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Irish Woodturners Guild

Dublin Chapter Newsletter

April 2008 Volume 3 Issue 2



Time flies when you keep putting things off!

Well the nine or so weeks since I finished the last newsletter have flown for me and here I am again looking for something vaguely interesting to write...

I'll save the blubbing about my granddad for next time...

As with my first newsletter, I'll start by thanking people. Particularly Gerry Ryan and Christi n Van Bussel, who have once again come up trumps with lots of great material. Gerry's articles and Christi n's sketches have been the cornerstones of my first two stabs at the newsletter and it has made my task so much easier to have their work to help hide the inadequacies of my own efforts. My thanks also to Hugh Flynn for the excellent photography and also to Barry Dunne for supplying articles.

I didn't start out with the intention of coming across like the editorial equivalent of Gwyneth Paltrow at the Oscars here. What I'm really trying to do is to encourage more contributions (no matter how small). It is *your* newsletter and the more *you* contribute the better and more varied the newsletter will be. So don't be shy, I'll take anything from big articles sent via e-mail to scribbled down one liners handed to me at the meeting.

I told you not to buy anything from C. U. Coming!

One area that would be of interest to me and, I suspect, other members would be reviews of lathes and other equipment you own. These do not need to be full blown 5,000 word essays. A few bullet points about what is good and/or bad would be of interest to anyone considering parting with their hard-earned...

I'd also like to resurrect something along the lines of interviews with members that used to appear in the newsletters some years back and would be interested to hear from anyone who has any ideas for this.

As ever, you can collar me at the meeting, reach me by e-mail at: rvarney@eircom.net or by phone on 086-8327985 or you can even drop stuff in the post to me: Richard Varney, 1 Bewley Grove, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

Rich.

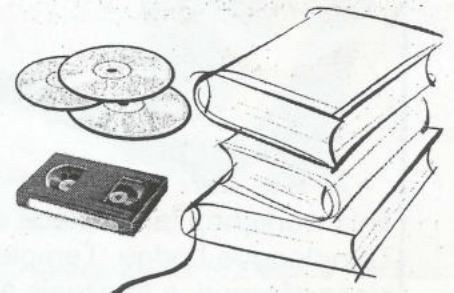


Inside this issue:

- Workshops
- Competition news, results and photos
- Larch Hill
- Turning and Learning Part 2
- March Demo
- Exhibition News

Library Returns Please!!

Before coming to the next meeting please check to see if you have any books, videos or DVDs from the library and if so, return them.



Committee Members for 2008

<u>Position</u>	<u>Members Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Chairman	Jonathan Wigham	01-4932890
Secretary	Tommy Boyle	087-6995111
Treasurer	Paddy Finn	087-9801142
Competitions	Tom Delaney	087-9504690
Books & Video	John Killoran	01-4903410
Workshops	Chris Lawlor	087-6484380
Exhibitions	Graham Brislane	087-2914770
Newsletter	Rich Varney	086-8327985

Beginner's Lathe Deal

ACM Woodtech have told John Killoran that they are offering a lathe deal that may be of interest to beginners in the chapter. They have an "unbranded woodlathe" for 299 Euro with a free set of tools with the first one purchased.

Contact :

ACM Woodtech Ltd.
Unit A3 Ballymount Drive
Ballymount Industrial Estate
Walkinstown
Dublin 12

Ph: 01-4089737

E-mail:

