



WEST MIDLANDS WOODTURNERS



July 2017 Newsletter

2017 Programme of meetings

Venue: Water Orton Primary School, unless otherwise stated.

16th July	Hands On: Natural edge bowls
20th August	Keith Fenton Demo
17th September	Hands On: Fruit
15th October	Dave Atkinson Demo
19th November	AGM and Hands On : Spirals
10th December	Mark Hancock Demo and Christmas "buffet"

Demonstration days start at 9.15 am and conclude around 4.30 pm.

(Setting up from 8.30 am)

Hands On days start at 9.30 am and conclude about 4.00 pm.

Don't forget your lunch and a mug!

Discount at Axminster Power Tools Ltd

Members are offered a discount on purchases, but will be asked for the club account number when paying for goods.

The account number is available from the Hon Chairman or Hon Secretary, but will not be published in the newsletter which is available on our "public access" website.

Programme of "outside" events

9th July	New Hall Mill. Sutton Coldfield
28th August	New Hall Mill. Sutton Coldfield

WMWT Stand at the Water Orton Carnival.

17th June 2017



West Midlands Woodturners is a "not for profit" company limited by guarantee.
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WMWT Committee

Chairman	Cliff Lane	Chair@wmwoodturners.org.uk
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Membership Secretary	Helen Lees	Membership@wmwoodturners.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	John Hooper	Secretary@wmwoodturners.org.uk

Supplies of blanks.

There is a rumour that David Winter will be at the next meeting with turning blanks etc.

Bring your wallets!

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Chairman's Comments

It only seems like 5 minutes since I was writing my comments for the January newsletter and wishing you all a happy New Year, so it's hard to believe that we are already past the longest day and I am writing my comments for the July newsletter.

Paul Hannaby's demonstration was a little different because he did colouring all day. I must admit that I enjoyed the day although I am aware that colouring is not for everyone. Paul gave lots of tips and advice through the day and I was impressed with his use of the ring tool and how easy he made it look. From the people that I spoke to his demonstration was well received. My one disappointment was that, as far as I am aware, Paul did not donate any of his demo pieces to the club.

There were 41 members present plus 1 visitor who is planning on becoming a member soon. The Chairman's Challenge attracted 10 entries and the display Table had 23 pieces. As always, the quality was excellent. The raffle was generously supported.

Water Orton Carnival 17 June

Seven of us arrived at the Carnival field at 9 am and got to work putting up two gazeboes and laying out the sales tables and pick a peg. Malcolm Thorpe had converted a small lathe to run off a 12 volt battery so I was interested to see it working. It was extremely hot and the visitors came out in good numbers to support the event. It was good to see visitors coming back that had found us last year. We received a great many compliments on the quality and range of work on display. Sales were steady throughout the afternoon and club funds will benefit.

I was most impressed with Malcolm's converted lathe it had plenty of power and lasted all afternoon.

We are pretty much ready for our visit to New Hall Mill on July 9th so I will be keeping my fingers crossed for decent weather. We will have a lathe working, the sales table, and our pick a peg game. This is an excel-

lent venue and we always look forward to our visits. If you fancy a couple of hours out why not come and see us at New Hall Mill, Off Wylde Green Road, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QU (*From 10.00 am to 4 pm. Ed.*)

Axminster Code

The last time that I was at Axminster the manager told me that in order to get the club discount you need to quote the club reference (get this from me or the Secretary). Don't forget - there is no discount on power tools.

Education is important but woodturning is *importanter* (? Ed)

A man flying in a hot air balloon realises he is lost. He reduces his altitude, spots a man in a field down below and shouts, "Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?"

The man replies, "Yes, you're in a hot air balloon, about 30 feet above this field."

"You must be an engineer," says the balloonist.

"I am. How did you know?" says the man. "Everything you told me is technically correct, but it's of no use to anyone."

The man below says, "You must be in management."

"I am. But how did you know?"

"You don't know where you are, or where you're going, but you expect me to be able to help. You're in the same position you were before we met, but now it's my fault."

Cliff

Review of Paul Hannaby's Demonstration

By Malcolm Caine

With his reputation for coloured and textured work, Paul's demonstration was to prove very interesting. He used a wide range of methods to show us how to give turned items a ceramic look. Thus he did relatively little turning as such, only using it as a means to produce articles on which to use his finishing techniques.

