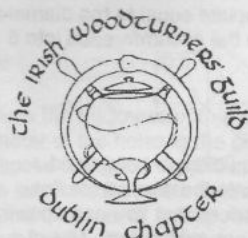


# Dublin Chapter

## Irish Woodturners Guild

Newsletter Vol. 5, No. 2  
June/July 1998



Hello and welcome to our second issue this summer, if summer is what we should call it! We have been getting so much rain recently that nobody will have an excuse for not producing a piece for the competition entry in July, unless of course you were on your holliers in sunny Spain or wherever. Seriously though, the number of entries in recent months has dropped, particularly in the experienced section, which is sad and bad. Sad because it may indicate that many out there are dissatisfied with the item chosen for you to make, and bad because many of us believe that standards are driven upwards by virtue of competition, in woodturning as in most other things. Your committee tries very hard to find something which is both practical and challenging and even innovative on occasions, e.g. the tie rack obviously was too way out for some. So, go on, have a go each month and give it your best shot. You may surprise yourself as well as the Chapter members. In addition to the regular features we have included in this issue a brief report on the Balrath Ecosystem project, a book review and a report on the recent Galway seminar, all of which we hope you find interesting. Enjoy.  
*Chris Hayes- editor*

### Demonstrations planned

July- --- Peter Mulvanney, Pen set  
-- Philip Kerr, Built up work  
August - Ned O' Donnell, Lattice work  
September - Emmet Kane, Coloring and texturing

### Competitions set

August- a piece built from more than 2 types of wood.  
Sept.-Off centre candlestick, single for beginners, a pair for others.

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### Galway Seminar 1998 by Christine Bradshaw

GALWAY CHAPTER IRISH WOODTURNERS  
GUILD SEMINAR 1998 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 1998

Up at the crack of dawn and across the carnage of the N6 to arrive at the Galway Seminar late but never the less welcomed by Ambrose O'Halloran and the Galway Chapter members. The Seminar was hosted in the RTC which gave a studious and educational theme to the event.

We were all issued with a booklet of the days proceedings including a profile of the Galway Chapter and a brief profile of the demonstrators who included eminent figures such as Ciaran Forbes, Emmet Kane, Mark Hanvey, Colm Clinton, Joe Stephens, Des O'Halloran and Marcus Thornton.

The stage was set to see three guest demonstrators and four home grown chapter demonstrators.

I was only able to get to see three of the demonstrations but I was in no way prepared for what I was about to see.

Unfortunately one of the major attractions, Ciaran Forbes had broken his thumb in a woodturning accident the day before the seminar. Luckily Mark Baker from Robert Sorby tools was able to step in and demonstrate all the latest Robert Sorby products. He produced an exquisite square box and offered very useful information on safety and

Despite his accident Ciaran Forbes nobly graced us with his presence in the afternoon to distribute the prizes for the woodturning competition. Since the competition had been open to all-comers the variety and standard of work was incredible and must have been difficult to judge.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Paddy O'Connor (Midlands Chapter)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ambrose O'Halloran (Galway Chapter)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jim Johnson (Ulster Chapter)

**THE DEMONSTRATION**

**MARK HANVEY**

Both the demonstrations I attended by Mark were of the highest standards. Mark showed us how to do a Rugby Ball shape. This is turned and split then glued back to create this unusual shape. Mark used a 3/8" gouge and a 1/4" gouge to reduce the wall thickness which he measured by use of callipers. Mark had adapted a butter knife into a parting tool.

An Eggshell Bowl was the next project which Mark turned from the inside out and this was done from a Wet Green Burr of Oak. Mark used lamplight and the use of colour rather than callipers to judge wall thickness. As he worked, from the inside out he used a series of very fine cuts and he stressed to remove the resin from the tools which blocks up the gouge. This piece was fascinating to watch being made since the wood, at this stage was wobbly it was so wet and thin. Precision work at its best!

