



Irish Woodturners Guild
Dublin Chapter Newsletter
Vol.7 No.2 February/March2000

Comment

Another two months gone since I last sat down to put together the newsletter and it's just flown. What's happened since? Plenty! For one thing we had our AGM and Committee election, details inside. The week-long exhibition of woodturning took place in the South Dublin Council offices in early February and was considered a success. Looking forward, we are preparing for our very own seminar in April at Larch Hill which promises to be a lot of fun and hard work for some. Don't forget about our commitment to producing Millennium candleholders/sticks for charity; its

suggested that each member should make about six between now and June 1st next, more about this in the current issue of the Guild Journal.

Your committee is looking into the issue of making new members of the Chapter feel more welcome. So if you are one of this special breed, take heart, we are interested in you and in what you can offer to the group. Why not write in to me with your first impressions, and we can take it from there.

Chris Hayes, editor

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Special notice

Dublin Chapter Seminar 2000

Boy Scouts camp site

Larch Hill, Tirbradden

Sat. April 29th 2000, 0900 to 1700.

Cost £30, includes access to all demonstrations, lunch and coffee break.

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Competition subjects

April

Beginners—lidded box

Others— off-centre lidded box

May—Beginners—candleholder

Others— pair of candleholders,
(not necessarily matching
but forming an integral whole)

Contents

Demo-January, Routing on the lathe

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Demo -January, pedestal clock

Hot tips

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Flea market

The female branch, pt.4

Committee

Chairman-Jim Molloy, 39 Glenbrook Park, Rathfarnham, D14, 4934477; *Competitions and workshops*- Frank Gallagher, 3 Rossmore Close, Templeogue, D6W, 4902879; *Hon. Sec.* -Pacelli O'Rourke, 161 Belgard Heights, Tallaght, 4515276; *Treasurer*-Harry O' Riordan, Acer Glade, Burnaby Park, Greystones, 2875345; *Editor*-Chris Hayes, 85 Willow Park Grove, Glasnevin, D11, 8422525; *Seamus Carter*, 15 Woodlands Road, Johnstown Estate, Dun Laoghaire, 2850087; *Irene Christie*, 3 Willow Brook lodge, Celbridge, 6276126; *Librarian*- Michael McGee, 35 Brompton Court, Castlenock, 8212795.

The First January Demo – Routing on the lathe, by Peter Mulvaney

Equipment required;

Small router 400w to 800w

A ¼" tungsten tipped cove cutter

The motor must be detachable from the base

An indexing system of some description

A device (jig) to hold the router

A base fitted to the lathe bed to support the router and an adjustable fence or a jig to control the depth of cut.

Note: these last items were shop made to suit the router

SAFETY

It is imperative that you unplug the lathe when carrying out any routing procedure on the lathe.

Never release a router from your hand until it has stopped revolving.

Always unplug a router before you fit a cutter.

PURPOSE

To add flutes or (v) grooves to spindle turning

To add decoration or embellishments to faceplate turning

ADVANTAGES

In past times this procedure was a very laborious and time-consuming task. Flutes were hand carved, this method speeds up the work and makes it easy to produce multiple copies.

SETTING UP A ROUTER

When fitting a cutter into a collet it important not to overtighten, 3/4 of the shank of the cutter must be held in the collet. If you over tighten you can easily damage the collet, it bed.

can become distorted and develop a tulip shape and then only grip at the top and the bottom. Never insert the cutter so deeply that it bottoms out against the router spindle. When routing soft woods you can get a finer finish using a stainless steel cutter (they take a better edge) but for hardwoods it is better to use a TCT cutter. They are more durable. It is necessary to clean your cutters after every use, i.e. before storing, and to sharpen them regularly using a diamond impregnated hone lubricated with water.

AN INDEXING SYSTEM

An indexing system is usually divided into 24 equal parts with a hole bored at each indexing point. This offers the possibility of dividing a surface into 24, 12, 8, 6, 4, 3 or 2 equal spaces. That is, any number that divides equally into 24. The sequences are as follows:

For 24 divisions use every hole 1 to 24

For 12 divisions use 24-2-4-6-8-10-12-14-16-18-20-22.