Firstly, he took an oak blank and turned the outside to a bowl shape. To check this was a continuous curve, he used a stick of hot melt adhesive placed on the surface which showed up any high or low spots, which were then removed. He then sanded with 120 grit to provide a suitable surface for the next part of the process.

This was to brush on a thick coat of white water based acrylic gesso all over the piece. While this was still wet, Paul showed us how to apply grooves in it with, for example, a comb or a tile adhesive spreader or even a plastic table fork. A more random texture could be applied by patting the surface with a piece of kitchen towel. The shape was then put to one side for a few hours to dry.

Paul's second piece was a repeat of the first, but this time he sanded through all the grits to 400. As he was going to apply a water based stain, he dampened the work with a sponge to raise the grain and, this done, sanded again with 400 grit. The home-made stain was produced by dissolving a wad of steel wool in some vinegar. When this was brushed onto the wood, it turned black.

Paul preferred this to black spirit stain, as it allowed the grain to show through. After dabbing it dry with some kitchen towel, he sprayed the job with acrylic sanding sealer. When this was dry and with the lathe stationary, he applied some acrylic silver paste, working it all over the surface. He started the lathe and buffed the piece with a succession of graded nylon scouring pads. It was then possible to see that the silver paste had been absorbed into the grain. Finally, from a spray can, he applied a coat of acrylic gloss and after cutting this back with the yellow pad, applied some renaissance wax. When buffed up this gave the piece an attractive shiny finish.



For his third item, Paul took a billet of sycamore measuring approximately 5" square by 8" long and turned it into a tall vase of parabolic shape. Using a triangular point tool, he made a groove near to the bottom of the shape and another near the top.

More grooves were then cut between these two at about 1" intervals. Next, using the indexing ring on the lathe and the tool rest as a guide, he drew eight horizontal lines evenly spaced around the circumference of the piece. These lines were then cut by following them with a powered carving tool in alternate bands, thus producing a brick wall effect on the surface.

Paul then covered the work with black acrylic gesso, making sure it had entered all the grooves, and put it aside to dry.

For most of the rest of the day, Paul showed us some air brushing techniques using various media. He explained the differences between the two types of spray head and the need for a compressor.

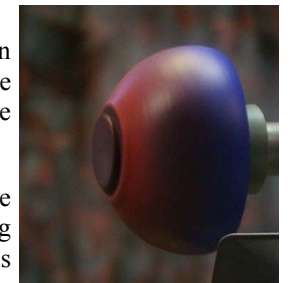
Returning to the oak bowl he put aside earlier, he held it on the lathe with a chuck by means of the spigot on the base. With the lathe running slowly, he held the spray head around 6" to 8" away and sprayed on a blue colour, more near the top and shading off towards the bottom. He then sprayed a red colour on the bottom end, shading it off towards the top.

These coats dried very quickly and he then sprayed on a finish of acrylic satin lacquer.

Using another bowl with a stipple finish obtained from kitchen roll, he sprayed a green colour towards the top and a purple colour towards the base blending the two colours in the centre part.

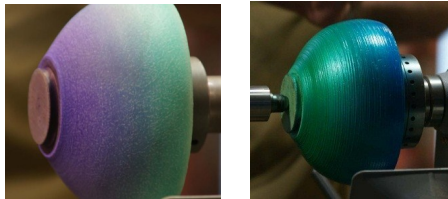
This bowl was then sanded with 600 grit abrasive to remove some of the colour from the high spots of the texture allowing some of the white gesso to show through. The whole piece was then sprayed with clear satin acrylic lacquer.

Another previously prepared bowl had circumferential grooves present in the dry gesso

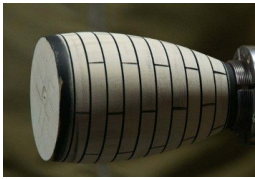


and was then sprayed green at the bottom and blue at the top, and again, finished with lacquer applied with the lathe running.

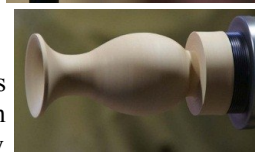
By this time the green and yellow bowl was dry, and Paul turned out the centre to complete the bowl, leaving a wall thickness of about 10mm. The inside was sanded through the grits and acrylic sanding sealer sprayed on from a can. This was buffed with a nylon pad followed by renaissance wax which he polished with a cloth leaving the inside of the bowl uncoloured.