**EMMET KANE.**

I wandered into Emmet Kane's demonstration late since I had been spending a fortune at the trade stands and I wondered whether I had mistakenly got onto the set of a Big John Wayne movie. Spit and sawdust, firing colours at a piece of irregular shaped elm on a big Graduate lathe. This demonstration was on the use of texture and colour. It was all very fast moving, first the piece was green then gold and finally black with the centre of the bowl left to show the beautiful original elm.

Emmet had wet turned this elm a couple of days before the Seminar and after applying colour he microwaved it threw it back on the lathe lathered it with Danish oil before setting fire to it! The type of stuff only the professionals can do. An amazing Medieval look was achieved and an amazing demo to go with it.

The Galway Chapter need to be complimented on their hard work in arranging such an inspiring event.

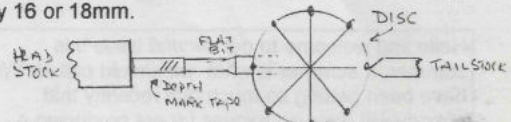
**May demo - Ship's wheel clock by Peter Mulvanney**

Peter set out to show us his approach to making a ships clock on the Record DML 24 lathe. A suitable blank for the main part would be a 200 to 220mm diameter by 50mm thick disc of suitable hardwood and for the spokes 8 matching or contrasting pieces measuring 125 by 30 by 30mm. His method is to mount the disc on a faceplate and turn to a round for which he recommends using a bowl gouge in preference to the roughing gouge. Next step is to true up the face using a skew as a scraper if preferred. Sand the rim before reversing the piece and truing up the other side. Mark the centre line on the rim and remove from the lathe.

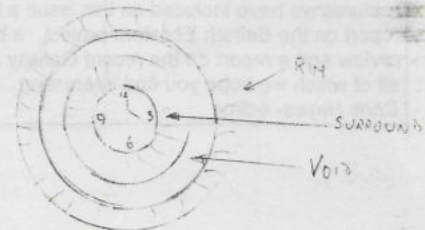
Make a hardboard template equal to the diameter of your disc and divide the circumference into 8 equal segments.



Notch the the rim at equidistant points and transfer these marks onto the disc centre line. Center punch each mark so that you end up with 8 equally spaced marks around the rim. Mount a Jacob's chuck in the headstock with a suitable bit, say 16 or 18mm.

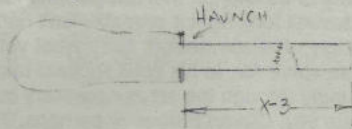


Position the disc between centres i.e. with the bit located in one of punched marks and the live centre in the diametrically opposite one. At a suitably slow speed proceed to drill winding up the tailstock to obtain the depth required. This will be determined by the diameter of the disc and size of the clock insert selected. (Peter used a 62mm movement here). Once your are satisfied with the depth needed mark the bit with tape to facilitate the drilling of the remainder to the same depth. Proceed to drill all 8 holes as described above. Replace the disc on the lathe with the side selected to carry the clock facing out. Drill or turn the recess to fit the clock. This should be a good fit, not too loose or too tight. This is important. At this stage determine the extent of the void and remove the waste to within 3 to 6mm of the inside face.

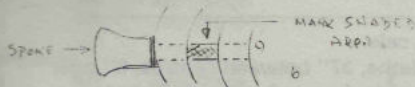


continued page 3

Mount each spoke blank between centres and turn to a 25mm cylinder.



Determine the exact depth of each hole, (ideally with a vernier) call it xmm  
Deduct a few mm from this figure and mark this measurement on the spoke as the depth of penetration, i.e. x-3mm.