For 8 divisions use 24-3-6-9-12-15-18-21.

For 6 divisions use 24-4-8-12-16-20.

For 4 divisions use 24-6-12-20.

For 3 divisions use 24-8-16.

For 2 divisions use 24-12.

The arrangement for holding the router must allow the cutter to centre as close to the axis as possible.

You need a stop at the starting point and at the finishing point.

General hints and tips

When fluting a spindle you should work from the tailstock end towards the headstock.

With faceplate decorations work from right to left, i.e. from the centre to the outside.

Do not overload the router by cutting too much in any one pass.

It is also possible to decorate bowl edges and bases by setting up a fence at right angles to the bed.

Book reviews

An Interesting Book from the club

Ever thought of turning a banana or a pepper? Ray Hopper's book 'Multi-Centre Turning' available from the chapter video and book club, has details on these and other interesting projects. Normally we think of cutting out the banana shape on the bandsaw but Ray Hopper shows how by using three centres you can achieve the authentic shape on the lathe.

About the pepper he says "Before turning a pepper, it is worth studying some: they are not very symmetrical and vary in shape, but this is not a problem, as it can be simulated in multi-centre turning by use of a simple jig." The picture of the finished product is really astonishing. This is an excellent book for people who want to experiment with something a little different. There are lots of photos in black and white and colour. Detailed drawings and dimensions are also included.

Further reviews -



"Understanding wood" by Bruce Hoadley

If you want to know anything about wood this is the book for you. Working from scientific principles it is written with the small-scale woodworker in mind and contains a detailed glossary of terms to make the terminology clearer to the reader. Comprising thirteen chapters the book covers such things as the nature of wood, figuring, movement, water and wood, strength and many others. Excellent macro photos of the cellular structure of wood support the text to show differences between softwood and hardwoods. The very helpful annotated list of reference books provided will assist the woodworker to delve further into wood science.

-Gay McGrane

Video review

"Making Candle Holders" by Alan Holton

The author starts by taking us on a tour of his workshop which is fine by me because it's always interesting to see how others lay out their pads. His introduction giving clear instructions on how to go about making a candleholder is very helpful especially if you are making one for the first time. Nor does he ignore the safety issue either. Of just the right length this video will appeal to many who will appreciate the fine quality of the presentation. One useful feature I liked was the plan of the candleholder on the back of the video sleeve. I heartily recommend it to our members.

-Joe O'Neill

Ed -I can see a big demand for this item in view of the numbers required for the Millennium Project, perhaps Michael had better order another one or two?

Book review

"Water based finishes" by Andy Charron.

Finishing seems to occupy as much of our time as the actual turning so it's always interesting to read about the newer finishes. This is a very comprehensive and technical treatise on water based finishes, which also gives interesting details on other finishes by comparison. Hand application, spraying, dying and rubbing out are well covered. A good book if your are considering an environmentally friendly (and workshop safe) finishing approach. However I just couldn't find any water based finishes to buy and try!

- Seamus Dunne

Book review

"Practical tips for woodturners"

Woodturning magazine, CMC publications. Have your ever hankered after that gleaming new machine featured in a woodturning magazine but known that your budget does not stretch to buying it? Take heart. With the tips contained in this small and unassuming book you may actually discover a way to achieve the same results with the tools and equipment you already possess. The 105 tips contained here were all sent in by readers of *Woodturning* and would be invaluable to newcomers to the craft of turning, saving many hours of frustrating trial and error. To my delight I found details on the construction of a portable dust extractor, which can be moved from machine to machine, just what I had been looking for.