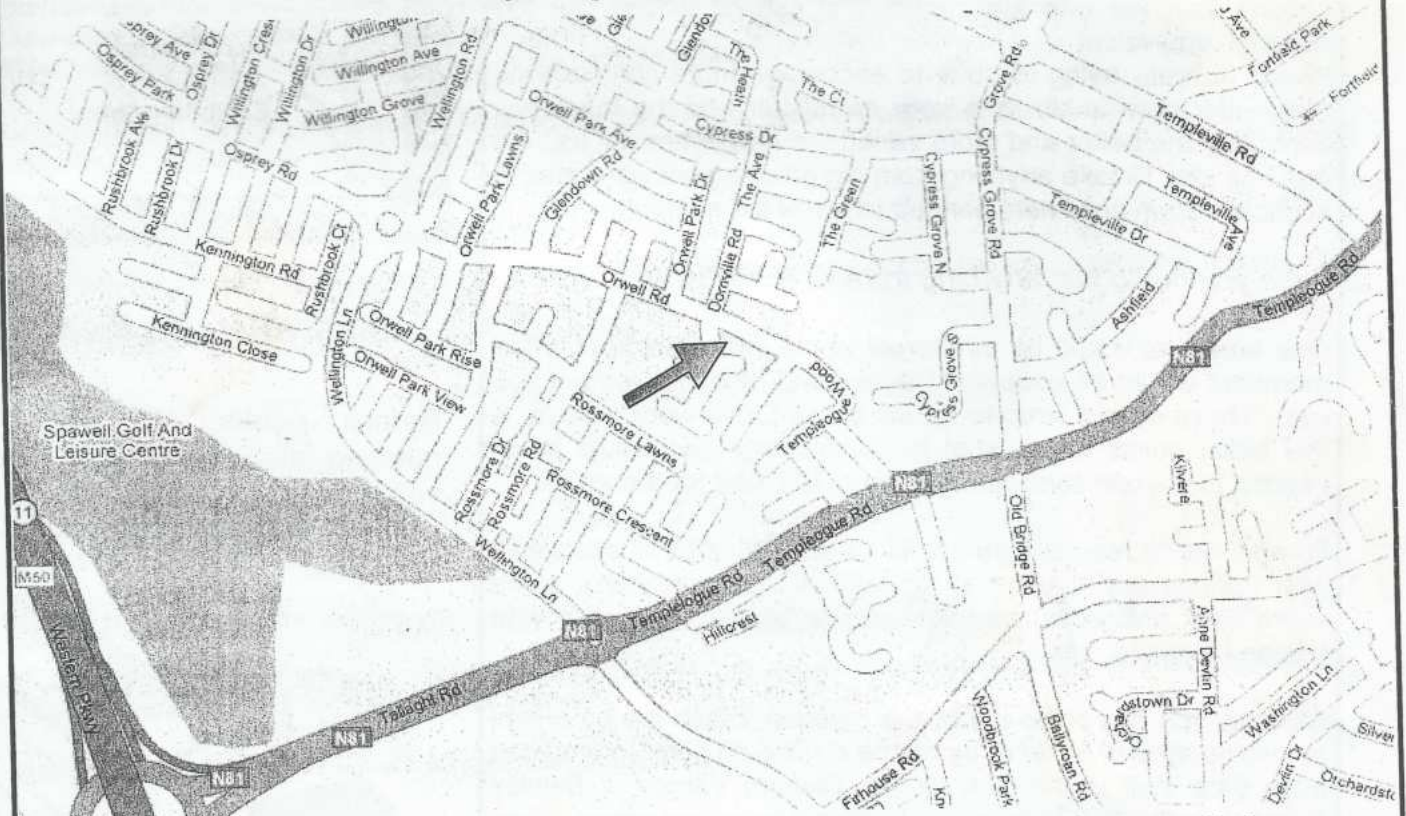
sales@acmwoodtech.com

Future Competition Pieces

- May: A gavel and anvil.
June: A platter.
July: A walking stick.



Thursday afternoon workshop



This workshop takes place every Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m at the Scout Hall, Templeogue Lodge, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. A lathe and Chuck will be provided so bring a piece of wood, a few tools and your ideas. Contact: Joe McLoughlin (087-2610803).

LARCH HILL



On March the 8th we held the closing ceremony of Tree Week at Larch Hill and what a dreadful morning it was I was surprised that anybody turned up but as it happens there were about forty people in attendance.

The wood turners were well represented. Christy Byrne, his daughter Jackie (our tea lady) and his son Paul. Michael Kenny, Henry East and his wife Bev and Joe O'Neill. Liz Boden was also there in fact Liz took the hike around Larch Hill we had a very pleasant hour walking the estate.

Many thanks to all who took part on what was a very wild morning.

If anyone would like to visit Larch Hill and see our little tree nursery or walk the tree trail give me a call. 087-6433061 or 4967188

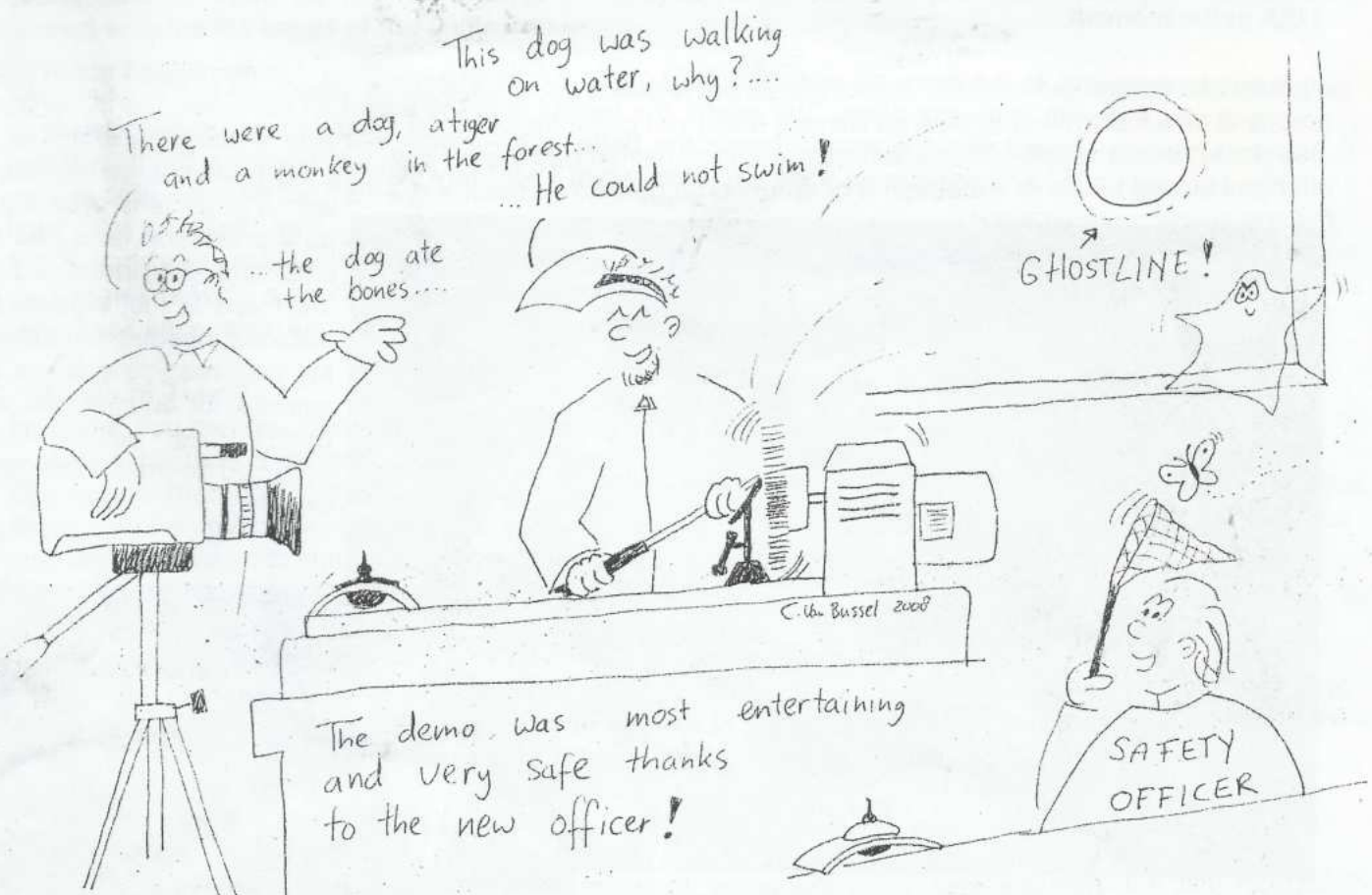
Barry Dunne.

