



Irish Woodturners' Guild Dublin Chapter

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October - November 2003

Editorial

I, like others, am still reliving the wonderful 2003 National Seminar in Maynooth last month. From the clever use of a router on a taper box devised by **John Hutton** of the Midlands Chapter to make walking sticks, to the exotic turnings of **Mark Sfirri** from the USA, there was something for everybody to marvel at and enjoy. And for those with money left over there was an enormous selection of trade stands to pick and choose from, including lathes from as little as €185 to several thousand euro.

Congratulations to the committee who did a magnificent job organising, wheeling and dealing and the myriad other fixes to get the show on the road and keep it there for the weekend. Thanks especially to the new boys on the committee, our Chapter members **Owen Furniss** and **Sean O'Neill**, who worked as tirelessly as the others to ensure we had something to remember. Congratulations to our own **Michael Fay** who scooped two prizes in the 'Beginners under 2 years experience category'. He won first prize for his bowl in burr elm and a third for his goblet laminated in bog oak and ash. He is also Turner of the Year in the Experienced class of the monthly competition.

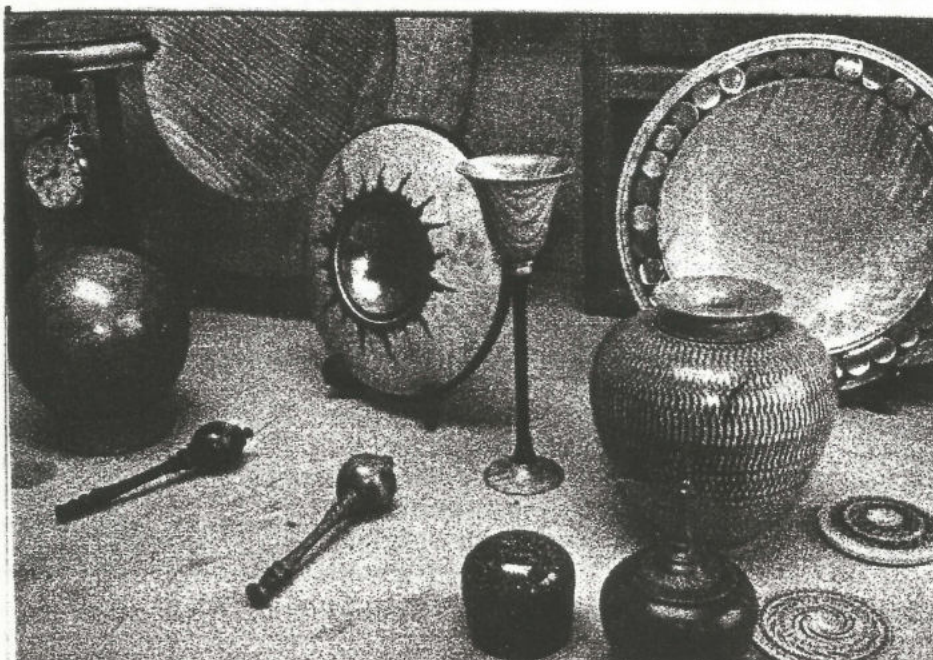
Thanks too to the Glenroyal Hotel for making the all important dinners so memorable. Next big date for you to remember, and support if you can, is the exhibition of turning being held as usual in the atrium or entrance to the South Dublin County Council offices in Tal-laght, between Dec 8th and 12th 2003. See separate notes on this further on.

As usual I thank all who have contributed articles, photos or items of interest and helped to make my job easier. And anytime in the future you feel like sending something in, do so and I will bless you.

Chris Hayes—editor

SOME OF THE BEAUTIFUL OBJECTS TURNED AND EMBEL-LISHED BY MICK HANBURY, ON VIEW DURING OUR VISIT TO HOLYHEAD LAST SEPTEMBER. -

-photo by Eugene Colgan



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Special points of interest:

- Do pay your subscription for 2004 early and make the treasurer happy.
- If you have an idea for a good demo, not just on turning per se, give someone a call.
- Do support the competitions as its bound to improve your turning and maybe win you glory.

The October Demo- "Square lid" box, by Hugh Flynn

Recommendations:

Proportions:	1/3rds top-body-foot
Finish Used:	Sandpaper 180 grit and higher
	Sanding Sealer Spray
	Finish Black Bison Paste Wax (has no toluene content)

The ends of the wood are accurately marked diagonally to obtain as close as possible a square at the top of the body, which is concentric to the centre of the piece.