Reduce the thickness of this area to match the diameter of the holes in the disc rim - Ensure that the spoke is a good easy fit in both rim and clock case surround. Decorate and/or shape the "exposed" areas of the spoke, there are two areas visible when inserted  
Withdraw and remount the spoke on the lathe.  
Avoid removing the mounting points while shaping each spoke handle until all spokes are completed and as nearly matched as you can make them.  
Push the spoke through to the haunch and mark the amount of spoke and them.  
At this stage one can sand and finish to complement the main part. When satisfied with all spokes finish each handle end and insert into the wheel with a touch of glue. After allowing sufficient time for the glue to dry and if using the DML 24 or similar setup move the headstock to the tailstock end. Using a floor standing tool rest remove the remaining material from the void.  
Sand and finish the back of clock and fit a suitable mounting hanger. (Thanks Peter for a well prepared and executed demo and for providing these excellent notes and sketches. I hope I have transcribed these accurately. Ed.)

#### June 1998 Meeting demonstrations

Peadar McArdle was first on the mat to demonstrate Bottle Stoppers. Vice-Chairman, Peter Mulvaney welcomed Peadar, who had the sympathy of the meeting on the recent theft of his tools. The perpetrator had been caught by the Garda' and a lot of the tools have been recovered, much to the joy of all present.

Peadar mounted a piece of walnut 75x50x50mm into which a short piece of 9mm dowel had been inserted, on the lathe - the dowel in the headstock. This was quickly turned to a cylinder and brought to the desired shape with a skew chisel. Liquid paraffin was applied with a brush and the excess removed with kitchen paper prior to sanding - result, dust-free sanding! Sanding was done with 150 and 400 grades followed by 0000 wire wool, prior to applying the finish. The pre-drilled cork was then stuck on with superglue.

As well as the pre-sanding liquid paraffin tip, Peadar also mentioned that he found "Mr. Sheen" spray polish a most excellent lubricant, particularly on chucks. No-one could accuse Peadar of being over-loquacious during his demo., but his consummate skill at the lathe made further elaboration

After the break we had a guest from the Midlands Chapter, Paddy O'Connor, to demonstrate Barley Twists - and this under the beady eye of our own Twister Supreme, Seamus Carter. (I must emphasise, being aware of libel laws, that "twister" in this context is in the literal rather than the metaphorical sense!). Paddy introduced himself as a hobby turner. He is originally from Tipperary, but is now resident in Naas. A most pleasant personality, and a talented turner, he quickly had his audience in the palm of his hand, watching and listening in complete silence. Paddy also supplied a four-page handout - for everyone - "A Guide to Traditional Pitch Measurements". This, combined with the excellent demo., made the whole operation look relatively simple. (I would stress that this comment is from one who has never attempted it -yet!)

Tools necessary for the process are:

1. Stuart Mortimer Twisting Gouges - Paddy had two with him, and mentioned that they were essentially carving tools.
2. Microfile (circular), available from the Router Centre, Bluebell Industrial Estate.
3. Wood chisel.
4. Sandpaper.
5. Tenon Saw.

I am not going to attempt to commit to paper the process involved because, while it was splendidly demonstrated, to the point of being made to look quite a simple operation, to write it all down would take up most of the Newsletter and the esteemed Editor might come at me with a roughing gouge! As well as that, my drawing capabilities are severely limited, to the point of being non-existent. Those of you who were at the meeting have, no doubt, produced many barley twists

since. While we are all aware of the importance of sharp tools, Paddy emphasised that they are absolutely essential in the making of twists from both safety and efficiency points of view. June will be the "Liquid Paraffin" meeting in my mind. Paddy recommended it for use on a slipstone - which he used to sharpen the Mortimer gouges - instead of oil. It does the job just as well and cleans the stone into the bargain. Peadar gets his liquid paraffin from a veterinary chemist in five-litre lots.

So - two excellent demonstrations by two excellent demonstrators at the June meeting. I suspect that there is more talent in these two men to be exploited by your committee. Congratulations and thanks, Peadar and Paddy.