Visitors

A reminder to members regarding visitors attending guild events:

Each chapter member is entitled to invite one visitor to any meeting or event. However both the member and visitor are required to sign an attendance form on arrival. Visitors are entitled to attend one guild event per year. There have been recent occurrences where visitors have arrived at meetings without the member that recommended them. This has put the treasurer in an awkward situation as the committee obviously do not wish to see people turned away, but also have to observe guild rules for insurance etc.

Your co-operation is appreciated.



Joe O'Neill, Joe Laird and Seamus Carter in action at the February meeting as seen by Christián Van Bussel.

Turning and Learning: Part 3

1. Tips from our Demonstrators.

In February Joe Laird made a Chinese Box, and as he said himself, it was not a project for the beginner. Neither was it one for the fainthearted, so instead of attempting to cover his work in any detail, I tried to pick out a few tips for the more timid of us. However, let us be in no doubt that this was a very skilful and courageous bit of work by Joe.

Safety Tips.

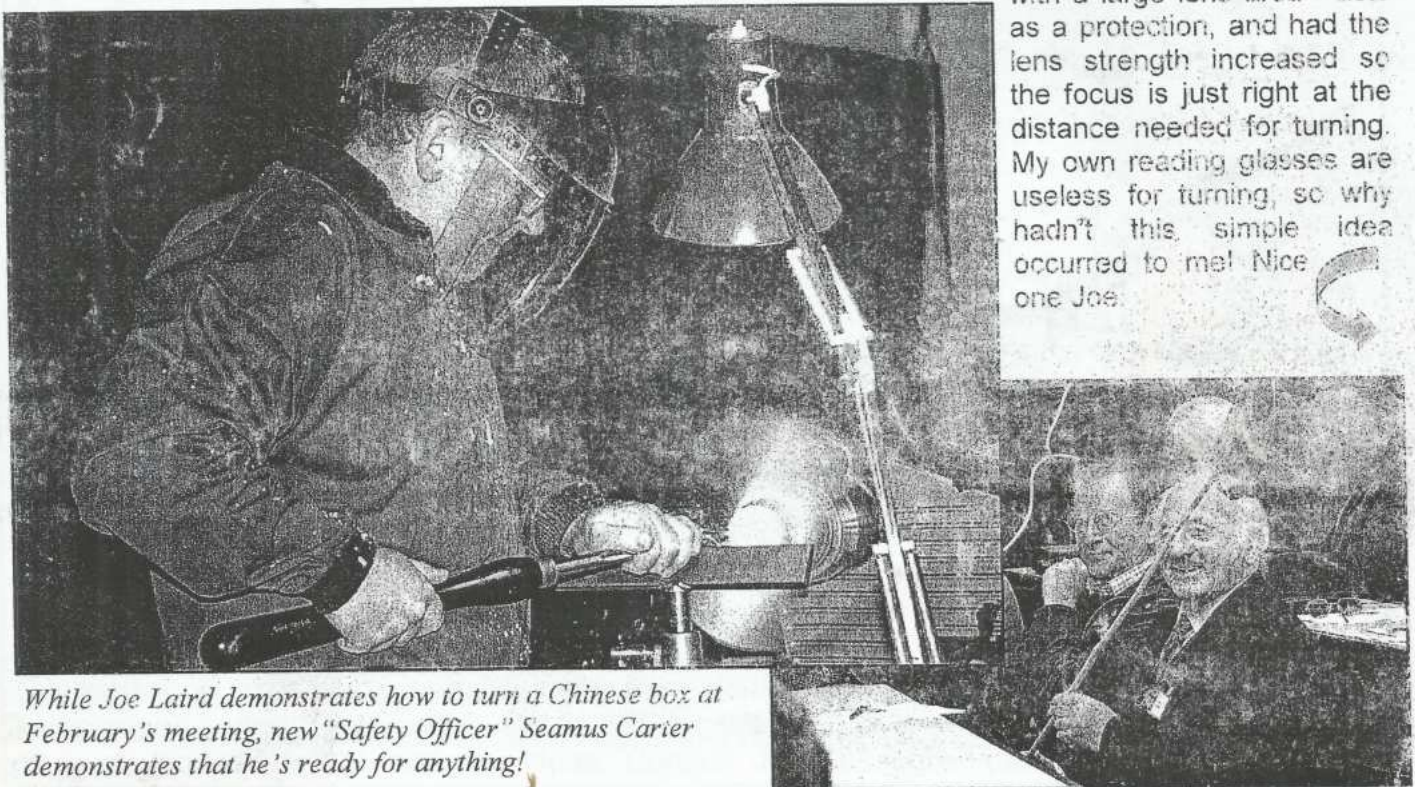
The work involved working from a billet of beech spinning at right angles to the lathe axis, and running at 3000 rpm; so as Joe said, there was more space than wood. Huge potential for losing a finger or perhaps worse. Joe was at pains to point out the safest methods, and for example he wore a face shield at times as he expected flying chips along with the shavings. It was difficult to make out the extremity of the "ghost" line and great concentration was necessary. Due to the high speed needed, he had added some wood adhesive when mounting the piece on a screw chuck, and just in case of accident he had arranged the controls so he did not have to cross the line of fire at any stage. When approaching the speeding edges (so as to use the gouge from outside to centre), Joe was conscious of the danger of broken corners becoming projectiles, so he approached the shadow very slowly, listened for the contact, and then waited to hit the "sweet spot".

