



# Irish Woodturners' Guild Dublin Chapter

Editor  
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June-July 2002

## EDITORIAL

It always seems harder in summertime to find something interesting for these few pages. We have the usual write-ups on the demos of course, thanks to Michael Forde who never lets us down. I try my usual sources for anything fresh or original but to no avail. Its holiday time and the living is easy and nobody is keen to start writing. However if anyone out there is away to foreign parts in the next few months (or even down to Kerry) and you see something worthwhile for publication send it in. I shall be eternally grateful. If you are looking for another way of spending money while learning a new skill why not try one of the many weekend or weeklong courses available this year, details on another page.

There are leaflets for you with this newsletter which give more information.

Finally, if you are planning on attending the seminar in Gort in October and haven't booked yet, best do so very soon. See the Guild Journal for exact details including a list of accommodation.

-Chris Hayes, editor

## May Demonstration - by Philip Kerr.

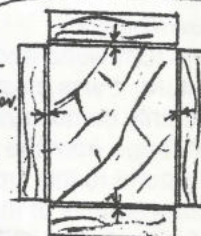
### Laminating and turning a section suitable for a lamp stem, and turning a ring

Philip brought along some finished examples of his laminated work and some built up blanks ready for turning. He started by describing the build up of the blank, emphasising the necessity for a perfectly square centre piece with exact centres marked, and the contrasting timbers glued to the 4 sides to be flat, of equal thickness and parallel sides. Philip warned that the slippage which tends to occur during glueing must be avoided and even clamping over all the area is necessary. Veneer between the timbers at glued joints has advantages. Shaping a built blank which was chuck held and supported by the tail stock at speed of 950 r.p.m. was then commenced, starting with a roughing gouge. After achieving a rough outline of the desired spherical type shape, Philip switched from the roughing gouge to a smaller gouge and firmer chisel which he skilfully used to get the final shape, frequently stopping the lathe, and checking that the laminations were showing equally on all faces. If they were not, slight adjustment to the tail stock support point achieved the correction. When satisfied with the all over shape and lamination distribution, sanding was completed down to 320 grade, then the application of shellac sanding sealer and friction polish completed this part of the demonstration.

-continued on page 2



Typical Built-up  
Blank Section  
VENEER - 4 SIDES \*



## Inside this issue:

Page 2 - Demos from May and June 2002 2

Page 3 - Competition results 3

Page 4 - committee news, workshops, gadget 4

Page 5 - the interview, Find the tree height 5

Page 6 - Ads and notices, Chapter committee 6

## Competitions

July - all levels, a 3 legged stool

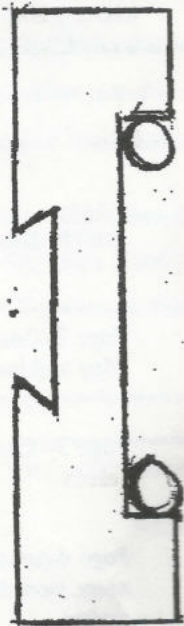
August - all levels, hand mirror

September - all levels, Open

October - advanced and experienced, pedestal fruit bowl.

Beginners - non-pedestal fruit bowl.

### The May demo--continued from page 1



Philip next demonstrated turning a ring, (a section of which could be used for a handle for a vessel, to give one example). A flat piece of mahogany was mounted in the chuck via a dovetail recess, and turned to a circle of 4in dia. and approx. 3/4in. thick. The outside dia centre point was marked with pencil for guidance- often recommended as an aid when cutting beads, the mark should be just still visible when turning is completed. With parting tool and gouge the front and top were quickly shaped, and sanding, sealing, and finish applied before removal from chuck. The remaining work was done after reverse mounting in a wooden jam chuck with a recess cut carefully to hold the ring externally for inside finishing (a loose fit can be made just right with a paper towel in the recess.). The ring must seat properly onto the inside face to ensure it is finished true. So the recess must be square and hold the ring at its highest point. Philip removed the center using a parting tool and final shaping was soon done. After sanding sealing and friction polishing the ring was removed from the jam chuck to well deserved applause. Sincere thanks to Philip for a very enjoyable and informative morning as he unhurriedly explained and displayed tool skills and procedures acquired over a career working with wood.

—M.Forde

### The June Demonstration--by Neil Bracken.

#### Woodwind Instruments

Since woodturners turn wood and woodwind instruments have a share of turning in their manufacture, it was most appropriate that Neil be persuaded to take the stand for the monthly demonstration. He brought along a vast array of instruments, covering the range from the tin whistle to the bagpipes. As he went through the historical background to this type of musical instrument, he had us all enthralled with the achievements of those long dead craftspeople such as Andrew and Tom Malone of Kilrush, in 1837 they took on the job of making a set of Uilleann pipes for a local landlord, producing a five regulator set, (fashioning the keys from spoons) which are now on display in the National Museum. Another one of the items he passed around was a transverse wooden flute made in the Midlands, with its keys made from tin and pewter, and we could only marvel at the workmanship, as we examined the work of this unknown craftsman. Continuing the history he brought us through the range, the fife, (Orange flute) the various recorders, clarinet, and pipes-- Northumbrian, bag pipes and the uilleann pipes, which are probably the only woodwind instrument that originated in Ireland!