Continuing, Paul returned to the sycamore vase he turned earlier with the brick effect grooves cut into the surface. After mounting it in the lathe, and using a coarse abrasive, he removed all the black gesso from the body of the piece, leaving the black colour in the grooves only. This time he sprayed on a green spirit dye at the top and a purple dye on the bottom section, leaving the black lines showing through the colours. When dry, acrylic sanding sealer was sprayed on with the lathe running.



This item was then partly hollowed out using a ring tool, cutting between the 6 and 9 o'clock positions, which resulted in the rapid removal of wood which came away in long shavings.



The next item was a bud vase in ash with a typical hour glass shape. After sanding through the grits to 400, it was sprayed with acrylic light blue at the top and purple at the bottom, followed by sanding sealer.



This was cut back with a nylon pad and gilding cream was rubbed into the grain. Any excess was removed using kitchen roll with the lathe running.

Another example was a piece of rippled horse chestnut cut to a bowl shape. This was sanded to 400 grit and sprayed all over with a dark blue spirit dye. When dry some colour was removed with 320 grit abrasive and a yellow colour sprayed on top of the blue. This darkened to green in the areas where the blue colour was left. Sanding sealer was then

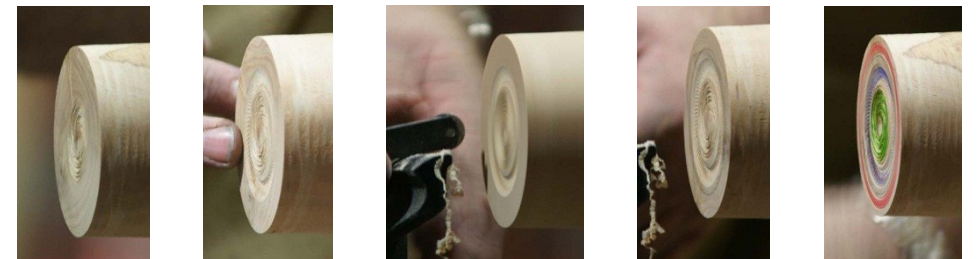
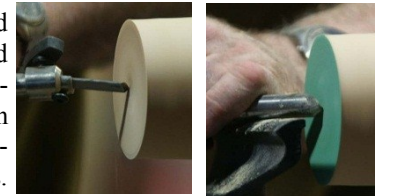


applied and a coat of lacquer sprayed on. For a high gloss finish, a burnishing cream could be used.

A further example was a dome shaped piece of wood sanded to 400 grit and sanding sealer sprayed on. This was cut back with a brown nylon pad and brown ochre paste applied, working it well into the grain. It is possible to obtain a darker effect by mixing this ochre paste with a wax polish and applying both together.



Finally, Paul used a piece of Australian box wood which he cleaned up to give a flat surface on the end grain to which he applied a chatter tool. This produced a textured effect to which he applied a green wax followed by a light cut with a gouge which removed colour from the peaks but left it in the troughs. Cleaning this off, he then showed the use of a spiralling tool, rotary burr and knurling tool to produce various textured patterns depending on how the tool was presented to the wood. These textures could then be coloured with felt tip pens which left colour on the high spots only.



Although only a little actual wood turning was done, the day was very informative as Paul showed us a large range of colouring and texturing techniques to enhance turned work, some of which did indeed have the appearance of pottery.

Water Orton Carnival 17th June 2017

On what proved to be one of the hottest days this year, members of the club arrived about 9 am to set up the stand and “Pick-a-Peg” in the field at Water Orton. We were close to the “Fairground” rides, and next to a coffee and cake vendor who cranked up a generator close to us. It was not a quiet pitch for the day.

Two gazebos were put up, which gave us plenty of room to set up the display and sales tables, the pick a peg and, since there was no mains electricity available, a battery powered lathe. This was the first time that we had used a 12 volt lathe, which performed very well, with the battery lasting for the whole of the day. Demonstrations were undertaken, mainly by Malcolm Thorpe, Steve Simmons and Keith Lanchester who made a number of small items which ended up either on the sales table or on Pick a Peg.

As last year, the show didn't really get going until after 12.00 when the parade came onto the ground, led by a bagpipe band (not too quiet either!)