Advice from a Master.

As usual, we all like to learn more about the tools of the trade and Joe used the blackboard a lot to give as much information as possible, including the swept back profile he gave to a wide beading/parting tool with which he created extremely crisp edges to the box and lid joints. His folded steel range of tools were much admired, require little attention to edges, and according to Joe these and other tools are great value in the USA at the moment.

It may seem obvious to the more experienced, but I made a note of something Joe mentioned about fitting a chuck into a recess in a work-piece. The nearer the recess is to the minimum diameter, the more chuck jaw you have in contact with the wood - hence the better grip - simple but true. Among the many other things I stored up in my ageing mind, I will copy him when I next buy glasses.

He had an extra pair made with a large lens area - acts as a protection, and had the lens strength increased so the focus is just right at the distance needed for turning. My own reading glasses are useless for turning, so why hadn't this simple idea occurred to me! Nice one Joe.



While Joe Laird demonstrates how to turn a Chinese box at February's meeting, new "Safety Officer" Seamus Carier demonstrates that he's ready for anything!

A Green or A Mean Project?

It Might Come in Useful.

Ever since I started doing any sort of DIY or woodwork, I have found it very difficult to miss any opportunity to save anything that "might be useful sometime". This especially applies to wood, metal, electrics and nuts and bolts in general. Is it just me, or as I suspect, this habit probably applies to some extent to everyone who is reading this page. My wife cringes in particular when I root about in other peoples rubbish skips.

It is almost five years since I rescued a pile of unplanned "4 by 2" from a neighbour's skip. The guys building his extension had dumped anything that had even a splash of mortar on it, and they considered anything less than six feet to be an off-cut! The following year I discovered that a bar was disposing - again in a skip - of all the shelving from their stock room. I spent ages unbolting and saving a considerable amount of that slotted angle iron that used to be sold as "Dexion" strip. It was only recently when I was forced to accept that an old swivel chair I had treasured was past its sell-by date and had to go, that I combined all three items of salvage, along with some off-cuts of decking. You can judge whether the result is a useless piece worthy of Mr Heath Robinson, or is a little gem of the art of re-cycling.

Tool Holder.

You may see from the drawing, over, that I removed the castors from the chair and used them on a mobile tool and gadget holder to go near my lathe. They are the type that push-fit on a 10 mil round spindle, and this was simply tapped into a hole in the bottom of the wooden base. The base may look a bit oversized but the almost 4 inches allows plenty of purchase for both the castors and the slotted angle-iron legs.

No dimensions are crucial, but I made sure that the overall height exactly matches the height of the saw benches that I use. This is very handy when you want to support the free end of long planks, pipes, etc. The other thing I took into account when cutting was that I wanted to finish up with the pieces of decking overlapping the frame (at the ends and the sides) by about an inch. This prevents little fingers coming in contact with the cut edges of the angle iron.

The piece of thin hardboard or MDF provides a well in the centre for bits and pieces, and should be cut so as to fit between the end angle irons. When fitting this piece you will be able to see if the frame is square and true. If not you can put it right before you tighten the decking bolts and the diagonal strut which you fit on one side. I forced the frame to square by converting a cramp to a "spreader" and using it between the legs. (Not as painful as it sounds.) If you make sure to have the decking with the bigger grooves upward, this is handy as small tools will be less likely to roll off. Finally you will find that the exposed sections of the end angles provide a good spot to hold those very handy magnetic bowls that grip so many "losable" items like chuck keys, allen keys, jaws etc.

Waste of Time?

Now that you can buy those cheap folding workbenches for about fifteen euro, is it a waste of time to make up this type of gadget? The holes in the top of the fifteen euro item are ideal for holding tools, so why did I bother making the tool holder? Well, we are encouraged to Recycle, Reuse and Reduce, so that there may be environmental factors in favour of this type of project. Maybe the economic Tiger will depart and we might need to start salvaging and scavenging again. However, my main reason for saving and adapting old bits of gear is that I bloody well enjoy it!

I was reminded by the mention of the cheap folding workbenches, that they provide an easy solution to mounting those small bench saws that are becoming more readily available. Simply bolt the saw to a one inch piece of sheeting, which should be cut to the size of the opened bench. Then clamp the board to the extended workbench. This beats bolting it to your fixed bench, as you can lug the saw round your workplace. If you need to transport it by car you can simply undo the clamps.