Mount between centres and round the piece, leaving the section which is to remain square undisturbed. Clean up the ends to give you a balanced cylinder. Form a spigot to suit your chuck at the base end, and also form a rough shape of the lid. Mark where the lid will be cut off with a thin parting tool.

Remount the piece in your chuck and shape the outside of the lid concave using a spindle gouge. Be sure to remove the mark left by the revolving centre. Complete shaping of lid with a finial. Sand and finish lid and then part off with a thin parting tool. Make the parting cut slightly wider than the parting tool. This leaves a mark on the bowl, which you can use as a guide when cutting the lid recess.

Roughly hollow out the body using a bowl gouge or hook tool. Depth should be in the region of 3/4" and 7/8", similar to diameter of lid.

Shape top of square section where the lid sits. Hugh made this slightly concave. Fit the lid using a small square scraper, or a parting tool. Finish the inside of the body.

Mark position of the bottom of the body. Shape the outside of the body section, taking fine cuts on the underside of the square section, which should be convex to match top surface. Make the square section 2mm to 3mm thick. Bowl should also have a similar wall thickness. A light shone into the bowl can assist in getting an even wall thickness,

(Continued on page 3)



Hugh preparing his blanks for the box demo

More timber for turning

Sorry we disappointed some over yew in the Phoenix Park in October but you have another chance On **Nov 29th at 11 am** at the **Parks Depot, Esker Lane, near Lucan**, courtesy of Michael Hannon of the South Dublin County Council. **Only on Sat 29th please and no chainsaws**, as the council will provide their own man.

Directions: Take N4 to the west, past Woodies near Lucan, look for signs soon after for Esker Lane and then "Green Waste and Recycling"

See you there?

By the way, our benefactor John McCullen of the Phoenix Park would love an example of the art, in yew perhaps?

About Iroko, by Joe Laird

Type:

Deciduous, belongs to the Moraceae family. Botanical name is *Milicia Excelsa*. There are two types of Iroko, *Milicia Excelsa* and *Milicia Regia*; we do not get *regia* in this country. Iroko is often used as a substitute for Teak; a lot of people mistake Iroko for Teak but the logging companies do not distinguish between them.

Size:

This is very fast growing tree. It grows complete in 60 to 80 years. Its known as a canopy tree because it covers the tops of the rainforest. It grows to 50 meters in height and the girth of the tree is 10 meters. The first 20 meters of the tree is completely branchless and that gives us beautiful straight grain, however the branches

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The October Demo

(Continued from page 2)

particularly with lighter coloured woods. Sand and finish inside of body. Sand square edges if required to finish centrally with body if required.

Shape stem / foot with a spindle gouge or skew, and add texture to the stem, as Hugh did. The diameter of the foot should equal the internal diameter of the body. Sand and finish outside of body and the foot, and part off.

Reverse into a jam chuck and finish the base. The lid can also be set into a jam chuck, and it's base finished, or it can be simply sanded smooth.

—Graham Brislane



There was an old lady called Peig,
Who turned a fine cabriole leg.
She could master the skew,
On Oak, Ash or Yew,
But don't ask her to boil you an
egg.

There was a young turner called
Pete,
A wizard was he with his feet.
He once turned a bowl,
With the side of his sole,
Now it's black from the friction
and heat.

(Good try, James Gallagher—editor)

About Iroko, a talk by Joe Laird

(Continued from page 2)

tend to pull and twist towards the sun and this gives us our familiar twister grain Iroko.

Location:

Tropical Africa i.e. Congo Ghana, Camaroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawai, Sudan, Zaire. This tree has been exploited in East Africa mostly by Kenya, Mozambique and it has been awarded the Scarlet Star, which is extremely serious. It is now illegal to buy or sell Iroko from this part of the world. The Iroko we get comes from West Africa where it continues to grow

Medicine.

The latex is used to reduce tumours, throat infections and sinuses. The bark is used to treat coughs, dysentery, heart problems and tiredness.

Timber uses:

The timber is very popular for shipbuilding. It is not a hundred percent waterproof but it is resistant to severe weather conditions and marine borers. It is also used for furniture, decking, barrels, outdoor furniture in fact a lot of houses in this country would have Iroko banisters, front and back doors.