-Donal Browne

Book review

"Intermediate Woodturning Projects"

Woodturning magazine

This book is a compilation of projects that have appeared in past issues of *Woodturning*. If you are a subscriber some of the articles will be familiar to you and indeed I have had a 'go' at one or two of the these in the past. Nevertheless, it is a well-presented and illustrated book. The photos are very clear and the graphics quite detailed. Is a worthwhile publication and could be of great benefit to beginners and experienced alike.

-Peter Mulvaney

The second January demo- making a pedestal clock with a 62mm insert, by Peter Mulvaney.

Materials

Two pieces of dry timber 5.5" by 5.5" by 2 to 2.5" wide, for base and clock mounting.
One piece 1.5" by 1.5" by 4" long, for the connecting spindle.
One 62mm clock insert & one battery to suit.



SUITABLE TIMBER

Any well-dried hardwood, my preferences are spalted beech, cherry, iroko, ash, maple. Bear in mind that the finished item will probably find a home on a mantle piece where there is a lot of heat and if it is not properly dried it will distort.

PROCEDURE

Stage 1.

Cut the two square pieces into a rough disc or just take the corners off.

Mount one onto the lathe using a screw chuck or some other system.

Turn to a cylinder.

Make a recess to take the clock insert.

Apply any beads or other decoration at this time and seal and polish.

Stage 2

Reverse on the chuck using the recess to mount the blank.

Turn to the required profile, sand seal and polish.

Remove from the lathe while still held in the chuck and catch the chuck in vice. Then very carefully drill a 5/8" hole in the rim to a depth of 3/4". Ideally this should be drilled at a slight angle so that the clock leans away from you. I use a hand brace to do this. This part is now completed.

Stage 3

Mount the second blank (the base) on the lathe having removed the corners.

Turn to a cylinder.

Make the base concave and then cut a recess to suit your chuck.

Bring to a good finish seal and polish.

Stage 4

Reverse in the chuck and turn a dome on this side or any other shape that you fancy.

Then set up a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock and drill a 1" hole to a depth of 1".

Sand, seal and polish.

Stage 5

Mount the third piece between centres.

Turn to a cylinder.

Form a spigot on either end, one 5/8" and the other 1" (I use a 16mm and a 24mm open ended sharpened spanner to do this).

Turn a pleasing shape on the spindle.

Then offer both spigots to the drilled holes to make sure that they are a good fit.

Sand seal and polish taking care not to apply wax to the spigots.

Glue up, insert the battery into the clock, fit the clock into the recess and Bob's your uncle.

The clock of life

The Clock of Life is wound but once,
And no one has the power
To tell us when the hands will stop
Or on what day or hour.
Now is the only time you have,
So live it with a will,
Don't wait until tomorrow comes,
For the hands may then
Be still. -Anon

Hot tips by Geoff Cronin.

Dust recycling

When you finish sanding you'll notice a film of very fine dust on and around the lathe headstock and on nearby shelves. Use a paintbrush to sweep this dust into a tobacco tin or similar container that has a lid. When you want to fill a crack or other blemish in a turned piece mix some of the dust in to a paste by adding a few droops of Resin W (PVA) or slow setting superglue. Work the mixture into the crack, scraping away the surplus. Allow to dry and then sand off. Of course the logical extension of this is to retain and store the dust from different woods, suitably labelled for convenience!

Dublin Chapter AGM, Feb.5th 2000

The following is merely a brief report of the proceedings:

One change only to the committee, Pacelli a O'Rourke has taken over from Owen Furniss as secretary. We owe a great deal to Owen for his great contribution to the Chapter during the past 3 years, much of it over and above his duties as secretary. Thank you. And now, welcome to Pacelli, who joins us at one the busiest times of the year.

Members attending sponsored workshops will, in future, be asked to pay a fee of £2 to cover the host's expenses.

Competition winners, 1999

Advanced section—Owen Furniss, 1st
Des McMahon, 2nd
Albert Sloan, 3rd

Experienced sect. —Michael McGee, 1st
Frank Foley 2nd
James Nolan 3rd

Beginners' sect ---Tom McCourt 1st
Irene Christie 2nd
Richard Sheridan 3rd

Mrs. May Newman presented the trophies to the winners. Our congratulations to them and many thanks to May and her daughter Teresa for attending. View these trophies on the Guild website,
www.irishwoodturnersguild.com
Joe O'Neill has agreed to be the Chapter's rep on the Guild committee.