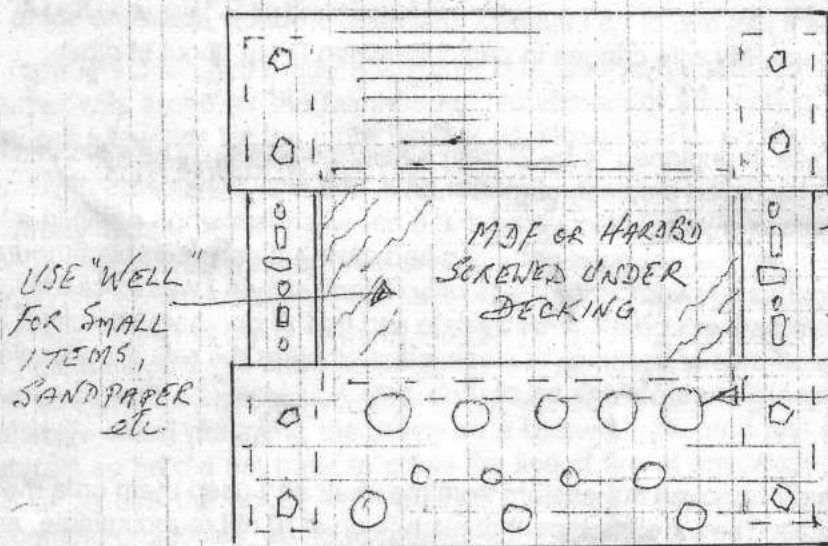
What About You?

Do any of you have tips to pass on which combine recycling with enjoyment, and maybe a little ingenuity? I imagine the editor would love to hear from you. (*Absolutely—Ed.*)



Tool Holder

TOP VIEW



DEEPER SLOTS OF
DECKING UPWARDS.

HOLES, SLOTS CAN BE
USED FOR SMALLER TOOLS

OR
USE FOR MAGNETIC TRAY

DRILL VARIOUS FOR
GOUGES, SCRAPPERS
ETC.

USE "WELL"
FOR SMALL
ITEMS,
SANDPAPER
ETC.

SLOTTED ANGLE

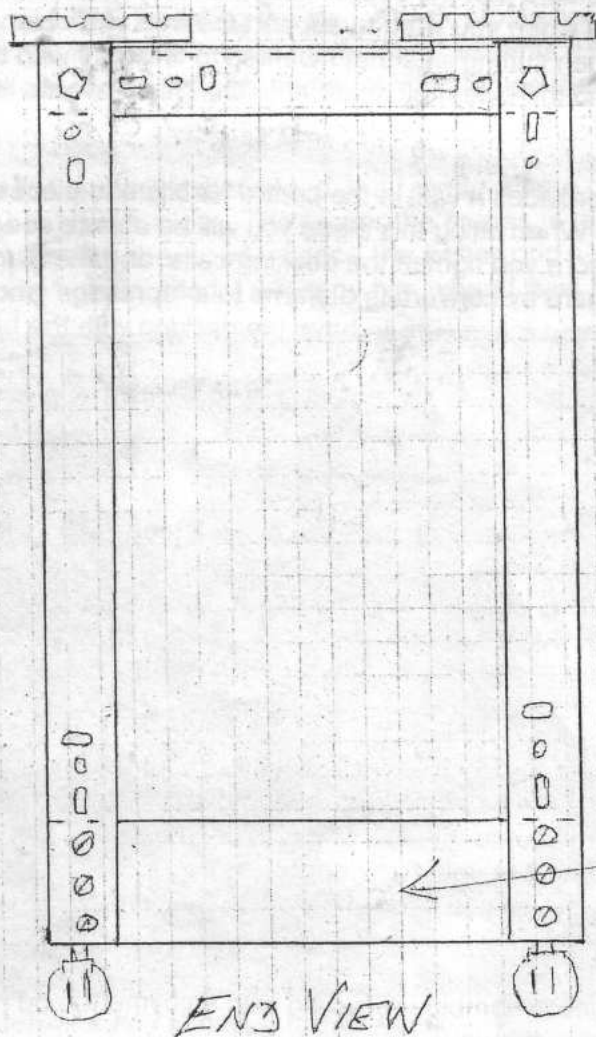
- 4 OFF 27"
- 2 OFF 15"
- 1 OFF 24" (FOR
DIAGONAL STRUT)

BASE FRAME

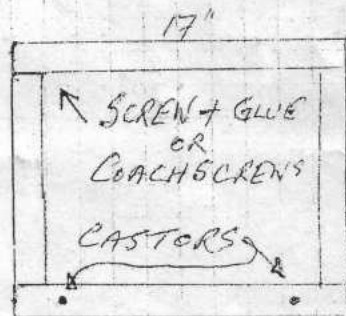
- 2 OFF 17" X 3 7/8" X 1 5/8"
- 2 OFF 11 1/4" X 3 7/8" X 1 7/8"