Neil then went into some of the details of instrument manufacture. Some of the timbers used here are African blackwood, ebony, boxwood, pearwood, and blackthorn, generally with a moisture content of 13%, but others can be used. However, Neil suggested that for those just starting maple or sycamore would be advisable, and in addition to the turning tools normally used, some special boring tools and reamers would be needed, as tapered bores are a feature of some instruments. Linseed oil is usually the finish used.

A question and answer session ended this most enjoyable and inspiring demonstration from a master of his subject. Sincere thanks to Neil, and we look forward to his follow-up visit. Thought for woodturners; quote from Herbert Bayard Swope, "I cannot give you a formula for success, but I can give you a formula for failure,-- try and please everybody--".

— M.Forde.

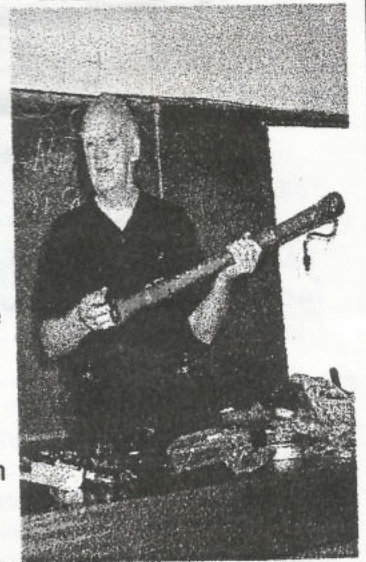


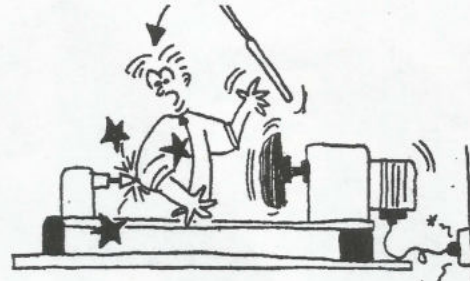
Photo by Hugh Flynn

**Notes from the August 3rd Meeting at Terenure College**

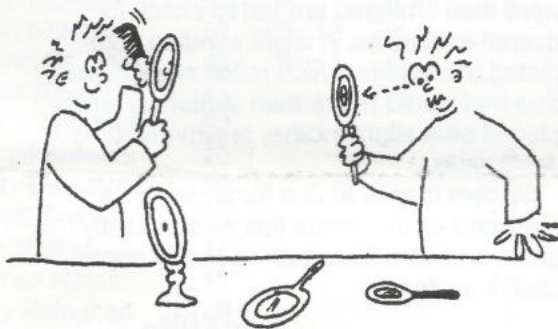
In his customary address to the members (or introductory spiel as some ungraciously call it) our Chairman Seamus highlighted the importance of safety, such as removing the sharp tailstock centre if not required whilst turning. Otherwise you could suffer a puncture, see sketch.

Seamus invited all to support the forthcoming competition to commemorate Tim McGill.

To facilitate the timely start to the proceeding he appeals to members to arrive sufficiently early to have all pre-meeting chores, e.g. returning books or videos, entering competition pieces, dealt with in time so as to be **in the auditorium** by 10am. In turn the chairman will do his utmost to have all notices, etc, dealt with by 10.15 to enable the demo to start without further delay.



The competition this month was a hand mirror and attracted an interesting number of ideas. It also gave the judges an opportunity to check on their hair or make-up without anyone noticing. See Christien's view on this.



*Failte*

**Welcome to Pat Maher,  
our newest member**

*Editor's comment*

The contributions on this page are just what I need to help make the newsletter more readable. Could you come up with something similar? Your own or culled from some other source, I don't mind. Do try.

**Woodturning**

Fashioned of spirit and light  
 The heart of the tree  
 Encased in deadwood  
 Retains its dignity and reveals  
 Its inner secrets  
 Spalded ribs, sapwood, heart  
 Respond to the gentle touch  
 As form, shape and beauty  
 Emerges to salute a new life  
 In a whirlpool of energy  
 To honour its Creator.

*Una Sheeran*

## Committee news

1. From the competition secretary, John Holmes:

Congratulations to Niall Cahill and Theo Elliot as they move to the Experienced section. More entries in this competition would be welcome and make things more realistic. The advanced section especially is badly supported, just look at the entries over six months. Des is unbeatable, again-unless somebody pulls out the stops, or we send him to China!