Exhibition review

The Dublin Chapter woodturning exhibition ran from Feb.5th to the 11th at the South Dublin County Council HQ in Tallaght. At the official opening on the Monday evening specially turned pieces were presented on behalf of the Chapter to the council chairman and the arts officer. Overall, the exhibition, which was well supported by Chapter members, was considered to have been a success and served it's purpose well—promoting woodturning. Although not set up as a shop window there were many inquiries from the staff and public with a view to buying and it is understood deals were done at the conclusion of the event. Personally I thank everyone who contributed items for the exhibition, or who gave of their time most generously. And of course we thank the county council staff who couldn't do enough to make things run smoothly.

-Chris Hayes

Items for sale and wanted



Wanted- Router, any make considered, contact Pacelli O'Rourke at 451 5276

Instruction Booklet Wanted

Calling any Electra Beckum Planer-Thicknesser owners. I am looking for a copy/photocopy of the instruction booklet, having bought a second hand machine without one. If anyone can help me with this I would be very grateful. Please contact Barry Dunne @ 01-4967188 / 087-6433061.

FOR SALE- PRECISION CHUCK PCC 2000 ACCESSORIES AS FOLLOWS:

CH 894 1" pin chuck-----	£3.50
CH 310 1" mini collet-----	£6.00
CH 840 mini centre boss-----	£3.00
CH 845 adjustable 1.5" spigot collet--	£7.00
CH 843 " " 1" " " --	£7.00
CH 846 3-way spigot ring 1.25"-----	£3.00
CH 384 4-jaw chuck assy-----	£11.00
CH 841 2" spigot collet-----	£14.00
CH 860 cone drive centre boss-----	£5.50
CH 862 4-prong drive-----	£7.00
CH 899 spare centre boss-----	£7.00
CH 855 Indexing ring-----	£7.00
Pin chuck 1.75"-----	£6.50

Circular saw planer blade, 10"
80 teeth, arbor hole 30mm -----£10

Circular saw comb.blade, 10"
40 teeth, arbor hole 30mm----- £5

note that the chuck parts are shown in the Craft Supplies catalogue.

Contact -Jack Grant, tel.8310609

The female branch, part 4
All of the colours, in all the sizes.
By Ruth McNally.



Invitations to sell at craft fairs invariably arrive in one or other of two modes; firstly, like buses, in convoys, or secondly when there isn't a saleable item left in the house nor a dry bit of wood to turn one. However, on the rare occasion when wood and craft fair conspire to converge the fun starts in earnest.

Now, you would think that it was merely a matter of getting a collection of bits and pieces together, giving them a final polish, making a stab at what you are likely to get for them, sticking on a price and off you go. - Well, you had better think again!

The first fly in the teak oil is quality control. This one starts to buzz about a week or so before the fair. You notice items disappearing from what you thought was the finished pile. Some reappear looking to your half-practised eye exactly as before. Others return looking fairly familiar, some change has take place but you can't quite pin it down, probably they've been having treatment for foot and rim disease; a few vanish without trace. Now none of this would matter if you hadn't spent half the night listening to you-know-who whining and moaning about all he had yet to turn and only three days to go. Four weeks ago you had sat in on a council of war and had agreed with him a timetable and a list of items still needed. You had allowed plenty of time to cover the agenda with built-in off-time for special emergencies (shopping, grandchildren, children, physiotherapy, meals and baths). At this stage only the cord pulls should have been left to finish. You forward a tentative question that goes something like, "Well dear, if you still have five bowls only half-turned, three mortars without pestles, two lamps needing fittings and not a cord pull to your name, what exactly have you been doing out there in the workshop until ten o'clock every night?"

