sloane	1453	5
5	M. Forde	1248	4
6	T. Hayes	985	3
7	A. Finlay	905	3
8	P. O'Gorman	582	2
9	W. Reynolds	462	2
10	B. Kilpatrick	347	1
11	F. McCann	333	1
12	G. Cronin	302	1
13	A. Graham	274	1
14	G. Forrester	260	1
15	K. Kellett	165	1

Beginners Winners

1	A. Lalor	1299	5
2	M. Kenny	1199	4
3	B. Dunne	861	3
4	C. Hayes	807	3
5	M. Hunter	754	3
6	J. Binnie	659	3
7	T. Forde	619	2
8	M. McGrane	614	2
9	M. Ryan	606	2
10	S. McPartland	566	2
11	J. Gordon	563	2
12	N. Castle	542	2
13	V. Lowe	456	2
14	P. McArdle	414	2
15	B. Byrne	356	1
16	E. Walshe	348	1
17	L. McMahon	290	1
18	M. Murphy	286	1
19	D. Begg	264	1
20	R. Hurley	262	1
21	H. O'Riordan	262	1
22	M. Lally	222	1
23	D. Acres	216	1
24	N. Cassidy	199	1

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Chapter News

North Strand V.E.C.

The next meeting takes place on the last Thursday in January at 7.30 - 9.30pm, also February at the same times. Contact Mick Healy about December Meeting. Details to be announced of demos. Plus each month, bring and show and tell.

All are welcome to attend and enjoy the discussion...

Dublin Chapter Christmas Dinner.

All welcome to attend
on Friday 13th
December,

in

Buscars Temple Bar,
Fleet Street.
Starting 8.30 pm till
Late

We want to know
who you are
Remember
Wear your
badge

Acknowledgements

From the Chairman By
Seamus O'Reilly. Philip Byrne,
The Green Corner. Demos,
Chris Hayes. Fine Woodwork-
ing for Diagram Page 4.
Phillip Murray Editor...

**This Space is
reserved for your
small ads**

contact the Editor for details

For Sale Chain saw Oil

The chapter now has stocks of oil for chain saws available at 75p. per litre (minimum 4 Litres) Contact Committee or Frank McCann at Phone 458 2303.

H.S.S. bars / cutters

Harry Kampff is available to advise members on availability and use of tool steel and HSS cutters...



Notice to Woodturning Teachers & Students.

The following is a list of Turners who give classes (at home or in schools). Would

those who wish to have their names included on this list please forward their details in writing, to myself or any of the committee, Ed...

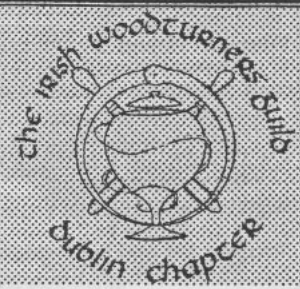
Gerard Byrne St Killians School
Phone 2866874

Joe O'Neill 27 Ballinteer
Drive, Phone 4541822/298441

Tom Newman St Tiernans
Comunity School, Phone
2987141

Willie Caffrey North strand,
Phone 8481725

Petrer Mulvaney, Dunlaoghaire,
Phone 2802745.



The Dublin Chapter is a local area Chapter of the Irish Woodturners Guild. Our purpose is to provide a meeting place for local turners to share ideas and techniques and to educate the general public regarding the art of woodturning.

The Chapter meets on the first Saturday of the month in Terenure College at 10.00 a.m.

Those that are interested are asked to come along and meet like minds.

The following are the current Committee and new members are asked to phone their nearest Committee member with regard to queries or any advice.

1996/7 Committee

Chairman Seamus O'Reilly
20 Ballyroan Road, Templeogue,
4947095

Vice Chairman Mick Healy 8
Belchure Park, Poppintree, 8427924

Hon Sec Hugh Flynn .20 Lakelands
Close, Stilorgan, 2887830

Hon Treasurer Harold Kampff 2
Drumartin Close, Goatstown, 2982425

Editor Phillip Murray 17
Idrone Close, Knocklyon, 4941269

Assistant Editor Chris Hayes, 85
Willowpark Grove, Glasnevin, Dub, 11.
8422525.

Competitions Willie Caffrey 9
Maryfield Crescent, Artane, 8481725

Librarian Ed. Farrell 29 Deanstown
Green, Finglas, Dub, 11. 8346818

In order to help the newer members of the Guild, the Committee are making their details available to all. Please phone the nearest Committee member to you and they will help answer your query or put you in contact with others in your area.

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