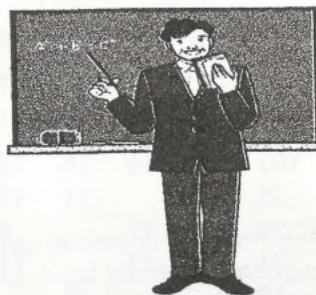
John reminds us that in the Seminar Competition in Ballymun, Peter McDonagh gained first prize for his bowl, Cecil Barron got second for his "Mother and Child" and William Creighton astounded all with third prize for his "Kettle and Skillet" Des McMahon came fourth for his suspended clock, confirmation, if any was needed, of the high standard of the winning entries.

2. It is proposed to replace the DML 24 used for demonstrations at our Terenure meetings as soon as possible because so many found the old Record unsuitable for their purposes.

3. Frank Gallagher appeals for hosts to stage workshops, especially anyone with a large workshop. Attendance at these events is disappointing and he would like to see more support to encourage further developments. To help him with the Chapter history he is putting together photos from seminars, exhibitions or any past events would be appreciated. So dig into your tin boxes and produce something.

4. A proposal to have an social evening with a meal is being considered again.

## RECREATION WORKSHOPS



As mentioned on page one here are some details of these workshops:

1. Interested in bogwood or stone carving? Or Painting with oils or acrylics?

There are courses running at various times throughout the year at the Recreation Workshops, St. Patrick's, Esker, Athenry, Co. Galway. There are 3 day and 5 day courses for carving and 5 day sessions for painters. Costs vary from 275 to 500 Euro depending on duration and content. More information available from 091-844549, or email <eskerret@indogo.ie>, or www.eskercommunity.net

2. The Center for Traditional Skills in Lismore, Co Waterford, offers a wide range of courses including woodturning, coopering, blacksmithing, and much more. All are weekend courses and run from June to October. Most courses cost 40 Euro including materials and meals. See leaflet enclosed or phone 058-53196.

## CENTRE FINDER

By M. HEMSWORTH

*Finding the centre of a circular piece of wood can sometimes be a problem. The gadget shown here, of a type which has been used by joiners for a very long time, makes centre-finding easy.*

The device comprises a piece of wood, with two dowels, carefully shaped to a calculated pattern which contains an arc and a tongue. The upright tongue has its inner edge exactly on the vertical centre line and the arc has a dowel each side. These dowels are equidistant each side of the centre line and the imaginary line which joins them is at right angles to it.

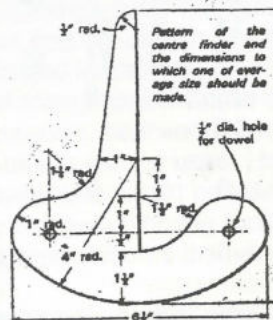
From elementary geometry we know that when the dowels are placed against the circumference of a circle the line joining them will form a chord, and because a line which bisects a chord at right angles must be a diameter then the straight edge of the tongue must also fall on a diameter.

Geometry also tells us that diameters inter-

sect at the centre of a circle, so all we need do to find the middle is to pencil in the first diameter, move the device to a new position, and pencil in a second one.

The centre finder can be made easily from a piece of scrap plywood, but though only a few tools and simple carpentry are required it must be made with care and precision.

A quick check of its accuracy can be made by penciling in a diameter, turning the device over and making another mark in exactly the same position. If the two lines diverge there is an error which can be put right by paring one dowel.



Plan of the centre finder described in the text. This easy-to-make design is both serviceable and professional-looking (left).

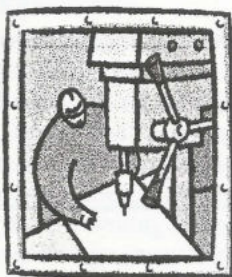
This idea for a centre finder was extracted from Practical Woodworking, October 1966

Of course you could always go out and buy the plastic version for a few euro but where's the fun in that?

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The idea below was part of the Botanic Gardens Nature Trail for children in June last.

The interview



met **Eddie Murphy** this week. No I wasn't on a Hollywood set, just visiting around the corner from where I live in North Dublin. Eddie has been a member of the Chapter for a few years now after taking a refresher course with Mick Healy. A native of Cork, which he left long ago, he comes from a background of blacksmithing and farriers so naturally he still practises that craft and has all the heavy tools and equipment to help him.

**Editor:** Since your are retired now you must find time hangs around too much?

**Eddie:** I was never busier than I am today. As well as metalwork I find time for golf, do as much turning as I can, I used to do a lot of leather work including making footballs and hurling balls. I designed a machine to facilitate the winding of the hurling ball which is used everywhere. At the present I am on the finishing stages of a heavyweight bowl turning lathe with electronic speed control, similar to Mick's.