There were plenty of visitors to the stand, and Tom Badger, Dave Hobbs, Brian Bateman and the Chairman were supported by other members on the Pick a Peg and over £120 was raised.

We also had a good day for sales, with over £150 of items being sold. After paying the cost of the pitch, commissions etc. the club benefitted by about £150 for the day.

Several visitors to the stand took away club details and we are hopeful that we may see some new members as a result.



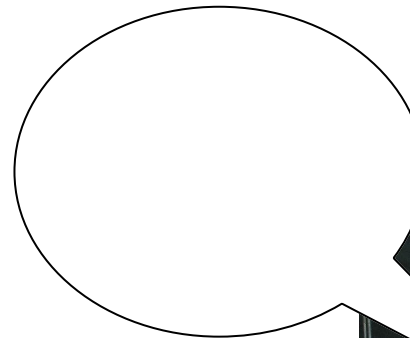
It was a very hot day, and copious amounts of water, tea and coffee were consumed by the members who were not tempted by the Beer Bus (tempted perhaps, but did not succumb). Beer, G & T's and so on were probably consumed on returning home, somewhat hot and sticky. (I know I was)

Thanks to everyone who attended and in particular to Malcolm Thorpe for providing a battery operated lathe, something that we have not done before, and which was very successful

It was a good, busy and productive event, with several hundred members of the public in attendance, who were entertained by stunt bikers, dancers, tug of war teams, and, much to Dave Hobbs enjoyment, an Elvis impersonator.

John H.

This month's Caption competition



Answers on “drinking vouchers” to Brian Bateman,.

The first 3 years (since incorporation) and Rule 10:

Surprisingly, there are only two hands on meetings before the AGM in November, and for the first time (since incorporation) there will be a change in the club officers. Under the constitution, the current Chairman has to step down from this post, and the Treasurer has indicated that he also wishes to step down from his post. It is likely that we will have to hold a ballot for the new Chairperson and possibly the Treasurer, although there is a whisper that a willing volunteer has already been found (perhaps with one arm being firmly twisted!).

It is also worth mentioning that the next year will be the last year that the current Secretary can hold that position. The situation is less clear about the Company Director, and this will need some discussion and clarification by the committee during the forthcoming year. *(Note 1)*

When we incorporated we agreed that the officers should only have limited “tenure”. This was to try to ensure that new ideas about the club and woodturning in general might arise so that the club remains dynamic, but we also specified that a member could not be elected to the committee until after their membership exceeded twelve months.

We are, of course, all volunteers and we all have to make decisions and choices about what we spend our time on, whether or not we are retired. Consequently, some consideration has to be given to the commitment that having one of the committee jobs might entail. To that end we have tried to put together what might be called job descriptions and these are available to members who can get some idea about what is involved. Having said that, since incorporation we have set up several “policies and procedures” and we have now reached the point that those policies and procedures are established and will only require modification if there is some change requiring us to do so. As a result, the running of the club

(and company) has been simplified although there are things that have to be done on a regular basis, hence the “job descriptions”.

We have achieved a great deal since incorporation, and this includes the following:

Membership has increased to about 75 *(note 2)* from around 50 (correct at the time of writing) and there has been a regular flow of visitors and guests, especially at hands on meetings. This is due, we believe, to the regular exposure in both the Sutton Observer and Tamworth Herald newspapers, the impact of a comprehensive club website and attendance at outside events.

We have maintained a programme of high quality demonstrators alternating with themed hands on days, which have stimulated interest; making club meetings dynamic and enjoyable.

We have been successful at Daventry, winning for the 4th time this year, and have found new venues for the club to attend to raise both awareness and club funds. The “Pick-a-peg” tombola has been particularly successful and members’ donations to the “stock” have made this possible.

The increased membership has had a direct effect on our own closed raffle at meetings, with the average “take” rising to about £70 at each meeting. This has enabled the purchase of additional equipment for use at club meetings.

We arranged for the training of five first aiders, and have updated and maintained the First Aid boxes. We have also provided face protection and dust masks as part of a full Risk Assessment procedure and Health and Safety policy. *(Note 3)* We also introduced a “signing-in” policy to help us comply with various fire regulations (some of which are imposed by

North Warwickshire County Council, the site owners). This is not as successful as was hoped, and might be seen as bureaucratic. This is to be re-considered, but may create another role, that of Fire Marshall(s).