TOP

- 2 OFF 18" X 5 1/2" DECKING
- 1 OFF 14 1/4" X 7 1/4" 3MM
MDF OR HARDBOARD



END VIEW





The Wood Shed

11 Lowtown Road, Templepatrick, Co. Antrim BT39 0HD

Tel/Fax 028 9443 3833

www.wood-shed.com

e-mail enquiries@wood-shed.com

Suppliers of

Dried blanks, part-seasoned planks in native timber. Exotic blanks,

Pen Mandrels, bushes, kits, blanks, and boxes

Insert clocks, quartz movements, hands, numerals, dials

Lamp fittings, candle cups, lazy susans, glass chimneys, pot-pourri lids

Nova lathes, chucks, turning tools, abrasive discs, finishing pads

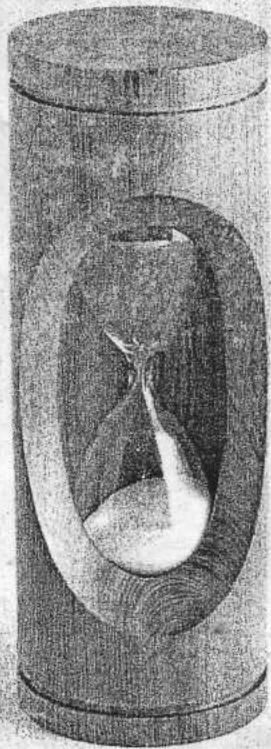
Sealers, waxes, polishes, colour dyes, in-lace, suede-tex

For any product not mentioned please ask.

Sam Moore will be at the May meeting in Terenure College with all of his usual wares. Anything out of the ordinary can be arranged in advance by dropping him an E-mail (see above) or phoning him (048-94433833 from the south of Ireland).

Competition News

February's item was an egg timer.

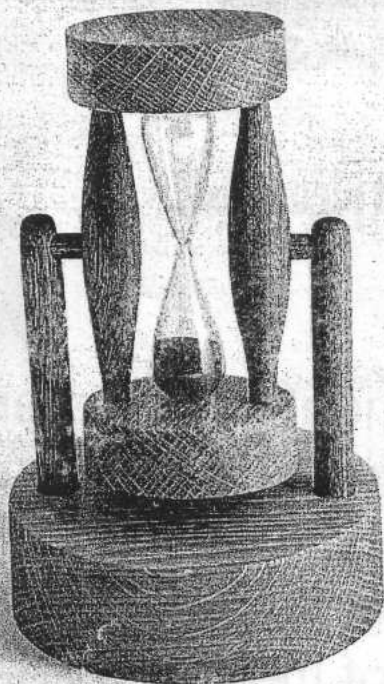


Henry East—Advanced

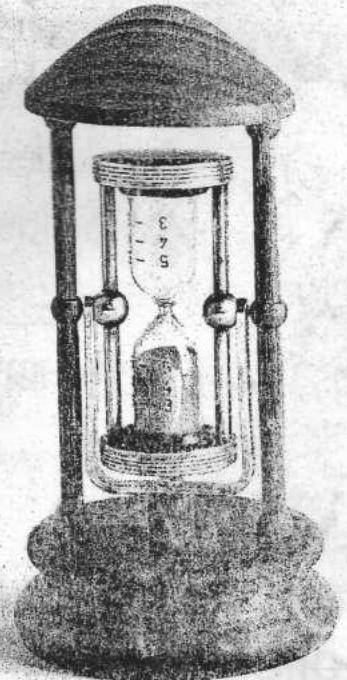


Christián van Bussel

February's judges were Cecil Baron, Albert Sloane and Graham Brislane.



Steve Harbourne—Beginners



Frank Gallagher—Experienced

All competition and demonstration photos by Hugh Flynn.

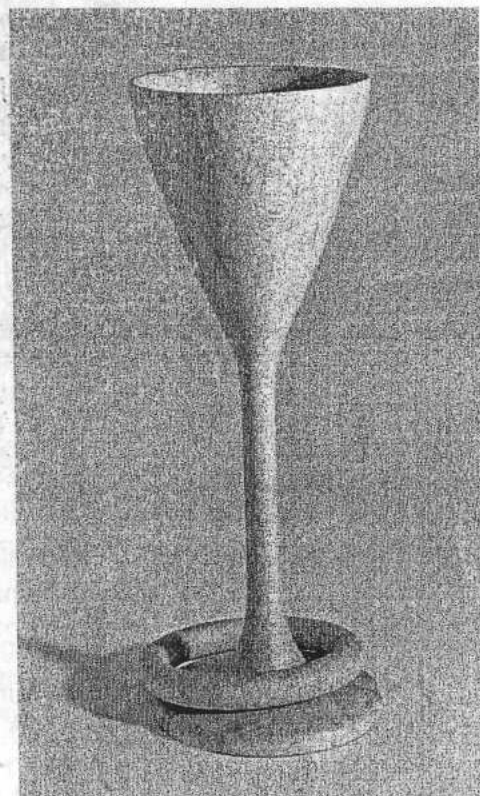
The piece for March was an off-centre goblet with captive rings.



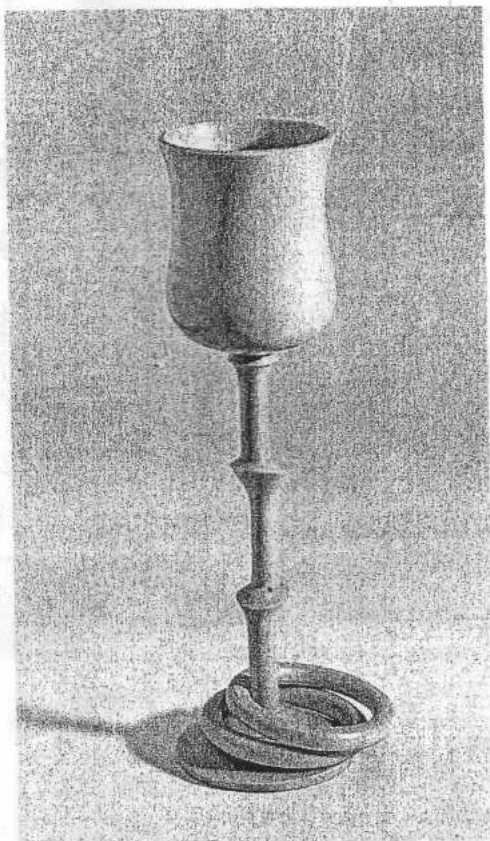
Colm McIntyre—Experienced



March's competition was judged by Joe O'Neill, Joe Laird and Tommy Boyle.