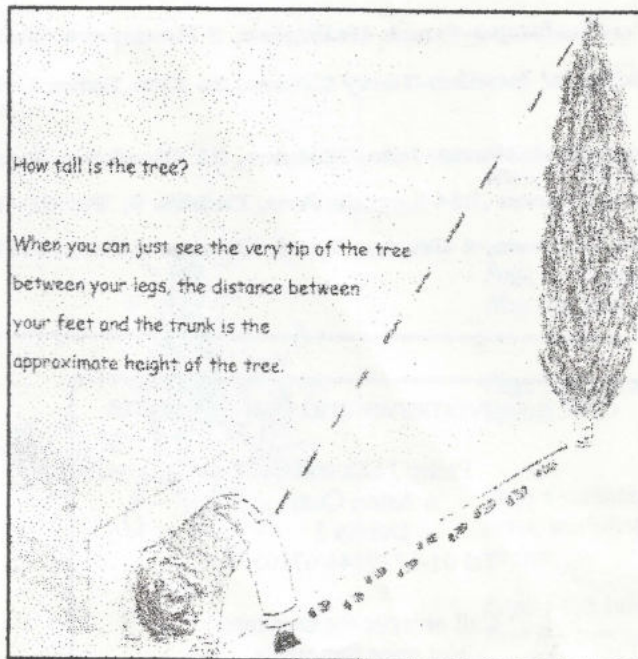
**Editor:** Could we see your workshops now?

**Eddie :** I keep my metal turning lathe, bought second hand, in this shed with various jigs and aids and tools. Its not very spacious but adequate for what I need to do.

**Editor :** And then we toddled into the main workshop and what a place! At least six wood-turning lathes including the heavy one mentioned earlier.

Various bits and pieces of equipment and lots of timber. And enough gadgets and "essential" tools to stock Goughs.

**Eddie :** Of course the smaller lathes I bought



early on and the others I acquired for special reasons! I like to visit woodworking or machinery shows in the UK where you can find a much bigger range of interesting "must haves". However I have also managed to buy some of my more expensive purchases at bargain prices at these shows, so I would recommend this to anyone in the market for a new lathe or whatever, even allowing for fares and carriage.

**Editor :** Tell me about this strange contraption attached to a bicycle wheel.

**Eddie:** Its a treadle lathe from a design book I purchased and many of the bits and pieces are from a skip. For instance the large bike wheel drives a car brake drum fixed to a bike chain wheel which in turn is driving the headstock. Treadle tension is by way of a bike inner tube. I've tried it out and it works but I want to modify it later with some improvements.

Then I might show it off to my friends one Thursday evening. They will know what I mean.

**Editor:** I have enjoyed my first visit to your home and hope to repeat it sometime. Before we conclude do you have any views on the Chapter?

**Eddie:** I find my occasional visits too crowded, too impersonal and hard to see and follow the demos. The meeting with fellow turners at the tea break is the best part for me.

**Editor :** Thanks for talking to me and keep working , .....now about that stained glass hobby you had one time.....

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## CHAPTER COMMITTEE 2002

**Chairman**—Seamus Carter, 15 Woodlands Road, Johnstown East, Dun Laoire. Tel 01-2850087

**Secretary**—Pacelli O'Rourke, 161 Belgard Heights, Tallaght, D24. Tel. 01-4515276

**Treasurer**—James Gallagher, 25 Osprey Ave, Templeogue, Dublin, Tel. 01-4505981

**Workshops**—Frank Gallagher, 3 Rossmore Close, Templeogue, Dublin, Tel. 01-4902879

**Videos/ books**—Terry Cruise, 26 Dun Emer Drive, Sandyford Road, Dundrum, Tel. 01-2956363

**Competitions**—John Holmes, 31 Clonkeen Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Tel. 01-2894193

Tom Gibson, 124 Lorcan Ave, Dublin 9, Tel. 01-8420634

Una Sheeran, 4 Grange Road, Grange Abbey, Dublin, Tel. 01-8473413

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### Help!

Joe O'Neill is writing the history of the Guild to date and would appreciate material on this subject whatever the nature. He particularly wants Guild Journal no.2 and 13.

### LATHES FOR SALE

Two Record DML 24's complete with drive and live center. One is quite new and owned by Tom Gibson. The other is the property of the Chapter who wish to dispose of it before buying a replacement.

Sensible offers please to Tom on 01-8420634 or 086 8241470

### Kellys of Kilbenny Ltd Hebron Road, Kilbenny

Are trying to establish a link with Craft Supplies in the UK, because of local interest in woodturning. They already supply lathes and other woodworking tools and would welcome enquiries and orders for items sold by Craft Supplies. The contact is Ned Cantwell at 056-21405, fax 056-22957 Or email >ncantwell@kok.ie<



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