Colour:

The sapwood of the tree can be a light yellow, as we go into the tree we get golden brown and then the heartwood would be dark brown the heartwood is resistant to termites and marine borers.

Irritation

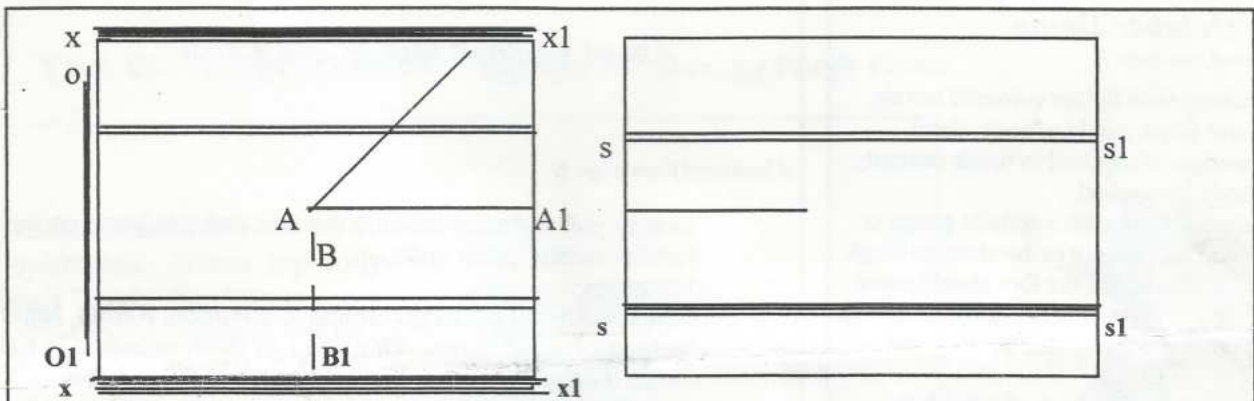
Many people know that Iroko can cause irritations etc. It can create an uncomfortable environment in workshops very quickly. A lot of wood tuners I have spoken to do not like using it, or would prefer not to use it. I am highly allergic to Iroko and cannot work with it or even near it. Iroko carries a virus that stays in the tree, when the timber is machined, cut etc. It is dispersed and is atmospheric. It will find the likes of me very quickly. Some symptoms are irritations on the ankles, wrists, back of ears, face and eyelids (can feel like sunburn) coughing, burning sensation in back of the throat and back of nose sneezing and watery eyes. Many people do not and will not have any problem working with Iroko. But some of us have to be very careful.

Finish:

As the grain tends to twist and turn quite often you need to keep your tools very sharp. A lot of sanding may be needed. If you have some rough spots you can use water to lift the fibres and then sand again, be careful not to leave for too long as water will turn it black in parts. Will take all finishes (oil, wax polish, etc) and comes up well. Will darken with age and blacken around sinks regardless of finish.

—Joe Laird

AN AID TO BANDSAWING BLANKS READY FOR TURNING



False Deck

Band saw worktable.

- ≡ Represents mitre gauge slips.
- x—x1 Represents slips which fit in around the sides of the band saw worktable.
- O—O1 Represents a stop board which prevents false deck going in too far on blade.
- B—B1 Represents line of holes at right angles to the line of the saw cut.
- A—A1 Represents saw blade

Mitre gauge slots s——s1

Blank cutting jig for band saw. The idea is to make a false deck for the band saw, so using M.D.F., ply, or similar board cut a piece to roughly cover the band saw table. Onto the underneath of this deck fit two slips, which fit snugly into the mitre gauge slots. If you have no mitre gauge slots then the two slips are fitted to the deck so that they grip each side of the worktable. In either case a stop is fitted to the front of the deck. This is just a board which stops the false deck sliding back too far into the blade. The false deck is now slid onto the worktable of the band saw and is pushed into the cutting blade until the stop board prevents it going any further. At this stage we have the forward cutting edge of the blade. We now draw a line at right angles to the saw cut, out to the right as you face the blade, commencing at the at the forward cutting edge point. I drilled holes along this line at half-inch intervals. Through one of these holes I threaded a screw, from the back. When the screw is fully inserted it protrudes only about 1/8 inch through the deck. When I want to cut a blank say 9inch diameter, I insert the screw into the hole at the 4 1/2 inch mark on the false deck, and then place the centre of the wood to be cut onto the screw, then slowly slide deck and wood into the blade till I reach the stop board. I now slowly revolve the wood on the screw, into the blade until the 9-inch blank is cut.