The answer of course is 'quality control'. The plain fact is, the man can't leave well enough alone. No piece is safe from tampering until it is actually sold and nothing leaves the house until it has passed a Sherlock Holmes inspection. What does it matter to him that it is destined for a home where they will stick it over a radiator, set it in bright sunlight, put it in the dishwasher or polish its lovingly acquired matt finish until its like a toffee apple? What does he care if he spends nine hours on a bowl that, with luck, will realise £12 ?


The day before the fair arrives is agony for the poor soul. There, spread out on the dining-room table, is his hard-wrought collection for the sale; his lamps are glowing, his clocks are ticking, his lids fit and his surfaces are smooth as marble. But is he happy? Not on your life! He just knows that yon wee yew bowl could have done with another coat of oil and the base of that elm box is not of the baby-bottom quality that the discriminating buyer would require. No use telling him that anyone discriminating enough to spot these invisible faults is probably a woodturner and cannot by the wildest stretch of imagination or the dizziest height of optimism be included in the numbers of the buying public. No, the whole collection is in need of another thorough going over and if only he had about three weeks extra it might then look like something. This naturally leads on to the wrangle over prices. He wants to give the stuff away and you have recently watched a woman give £200 for a painting you wouldn't hang in your attic. Eventually you compromise, though it looks like that winter holiday you were hoping for won't be paid for by the proceeds of this year's sales. Only one task remains; it is time for the sales lady (guess who) to brush up on the woods. By now, of course, elm, ash and yew are child's play but getting kingwood mixed up- with cocobolo is a hanging offence and not knowing where banksia nuts hail from could bring on a severe case of drawing and quartering.

It is now two-thirty in the morning. Together you run a last eye over the collection. It isn't looking too bad at all. . Even number one critic has to admit that with that width of variety we are at least offering all of the colours in all of the sizes.



Woodturning Lessons
 Available from
Joe O'Neill,
 27 Ballinteer Drive, D16
 Tel. 087-6230162

And from
Peter Mulvaney,
 33 Ardmore Park,
 Dun Laoghaire
 Tel. 2802745



North Strand Meetings
 Always on the last Thursday of the month at
 7.15 pm. Venue -the VEC, North Strand,
 opposite the Five Lamps. Phone Mick Healy,
 for details, Tel. 8427924

Turning tip-
 To get rid of that persistent dimple that often
 occur at the bottom of a turning, even on closed
 forms where your cannot use your smallest
 sanding disc, try this. After your best efforts with
 a scraper glue a piece of sandpaper to the end of
 a 6 or 10mm dowel. The natural frequency of the
 spinning dowel will cause it to move in an orbital
 motion. Begin with coarse and finish with finer
 grit.
 -North Carolina Woodturner

Forthcoming events



Irish Woodturners Guild, AGM, 25TH March 2000
 Venue-Aisling Hotel, Dublin, 2pm

Limerick Chapter seminar, April 1st 2000

Dublin Chapter seminar, April 29th 2000

Galway Chapter seminar, May 27th 2000

National seminar 2000, Sept. 8th to 10th 2000
 Venue-Jordanstown University, Belfast

Cork Chapter seminar, Oct. 21st 2000



Reading an old copy of the Brasstown
 (North Carolina) Woodturners Guild journal,
 I realised that they have a similar problem to
 ours, and I quote

"I have one request for action that I would
 like you all to consider positively and with an
 internal resolve to conform. Please try to
 avoid side bar conversations during our
 demonstrations. It is very distracting for the
 other members who are trying to hear and it
 is terribly discourteous to the demonstrator.
 If you must have your conversation during
 the demo please go outside the room or out
 of hearing range. Thank you in advance for
 your co-operation in this matter and thank
 you all for your support of our fine
 organisation"

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A surplus chuck, ancient
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Why not advertise it
here?

No Charge to members

Wanted

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woodwork in general
or anything about trees or on
dealing with timber. A poem,
silly verse, a limerick?

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offer to buy*

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