



GALWAY CHAPTER NEWS

Issue 48
March 2006

Tracing the Line Exhibition

Liam Flynn is the curator of a new exhibition, **Tracing the Line**, which runs from **7 April – 28 May at the National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny**. The exhibition explores the formative influences on Irish woodturning and features both historical pieces and new work. The new work comes from renowned makers who have helped shape woodturning in Ireland over the past 24 years. The woodturners featured in the exhibition are Jim Partridge, Ciarán Forbes, Ray Key, David Ellsworth, Liam O'Neill and Maria van Kesteren.

Last year, Liam was awarded the first-ever Crafts Council of Ireland bursary of **€8,000**. The bursary, which has a fund of **€20,000**, is intended to release recipients from their usual commitments so they can invest in the creative development of their craft.

Liam will use part of the bursary to fund an eight-week residency in Philadelphia: the International Turners Exchange programme organised by The Woodturning Centre this summer. This is first time a turner from Ireland has been selected. It gives the artist a chance to explore new creative avenues. In the past, the change in direction in the work of some the artists has been startling. After the residency Liam hopes to attend the bi-annual Emma Lake Conference. This is a week-long collaborative event, held in Saskatchewan, Canada, originally started by Michael Hosaluk.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Chairman: John McGann	091-635354
Hon. Treasurer: Roger Greally	091-841666
Hon. Secretary: Ambrose O'Halloran	091-798225
John Kelly	
Martin Lodge	

Membership Fees were due on January 1st

Ordinary membership	€48
Family membership	€52
Student membership	€10
Associate membership	€10

Contact Roger for renewals

EDITORIAL

Why Have an Exhibition?

It seems to me to be a reasonable question. What purpose will it serve? What benefits will it bring? What are the pros and cons of the Chapter being involved?

For me the whole process of Woodturning is about seeking perfection. We can never attain it of course but we can raise our standards by trying to push our limits. So the exhibition provides a focus to allow the Chapter to present its very best work to the public.

The fact that people are involved in making pieces for the exhibition whether they eventually have a piece selected or not, means that they are pushing their own limits

and as such the standard of woodturning within the Chapter will rise.

There is, however, a great educational opportunity in holding an exhibition. The general public are often unaware of what we do and certainly are not able to distinguish between the different levels of turning. So here is a chance to do what is after all the primary objective of the Irish Woodturners' Guild, i.e., to promote woodturning. By mounting a juried exhibition, we can say with confidence, here is an exhibition of woodturning to a very high standard. This is really an important point. We are not displaying what we have judged to be acceptable, we will be displaying what John Jordan and James Harold have selected.

Therefore we can as a group contribute to the aesthetic awareness of the public.

It is really central to this exhibition that this is a Galway Exhibition staged by local woodturners. We are making a statement about our environment by taking a raw material from a heated public debate and repackaging it.

This part of the exhibition is much more powerful than simply a display of skill, it is a statement of our ethos. We all care about wood so let us make a collective statement and show how powerful that care can be.

MARCH MONTHLY CHALLENGE



1st

1st Place Hollow Form



2nd

2nd Place: Platter Clare Gurley



3rd

3rd Place 2 Section Hollow Form Michael Burke

Congratulations to all three. Please bring the pieces to the April meeting for a critique session

Chapter Events 2006

- **January 5th A.G.M.**
- **January 16th John & Sean McGann Workshop**
- **February 2nd Monthly Meeting**
- **February 18th Closed Workshop with Alan Batty (Book early!)**
- **March 2nd Monthly Meeting in Quality Hotel Oranmore**
- **March 23rd Special Critique Workshop on Eyre Square Exhibition**
- **April 6th Monthly Meeting**
- **April 20th John Kelly / Colm Clinton to held in Moycullen**
- **May 4th Monthly Meeting**
- **May 6th One Day Seminar 2006 in Gort (Book early !)**
- **May 7th Master-class with John Jordan**
- **May 18th Workshop Martin Lodge/Eddie Collins to be held in Corofin**
- **June 8th Monthly Meeting**
- **June 22nd Workshop TBA**
- **September 7th Monthly Meeting**
- **September 21st Workshop TBA**
- **October 5th Monthly Meeting**
- **October 19th Workshop TBA**
- **November 2nd Monthly Meeting**
- **November 16th Workshop TBA**
- **December 7th Monthly Meeting**
- **December 21st Christmas Party TBA**