Joe O'Neill's talents with his video camera, projecting the goings-on to the TV screen, added immensely to the enjoyment and the visibility of the demonstrations. In the absence of our Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Peter Mulvaney did a splendid job in conducting the meeting, to the extent that there were no complaints that Chairman Des did not come back from Boston especially for the occasion. Our thanks to Joe and Peter for their contributions to a most pleasant have got meeting. ( Very well reported, Jim, you have the job-Ed)

PS. Why "Barley" twists?!!  
(Will someone please explain about barley twists from the sweetie shop-Ed)

### The Book Review

"Turned -Bowl Design" by Richard Raffan, published by Taunton Press at \$21.95US, 169 pages, reviewed by Seamus O' Reilly. Have you ever wondered why your bowl, beautifully turned, gorgeous piece of wood, immaculately finished, doesn't look quite right? Well, in his book Richard Raffan sets out to show you why. It all boils down to two words- tactile and design. Lets take tactile first. It means 'perceptible to touch'. You know the feeling; you pick up a piece

and it just feels right. Next time you'r helping out at exhibition watch the reaction when someone picks up a well finished piece. Their hands seem to caress it without even looking at it. That's what Raffan means by tactile. Of course there's more to it than a smooth polished surface. Design is the key. Many of us can get that immaculate finish but if it doesn't look right it probably isn't right. The subtlety of shape, design, call it what you will, is what we strive for. In his book Richard takes us painstakingly through the steps necessary to begin to emulate say, Ciaran Forbes or perhaps, Tim McGill.

This is an excellent book. It's down to earth and entirely readable throughout. A careful perusal will pay dividends.

( Seamus is a former chairman of the Dublin chapter)

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### Items for sale

1. Clarke lathe, 37" between centres, 6" over bed, 5 speeds, in good order, 130 punts, phone 045- 864624, contact Robin McDermott.

### Items wanted

1. Plans for a turned birdhouse -contact Owen Furniss at 01- 494 1262
2. Bandsaw, affordable price please-contact Thomas Mangan at 01-490 9954

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### Notices

At their last meeting the committee decided in the interests of all members that in future visitors and non-members be allowed to attend only one monthly meeting and then required to join before attending subsequent meetings. This it is hoped will satisfy the requirements of the Guild insurance scheme. There are about 19 new books on woodturning available through the librarian as well as one or two videos. The monthly demos will soon be available on video through the library courtesy of Joe O'Neill.

The Librarian, Ned O'Farrell could do with some assistance during the meetings, particularly during the teabreak.

## Competition League Table 1998

Position	Points	Name	Entries	May	June
<b>Advanced</b>					
1	1043	Des McMahon	4	210	316
2	1011	Owen Furniss	4	238	298
3	876	Eddie O'Reilly	4	159	280
4	875	Tony Lally	4	196	224
5	809	Phillip Kerr	3	232	326
6	648	John Wetherall	3	240	0
7	574	Mick Deegan	3	200	0
8	572	Searmus Carter	3	199	250
9	569	Harry Kampff	2	284	0
10	237	Henry East	1	237	0
11	210	Mick Healy	1	210	0
12	205	Adrian Finlay	1	205	0
<b>Experienced</b>					
1	838	Frank Gallagher	4	186	270
2	641	Peadar McArdle	3	209	0
3	460	Chris Hayes	2	246	214
4	199	Geoff Cronin	1	0	0
5	194	Albert Sloane	1	0	0
6	176	John Wigham	1	0	0
<b>Beginners</b>					
1	871	Sean Dunne	4	151	283
2	855	David Dunne	4	200	270
3	740	Tom Mangan	3	236	295
4	533	Victor Lowe	2	0	243
5	341	Michael Kenny	2	131	0
6	252	Garoid Hogan	1	252	0
7	227	Norah Castle	1	0	0
8	226	Peter Kennedy	1	226	0
9	200	P O'Rourke	1	200	0
10	194	Sean O'Neill	1	0	0

## Woodturning courses

A basic woodturning course is available from Joe O'Neill at 27 Ballinteer Drive, D16,  
Phone 454 1822 or 298 9441 (evenings)

Lathe, tools and wood and insurance included in the cost.