Steve Harbourne—Beginners



Michael Fay—Advanced

Competition Results 2008

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>
<u>Advanced</u>					
Michael Fay	52	9	15	13	15
James Gallagher	39	15	0	11	13
Pat M Walsh	29	0	13	7	9
Cecil Barron	24	13	11	0	0
Tony Lally	21	0	9	6	6
Albert Sloane	18	11	0	0	7
Henry East	15	0	0	15	0
Seamus O'Reilly	11	0	0	0	11
Malcolm Hill	9	0	0	9	0
<u>Experienced</u>					
Colm McIntyre	52	11	13	13	15
Gerry Ryan	37	15	9	6	7
Brian Kelly	31	13	11	7	0
Tony Hartney	28	0	15	0	13
John Holmes	24	0	7	11	6
Frank Gallagher	24	0	0	15	9
John Killoran	11	0	0	0	11
William Edwards	9	0	0	9	0
<u>Beginners</u>					
Steve Harbourne	45	Promoted	0	15	15
Liz Boden	41	Promoted	15	0	13
Tommy Murphy	11		0	0	11
Ronnie Butler	9		0	0	9
Martin Downey	7		0	0	7
Sean Egan	6		0	0	6

We interrupt this Broadcast...

Those who turned up early at the meeting in March were treated to the unfolding drama of Richard Murphy and me trying to set up the cameras at the lathe for the demonstration. I won't go into how we came to be doing this and how easy it should have all been, but suffice to say unplugging one or two connections in order to try and untangle a wire was not the best idea I've ever had. However it was starting to look comparatively promising, well, I was getting ready to run up the back and stick my fingers in my ears while Richard powered up. Then it was discovered that the remote control for the projector was missing. The problems did not stop there as we moved on to setting up the microphone and loudspeaker. To be fair, I think we made a reasonable fist of that, but again fate intervened as Peter Donagh refused to use the microphone for his demonstration.



In all the confusion I must have misheard Peter's introduction. I didn't see how he could possibly turn a 3 foot bowl with the equipment he had. That mystery was solved when Peter pointed out that although his bowl was to have 3 feet, this did not have to be a hard and fast rule.

Peter started by fitting a rough turned and dried ash bowl to the lathe using a home made friction drive (plate with sandpaper glued to it). The tailstock was used to hold it in place. He went on to explain that having sealed the end grain with Polybond, he dries his wet rough turned blanks using a home made drying cabinet. This has a small electric fan to vent air and a 60w light bulb for heating. He splits his drying phase into three phases:

- for 2 weeks he leaves the fan running constantly with the light bulb off;
- for a further 2 weeks he switches on the light bulb for approximately 12 hours per day with the fan still running;
- finally for a further 2 weeks the bulb is left on permanently and the fan is switched on and off at 12 hour intervals.

After cleaning up the outside of the bowl, Peter demonstrated how he marks out the feet and carves out

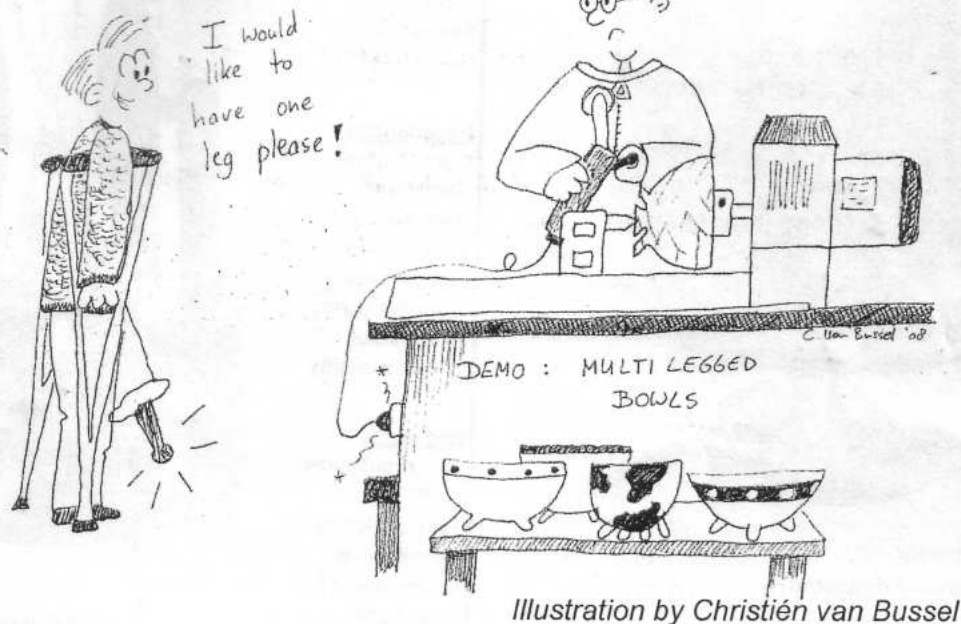


Illustration by Christián van Bussel

the waste with an arbortech. He originally used to use a chisel for this purpose, but the arbortech makes short work of the job. Initially the protruding area at the bottom of the bowl between the feet was left intact. This allowed for reverse chucking to finish the inside and top of the bowl. With the feet roughly shaped Peter fitted a sanding attachment to the arbortech and sanded on and around the feet to bring the area into line with the rest of the bowl. This was followed by some more turning on the outside of the bowl give the shape he wanted flowing into the feet.