We have introduced dual system for the payment of club, AWGB annual fees and monthly “door fees”. The pay-as-you-go approach is currently maintained for those members who wish to pay fees on this basis. The discounted annual fee approach has been adopted by about 50% of the current members which has helped to stabilise the clubs finances and enabled more accurate budgeting. It has also helped to alleviate the inequity that existed in that the receipts from Hands On days were subsidising the deficits sometimes made by Demonstration days.

Notwithstanding the HS2 problem, we have maintained a good relationship with the school and have increased the amount of storage available to us.

In some ways however, we have become the victims of our own success. At the rather flippant level, the school does not have enough chairs in the hall, and members are advised to bring their own. The front car park is regularly full, and we now have to use the car park at the rear of the school as well.

We have doubled the number of cups of tea, coffee and biscuits that we provide – and we have bought an additional urn to meet the need, but someone has to do the shopping for supplies!

More seriously, should we have to re-locate, the size of the meeting room and storage needs to be about the same as our current venue, due to the numbers attending, and there would have to adequate parking available. These “requirements” have a limiting effect on the number of potential alternatives.

The increased number of members has also illustrated a demand for tuition and lessons, something that we cannot provide at the moment although guidance and support is freely given. There are issues around which of us might be qualified to “teach” turning. AWGB offer a tutor “qualification”, but no-one from WMWT has completed the programme. We may well have members who hold teaching qualifications gained whilst teaching professionally, but this alone would not be sufficient. There are obvious issues about inappropriate techniques being shown to beginners, who then go home, give it a go and get themselves into difficulty and perhaps get injured. We do have member to member insurance, but any such claim could have far reaching consequences.

As the club has become larger, the range of wants and needs has become somewhat more diverse. As a club we need to consider how we want to develop and what we can and cannot do, given the voluntary and non-profit basis of the club.

So far, the above is a précis of where we have currently got to, and it might be worthwhile having a look at what could affect the club for the future. Our aims and objectives are as stated in the incorporation and constitution documents and are:

To promote the craft of woodturning for the public benefit and in doing so raise the appreciation of the creativity, skill and heritage of woodturning.

To advance the education of members and the public in the skills and craft of woodturning.

(Section 4 of the Club Constitution.)

Outside influences could include the following:

Greater regulation: Health & Safety; Changes to Company Law; Changes in Taxation; Increase in state retirement age; Reducing pensions; Increase in Social Care costs [affecting disposable incomes]

Increased equipment and materials costs due to Brexit and the “CITES” list.

Changing economics: Rent and operating cost increases; Reduced personal spending by the public, especially “Millennials”; Reducing number of suppliers leading to reduced competition and higher prices.

Changing social conditions: Club relocation; Increase in “retirement villages” reducing the numbers of “men in sheds”; Reducing physical mobility due to higher average age.

Technology changes; New equipment, jigs, steels etc.; Communication shifting to mainly electronic through social media; Scope, extent and purpose of the club website.

The above is by no means exhaustive and does not include the “unexpected”, neither is any attempt being made to ascribe levels of impact or severity that might arise in the event of the above, although any changes will have some impact on us.

The obvious next step is to look at the club to identify issues to look at, given the above, and see if there is anything that we could do.

Good things about the club:

There is a fairly large membership, with a range of skill levels, including some highly skilled members who have national recognition. We are reasonably well equipped and have a good relationship with the School. The committee has worked hard to ensure that we are financially secure and

have promoted a high club profile by contributing to “Woodturning” and “Revolutions” magazines, local newspapers, attending shows and competitions, and maintaining a comprehensive website.

Additionally, policies and procedures have been created, which substantially simplifies the running of the club in respect of the legal, safety, insurance and record keeping requirements that all clubs face.

The all-day meetings are a strength, allowing in depth attention to turning techniques, which has resulted in a visible improvement in work presented both for the display table and the monthly Chairman’s Challenge (supporting our primary aim).

Not so good things about the club:

The average age of members is high which leads to an annual “attrition” rate. We generally need to find 5 to 8 new members each year to replace those who leave or who can no longer attend. Whilst we do have a few female members, the number is less than 10% and is not representative of the general community. We have no members from any of the ethnic minority groups. *(Note 4)*

There is a premises risk brought about by HS2, and access to our “kit” is through the school. Should the relationship sour for any reason, this could become difficult.