It is very important that the base of the timber to be cut is level because if the wood rocks on the deck or worktable the blade will jam and distort or break.

Tom McKeon

Editors note— I made up the above jig according to Tom's instructions and found it works very well. He suggested that it helps if you file off the first few threads of the protruding screw as a better pivot point.

**The Galway Chapter
One day seminar
May 8th 2004**

Gort Community School, Co Galway
Featuring Jean-Francois Escoulen, David Comerford, Mike Regan and others from the host chapter.
Cost €50, contacts: Martin Lodge 086-2560390

DAY TRIP TO HOLYHEAD SEPT 2ND 2003

Once again a large party from the Dublin Chapter disembarked to a welcoming smile from our genial host Albert Harrison and by 9 o'clock we were being entertained to an amazing variety of woodturning skills. There was *Dave Kelly* making exquisite boxes for rings,

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In the middle of turning Albert surprised and delighted us with some quite funny card tricks.

—photo by Eugene Colgan

The Holyhead visit

(Continued from page 4)

Albert's clever jig for turning out spoons in quantity, *Joe Balmar's* fantastic twists worked into goblets and mushrooms among others.

Andy Lodge could make cabriole leg turning look easy and provided us with detailed drawings to try this and other projects for ourselves. *Mick Hanbury's* embellishment on boxes or bowls combined with colouring drew large attendances all day long. I included a photo of some of his work on page 1 because I thought it so well executed.

Our buffet lunch provided by *Albert's wife, Anne*, left us all speechless! Hard to talk too when your mouth is full. What a feast!

So, thanks *Peter* for organising things so faultlessly on top of your 'shocking' accident!

Thanks to our British friends who went to so much trouble to entertain us. We look forward to meeting some of them at least at our Dublin Chapter seminar next year.
—editor

The Social Seminar, Maynooth 2003

Your will all be happy to know that the final events at the seminar continue to prosper and for some time now have totally taken over from the dull world of woodturning.

I am reliably informed that in future years the venue will be selected on the basis of availability of good restaurants, scenic views and not least of all, the nature and quality of the local brew.

The importance of the social side cannot be underestimated and for many it would be the number one reason for going. New friendships are forged, old acquaintances renewed and strengthened. Invitations extended to visit one's workshop. Even if you never watch a demo you could still have a whale of a time. That's my experience, anyway.

See you there in 2004?—*Cecil Barron*

GLENN LUCAS WORKSHOP

On Saturday July 19th the North East Chapter organised an interesting workshop with Glenn Lucas in Carlingford, Co Louth. The attendance included a number of members from the Dublin Chapter. It was worth the trip just to visit the beautiful village of Carlingford.

It was a most interesting day. Glenn is a full-time production turner concentrating mainly on bowls. He supplies a number of prestigious outlets at home but also exports to the USA. He has a small but very well set up workshop in the centre of Carlingford. He has two lathes in the workshop – a Graduate bowl turning lathe and a VB 36. The Graduate is equipped with a suction facility for reverse turning and for turning such items as breadboards. He demonstrated it and it is indeed impressive. The suction pump costs €575 and the other bits and pieces required come to another few hundred. For anybody who does a lot of reverse turning, and has everything else, it might be worth consideration. Glenn also demonstrated the Oneway 'Easy core Coring System' for taking several bowls from one blank. This was impressive and seemed quite easy to use unlike some of the systems I've seen in the past. Cutter knife sets come in different sizes (9, 11.5, 13.75, and 16.25 inches) to cut out different sized cores. You are limited to these sizes and also to one fixed curve with each. The base unit costs about £115 sterling and each knife set from £90 to £120.