MARCH WORKSHOP

The March Workshop was held in a hotel room with no lathes, no dust but one of the most impressive Woodturning displays ever held by the Chapter.

When we came up with the idea for the Workshop, we were not sure how well it would work. I have to say that seeing the 73 pieces on display was really an uplifting experience.

John Kelly and myself did a critique and some of you were kind enough to say afterwards that you found it interesting and educational.

When you first start turning, you want to make things, but if you want to progress you need to start

thinking about what and how something is made.

Having the 73 pieces, most of which were of a really high standard, allows you to be able to view a body of work and see why one piece works better than another.

As expected, almost half of the 33 pieces were bowls. But what was really impressive was the diversity of some of the pieces.

So my congratulations to everybody who brought pieces, well done. I really do expect that we will have over 100 pieces for the final selection. So please keep making.

In our discussions on the night we talked about how many pieces would be selected. The answer is it is up to the selectors but like the lotto if you are not in you can't win.

Every single member of the Chapter should have a least one piece in for the selection. There are four weeks to go, so there is still time.

At the April meetings we will discuss the entry rules and logistics etc for the selection process.

FLUTING JIG BY BILL JOHNSTON

For several years I have been trying to figure out a way to use a router to make fluted cuts in the tops of my hollow turnings, lidded vessels and around the exterior edges of a bowl. With the help of a few of my engineer woodturning friends I came up with this rather simple device which anyone could make.

I first made an indexing jig that permits 72, 60 and 45 stops. It is rather crude, but it works and it is quite accurate. I didn't have an indexing machine to do it so I just measured every 5 degrees, 6 degrees and 8 degrees and marked them on a piece of MDF. I wasn't smart enough to start the first hole of each ring on the same radius. If I had it would be a simple thing to move from one ring to another if I decided (for example) that 72 cuts were too many and wished to use 60 instead. The table mounting for the router is a flat surface (again of MDF) which has a dowel projecting below that fits into the tool rest holder.

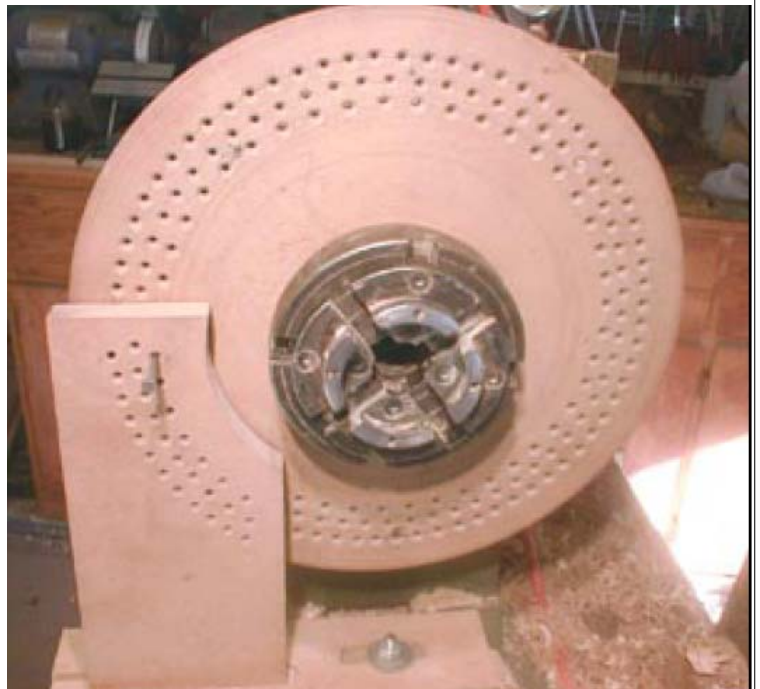
The router is actually a trim router. Not only would a large router be awkward it would be so large that it wouldn't be possible to centre the cutting bit unless you constructed anew lower tool rest holder. It is mounted into a frame that has a flat bottom.