With the bowl reverse mounted and the inside and top finished, Peter added a textured area to the outside of the bowl using a Sorby texturing tool and then a wire to define the edges. The bowl was then remounted to remove the spigot and finish the outside. Removal of the spigot required great care as the angle to access it is limited by the feet. The bowl was finished with domed mirror fixings, but Peter also showed how he makes domed decorations for his bowls from brass and copper.



Peter explained that he finishes his bowls with sanding sealer followed by four or more coats of Danish oil. He fills any holes or cracks with fibreglass resin. Spalted timber is treated with "Wet Rot Wood Hardener", this does not stain and can be used on corners and edges etc.

All in all a fascinating demonstration from which I picked up many tips. I trust that those at the back were not put at too much of a disadvantage by the technical issues.

Rich Varney

Woodturning Exhibition – Tallaght Hospital.

27th to 30th May 2008.

The Dublin Chapter will be hosting an Exhibition in Tallaght Hospital, from Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th May, in the lobby of the hospital.

As per usual, we will be selling items in aid of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, which have been made and donated by you, the members of this Chapter.

The Exhibition committee will be looking for members to help in setting up, manning the stand, and clearing up at the end of the week. It does not take much input, and is always a nice way to pass a few hours. You get a lot of satisfaction, for very little time and effort.

I am still looking for members to join the Exhibition Committee. I appealed for members to join in January, and so far nobody has offered. The time involved is approximately 2 meetings per exhibition, and some help during the exhibition week.

Graham Brislane
On behalf of the Exhibition Committee.

Exhibition Committee:

Graham Brislane
Michael Fay
Adrian Finlay

2008 Workshops

Seamus Carter will be hosting a workshop in April (date to be confirmed).

Colm Hyland will be doing a segmented turning workshop in June (date to be confirmed).

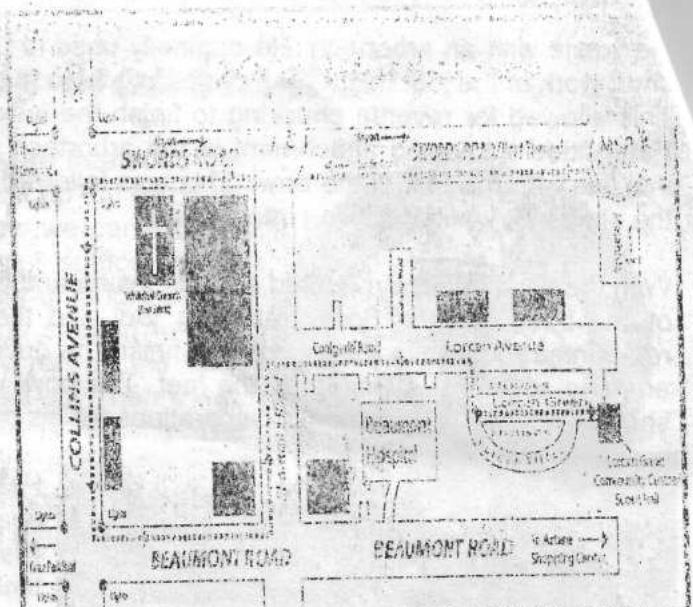
There are other workshops in the pipeline. Anyone looking for more details or interested in attending the workshops should contact Chris Lawlor (027-6484360).

Forthcoming Demonstrations

3 May 2008 Roger Bennett

8 June 2008 Charlie Ryan

5 July 2008 Seamus Carter



Dublin East Central Chapter

This chapter meets on second Saturday of each month in Lifford Green Community Centre / Scout Hall at 2.00 pm.

And finally...

Something for the computer buffs who like to keep abreast of the latest terminology in the fast moving I.T. Industry.

ADMINISPHERE - The rarefied organisational layers beginning just above the rank and file. Decisions that fall from the "adminisphere" are often profoundly inappropriate or irrelevant to the problems they were designed to solve. This is often affiliated with the dreaded "administrivia" needless paperwork and processes.

BLAMESTORMING - Sitting around in a group, discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed, and who was responsible.

SEAGULL MANAGER - A manager who flies in, makes a lot of noise, craps on everything, and then leaves.

ASSMOSIS - The process by which people seem to absorb success and advancement by sucking up to the boss rather than working hard.

TESTICULATING - Waving your arms around and talking b*****s.

SALMON DAY - The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get screwed and die.

CUBE FARM - An office filled with cubicles.

PRAIRIE DOGGING - When someone yells or drops something loudly in a cube farm, and people's heads pop up over the walls to see what's going on.

MOUSE POTATO - The on-line, wired generation's answer to the couch potato.

SITCOMs - Single Income, Two Children, Oppressive Mortgage. What yuppies turn into when they have children and one of them stops working to stay home with the kids or start a "home business".

STRESS PUPPY - A person who seems to thrive on being stressed out and whiny.

PERCUSSIVE MAINTENANCE - The fine art of whacking the crap out of an electronic device to get it to work again.

CROP DUSTING - Surreptitiously breaking wind while passing through a CUBE FARM, then enjoying the sounds of dismay and disgust, leads to PRAIRIE DOGGING.