I was interested in the finish that Glenn was satisfied with from the tool. Once there was no torn grain he didn't mind ripples or ridges in the wood. His attitude is why waste time with tools when 80 grit sandpaper will quickly take out the tool marks! He always starts with 80 grit (except on softer woods such as Sycamore) and moves through the grits to 220. He uses power sanding, a five-inch disc on the outside and a three and two inch on the inside. He then applies a coat of Danish Oil, lets this dry for 24 hours, puts it back on the lathe and lightly sands it with 400 grit sandpaper and then applies a second coat of Danish Oil. After drying for a further 24 hours he again puts it back on the lathe and rubs it down lightly with 0000 steel wool before applying the final coat of oil. He emphasises that it is important to rub off excess oil after each application particularly the last one. Finally he turns off the chucking spigot and polishes the base with Friction Polish. Glenn includes Care Instruc-

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Glenn Lucas workshop

(Continued from page 5)

tions with each item sold: "to maintain the high quality of this piece, clean with a damp cloth. Wipe occasionally with liquid paraffin, which can be purchased at any chemist. Do not immerse in water. Treating with care will ensure a lifetime of use."

Occasionally Glenn uses Liquid Paraffin as a finish on bowls. He demonstrated using Liquid Paraffin during sanding. When sanding is finished he applies a coat of Shellac sanding Sealer. When this is dry he gives it a final sanding to remove the raised grain before applying the final coat of liquid paraffin. He explained that while Liquid Paraffin will raise the grain it won't harden it to hold the raised grain for sanding. The sealer will harden the raised grain and allow it to be sanded to a smooth finish.

As with any workshop there were many other tips and ideas shared during the day. If you want to find out what these were contact Tom McCourt and ask him to book you into next year's workshop! Thanks to Tom and the Northeast chapter for a great day.

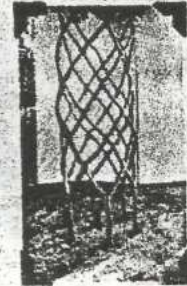
—Michael McGee

Shay Nolan passed this interesting ad to me. A place to visit if you are ever in Gilroy, California. It all began in the 1920's and continues even after the trees were moved twice to new locations.

Click on www.bonfantegardens.com for more info.



Entrance to Tree Circus
Scotts Valley, CA



Basket Tree at about 7 years

Then and Now



Entrance to Bonfante Gardens
Gilroy, CA



Basket Tree today

Exhibition of Woodturning, Dec 8-12, 2003

South Dublin County Council offices, Tallaght

Once again the Chapter plans a pre-Christmas exhibition of woodturning.

Members of the Chapter are asked to bring items to show the wide variety and high standard of wood-turning in the Dublin area. Especially we would encourage members to bring along items which have featured in competitions.

While the Chapter does not sell items, exhibitors may independently sell and take responsibility for the sale. We would request, that as this is an exhibition, any item sold and removed should be replaced by an equivalent piece for the duration of the show.

The Exhibition Committee will arrange items in the hall for the best visual impact. All items should be brought to the South Dublin County Council Offices in Tallaght, not later than **Monday 8th at 12.30** and removed on the **Friday following, between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.**

Tim Magill Perpetual Trophy (in aid of the Alzheimer Society)

Please note: this year items entered for the Tim Magill Perpetual trophy should be brought to the monthly meeting in Terenure College on **Saturday 6th December**. Judging will take place at that meeting. The entries will be brought to the Exhibition by the Exhibition Committee.

All items entered in this competition become the property of the Alzheimer Society. Any entrant not wishing to surrender his/her piece must put a reasonable value on it and buy it back. Members wishing to donate turned pieces to the Society, but not entering them in the competition, may bring them either to the Terenure meeting or to the exhibition.

The normal monthly competition will also take place on **6th December**. For this the theme will be " A Christmas Item" . —John Holmes