The most difficult part is determining the cuts. I place the router to the place that I wish to begin a cut, mark that position then place the router where I wish to exit the cut and mark that position. I then use a right angle piece which becomes a stop and a guide for drawing the router through the cut. The cuts are straight. Curves are very difficult.

I use a 45 degree 1/4 inch router bit which is set out far enough from the router stand to allow sufficient projection in order to make the cuts.

I know that this is but a brief description, but perhaps it will give you some ideas.

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Bill Johnston Profile

Bill was born and raised in Bertha, Minnesota. Bill started turning wood in 1981, but in 1990 he began to get serious after experiencing the pleasures of turning green wood.

He turns mostly native wood in which he hopes to find unusual colour or grain. The use of the natural colour, grain and voids in wood, while still achieving an artistic design through balanced proportion and delicate shape, is the biggest challenge. To this end, Bill feels that an attractive design is the most important consideration. Utilizing shapes, carvings, voids, bark, and colour provide him with an artistic freedom of expression. He is constantly looking for wood that he visualizes would lend to a pleasing or unusual design.

Bill has found his second career as a woodturner and has received numerous awards for his turnings. He also schedules seminars and exhibits throughout the area.

Bill credits much of his knowledge and skills in woodturning to ideas gleaned from his fellow woodturners in the American Association of Woodturners. His affiliations include the American Association of Woodturners and is a charter member of two chapters of woodturners in North Carolina, The Woodturners of North Carolina and the Triangle Area Woodturners. He is also a member of the Carolina Designer Craftsmen's Guild.

Bill lives in Seven Lakes, North Carolina, a development outside West End, N.C. 10 miles west of Pinehurst.

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Editors Note

Thanks to Bill for permission to use the article. Bill is currently recovering from a serious neck operation and we wish him a full and speedy recovery



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The Chapter is not yet on
the Web. Any volunteers
to construct a basic
webpage

NEWS BITS

Mayo Chapter Seminar in April 8th

Billy Henry & David Comerford are the demonstrators. Application forms will be available. Let us show some support to our neighbouring Chapter

Meantime Design new Website

Jon Warrender has informs us of his new website www.meantimedesign.com. Their full catalogue can be downloaded as PDF file from the site

New Executive Committee Elected at the A.G.M

President	Peter Mulvaney
Chairman	Chris Hayes
Vice Chairman	Willie Creighton
Hon. Secretary	Niall Cahill
Hon. Treasurer	Margaret Creighton
Membership Secretary	Roger Grealley
Journal Editor	Hans Peter Bodmer

Congratulations to Roger we wish him well.

Galway Chapter April meeting

Thursday 6th April
8.00 P.M in Kelehans
Don't Miss it

Meeting starts at 8.00 p.m

Lathe Wanted

Good Quality Secondhand lathe wanted. CL3 or similar. Ph. 091 798225

Monthly Turning Challenge Items 2006

January 2006	Trophy
February 2006	Open Competition
March 2006	Open Competition
April 2006	Open Competition
May 2006	TBA
September 2006	TBA
October 2006	TBA
November 2006	TBA
December 2006	TBA

For this years Challenge the best of your 8 entries will be considered. It's not too late to bring in a piece for this year's Challenge.

Galway Chapter Seminar in May 6th



John Jordan U.S.A.
Gary Rance, U.K.
Glenn Lucas Ireland
are the main demonstrators
This Event will book out ,
Contact Roger Grealley
To secure your place.