Note that Joe is the author of the basic course no.3 in the recent Guild journal.

## Balrath Ecosystem Project

I went along in June to the launch of this Co. Meath woodland project at the invitation of our own Joe O'Neill who is a member of the Tree Council. This was also a celebration of a 10 year effort to provide a outdoor classroom or laboratory so that interested persons might be able to see the latest methods of broadleaf tree growing in conjunction with various ways of preserving and encouraging wild life. Many of the people involved in this worthwhile project were on hand to explain the objectives and successes achieved to date. Linked to this effort is a very useful and informative set of leaflets which we are trying to obtain for our members. We expect to hear more on this subject later. --Chris Hayes

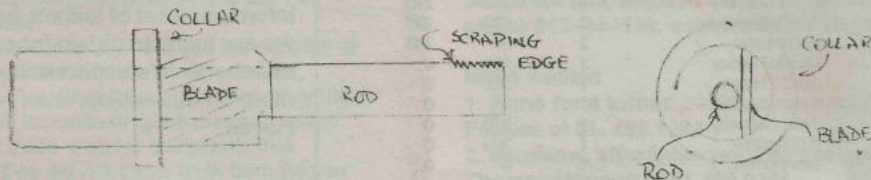
<p>ABBEY WOODS Unit 22 Baldoye Ind Est Dublin 13 tel. 01-839-3435</p> <p>Stockist of veneers hardwoods, and selected softwoods</p> <p>Visit our wood craft centre for BOWL BLANKS</p> <p>TURNERY SQUARES TOOLING</p> <p>CRAFT ACCESSORIES</p> <p>FINISHES(Lieberon and Rustins) INLAYS GLUES FLOORING</p>	<p>Philip J Dix and Co. Ltd 6 Aston Quay Dublin 2 tel. 01-6717144/6710579</p> <p>Supplier of quartz clock and accessories See our full range at very reasonable prices.</p>	<p>BRIAN WALSH ASHFORD CO. WICKLOW tel. 0404-40504</p> <p>Huge new store of well seasoned hardwood for turning</p> <p>BLANKS FOR BOWLS CLOCKS, PLATTERS. SQUARE STOCK BRANCHWOOD</p> <p>Hours Mon-Fri 9-6 Sat -10-1</p> <p>Also limited supply of yew, walnut and spalted beech.</p>
	<p>BARNEY'S PAINT STORE 94 Annamoe Tce, Cabra, D7 and 205 SCR, D8 The complete range of Varnishes, polishes, glazes, stains and waxes for the antique trade and others.</p>	

## A Homemade pen mill

On the assumption that some of our members prefer to make their own gadgets occasionally I extracted the following from the "North Carolina Woodturner" magazine for which I am thankful. Its a pen mill or a barrel trimmer as the Americans call it and very useful tool for cleaning up the ends of pen blanks. Anyway this is how Carl Girelli described it, suitably edited.

Take a 200mm length of a 6mm rod and glue or fix a 6mm collar stop about a third of the way down its length so that the longer protrusion could extend a bit beyond the brass

tube of a 7mm pen and the shorter could fit into a handle-nicely turned of course. For a cutting edge to true the blank end a groove was cut in the lower face of the stop with a hacksaw and a pencil sharpener blade glued in the slot. These blades are cheap to obtain and replace. To achieve an internal scraping edge give the last 10mm of the rod a sharp blow with a cold chisel and hammer followed by a bit of refinement with a triangular file. I hope these few directions and my copying of the sketch are helpful.



Just before we sent this off to the printers Christie Byrne asked me to advertise the following machinery which belongs to his friend Frank O' Neill, a woodworker, who, following a serious illness can no longer work;

1. Heavy duty Centaro lathe, 58 inches between centres, single phase, 3 speed

2. Startrite Bench saw, rise fall and tilt with sliding table, 12 inch blade
  3. Startrite bandsaw
  4. Compressor, 3hp
- Enquiries to Frank at 4518248