2003	0												
Advanced	score	Dec	Jan	Feb	Ma	Apr	Ma	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
				<u>I</u>	<u>V</u>								
Michael McGee	115	15	13	11	13	15	13	13	15	7			
Cecil Barron	109	11	6	15	15	7	15	9	9	11		11	
Pat Walsh	87		9	5	5	9	11	11	13	9		15	
Albert Sloane	66		15	5	7		7	15	11	6			
Frank Foley	40		11	9				7				13	
Henry East	37					13	9			15			
Tony Lally	29		7	5	11			6					
Philip Kerr	25			6	6					13			
Adrian Finlay	23			7	5	11							
James Gallagher	13			13									
Des Mc Mahon	13	13											
Owen Furniss	9	9											
Albert Dooley	9				9								
Michael Deegan	7	7											
	0												
	0												
Experienced													
Michael Fay	107		<u>24</u>	9	15	9	7		15	13		15	
Sean Ryan	106	15	11	13		15	15	13	7	6		11	
Joe Laird	72					<u>24</u>	5	15	13	15			
Chris Hayes	69		13	5	13	11	13		9	5			
Tom Gibson	55					13	5	6	11	11		9	
John Holmes	50	13	9			5	9	7		7			
Tom McKeon	46		15	15	11		5						
Colm Hyland	37										<u>24</u>	13	
James Nolan	33			7		6	11			9			
Graham Brislane	<u>23</u>			11		7	5						
Pacelli O'Rourke	22	11	6							5			
Donal Browne	18	7						11					
Billy Kellaghan	15		5	5						5			
Geoff Cronin	11						6	5					
Norm Bannister	10							5		5			
Niall Cahill	9	9											
S McMorrow	9							9					
F Gallagher	7		7										
P O'Gorman	5									5			
Beginners													
E Colgan	73	13		15	9			7	11	7		11	
Paddy Finn	67	9	11	9	6	5	9			5		13	
Kevin Dowling	59			7	13	9	13	5		5		7	
John Foley	59					11		11	15	13		9	
Una Sheeran	50		13					13		9		15	
Tom Delaney	49			5	13	11	9	6	5				
Des Doyle	49				11	15	5	13	5				
Irene Christie	39	11				5	5	7	11				
David Laing	34			13		7		9	5				
David Cox	21			11	5			5					
Pat Lambert	12				7			5					
Willie Coules	11							6		5			
Janet Mulhern	9		9										
Jimmy Rice	7		7										
T Donoghue	6					6							
Lorraine Kelly	5					5							
	0												

The competitions secretary, **John Holmes**, thanks all who entered the competitions in 2003. He congratulates the following who are promoted:
From beginners to experienced
 M.Fay , J.Laird, C.Hyland, U.Sheeran, E.Colgan.

Experienced to advanced
 M.Fay and S.Ryan

Turners of the year in their categories
 M.Fay, E.Colgan and M.McGee.

M.McGee gets to hold the Newman Cup for 2004.

- SUBJECTS FOR THE 2003 COMPETITION**
- Dec 02-Christmas item
 - Jan 03- Finials
 - Feb -Picture frame
 - March- Lidded bowl
 - April —Bread board
 - May — Mallet
 - June— Vase
 - July— Laminated item
 - Aug— Open
 - Sept— An aid to turning
 - Oct— Turned legs
 - Nov— None (AGM)
 - Dec — Christmas item

- Demos during 2003**
- Jan — Barrel lamp
 - Feb— Pot type vessel
 - March— Carving
 - April - Tulips
 - May— Bowl turning
 - June- Mantle clock
 - July— Cup and saucer
 - Aug— Mushroom box
 - Sept— Aids to turning
 - Oct— Square lid box
 - Nov- AGM

Clock movements, watch inserts and accessories



Philip J Dix and Co
6 Aston Quay
Dublin 2
Tel 01 6717144/6710579

Hours— Mon to Fri only, 9-5
Closed for lunch, 1-2

Chapter news

- **Seminar 2004**—the committee expect to announce the venue and date soon.
- **Deceased members**— will be remembered by having trees planted in Larch Hill.
- **Video of demos**— committee are looking at purchasing improved cameras.
- **New lathe for demos**— a decision has been taken and the new model should be in use by December. Guess who will be the first to try it out?

The committee 2003

- Chairman** –Joe O’Neill – 2989441/087-6230162
- Secretary** –Tom McKeon-8340185
- Treasurer**- James Gallagher – 4505981
- Workshops** –Frank Gallagher – 4902879
- Videos and books**- Terry Cruise- 2956363
- Competitions** –John Holmes-2894193
- Supported by** –Pat Walsh and Albert Dooley
- Auditors**----Harry Kampff and Tom McDonagh
- Chapter website**—<http://homepage.eircom.net/~dciwg>

(editor’s note: sorry I missed out the character ~ in the last issue, the new Hon Sec. has again reminded me to get it right).

LOOK!

Joe O’Neill offers turning lessons, in a group or on a one- to-one basis if preferred, at his workshop in Ballinteer. You can reach him on 01-2989441 or 087-6230162

Turning supplies

- **Tom Gibson** can supply timber blanks, native and imported.
- Bowl blanks and lamp kits.
- Cellulose sealer in tins.
- Call him on 01-8420634 or 086-8241470
- Email <tommgibson@hotmail.com>