There is a “core” membership who seems to do most of the chores most of the time. Whilst all members are volunteers and do what they want to do, there is a serious risk that should the “core” not continue the club would quickly, if not immediately, collapse. The Chairman recently wrote a piece in the Newsletter, lamenting the death of “**Someone Else**”.

The club has no formal association with a Registered Professional

Turner, as some other clubs do, and this means that we do not have any “qualified” tutors. In a similar vein, it is becoming a little more difficult to identify suitable demonstrators for our demo days, who have not already been to the club within say the last 3 years.

What could we do:

We could actively recruit younger members, difficult as this may be. We could seek greater participation with the local community and come back to things that we used to do, such as attending school events where appropriate. We could engage with the Scout group(s) and with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

We could enable the training of tutors and tutor assessors and possibly demonstrators, working more closely with AWGB with whom we have a fairly remote relationship.

We could seek a higher national profile by supporting members entry to competitions both local and national.

We could seek to attend higher profile events, such as the Sutton Arts Festival and similar, around the region. Our attendance at Curborough has been a success in promoting the craft.

Some of the difficulties:

There are many things that could affect our attempts to do any of the above which would include:

Lack of interest or willingness by the membership.

Loss of the “core” members.

Loss of premises in which to meet.

Additional costs of supporting these activities.

All the issues discussed earlier in this article, which are real and some are imminent.

The underlying issue is what sort of club do we want in the future. Since “there is nothing permanent except change”, ^(Note 5) and we have reached article 10 of the constitution, a view on this is required so that the (new) committee can plan and act appropriately.

John Hooper. Hon Secretary and Director.

Note 1: Legally, to continue as a limited liability company, there has to be at least one director.

Note 2: This number is often difficult to tie down, due to new members joining part way through the year, and some members leaving the club, but not advising us of this.

Note 3: Although we are a company we do not employ anyone and the “Health and Safety at Work” Act does not apply. We do however recognise our responsibilities to keep all members safe so far as we possibly can whilst engaged on club activities, and also have appropriate insurance in force.

Note 4: At this point in the discussion it is often stated that all wood turning clubs have the same issues including AWGB, and there are issues which prevent minority groups from engaging. Having watched YouTube and seen people from India, China, Pakistan, Morocco and many other countries engaged in turning, it appears that this explanation is a bit thin. Although now living in the USA, Binh Pho is from Vietnam.

Note 5: Heraclitus, in the year 500bce

Chairman's Challenge Results: (Month)

Novice Group: Spinning Top (3 entries)

1st Place: Chris Jones



2nd Place: Les Wilkes



3rd Place: Bill Finnigan

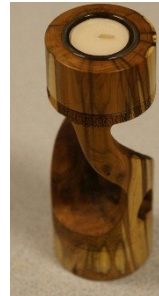


Intermediate Group: Platter with Decorated Rim or Tealight holder (3 entries)

1st Place: Darren Smith



2nd Place: Dave Hobbs



3rd Place: Graham Hunt



Advanced Group: Oriental style box (4 entries)

1st Place: Keith Lanchester



2nd Place: Ted Gill



3rd Place: Tim Davies



Display Table: June 2017



Chairman's Challenge July 2017

Novice Group:
Baby's Rattle



Intermediate Group:
Goblet with twist or spiral stem

Advanced Group:
Splash Bowl

For Sale:

Workshop Equipment:

Lathe. Axminster M330, five speed, including toolrest, faceplate, 4 prong drive centre, and revolving tail stock centre. £100.00

Chuck. Axminster K 80 four jaw chuck with “C” jaws and threaded back plate 1”x 8tpi to suit above lathe. £50.00

Set of six turning tools. Record. HSS. Set number RPCHS6 £50.00

Chuck. Record. RP2000 compact four jaw scroll chuck, threaded 1”x 8tpi to suit above lathe. £30.00.

Will sell all four items, as one lot for £200.00 no offers.

Please contact Malcolm Caine, on 0121 353 1104

Memento Required!

Some years ago we needed to demolish a damson tree.

A local resident of Balsall Common where we live, produced a memento for us. The whole area used to be a damson orchards. We now find that we may have to cut down the last tree in the orchard.

Is there any member close to us who could be interested in providing another memento?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks

David Deanshaw

Contact details available from the Editor.

Handles for “Torches”

Andy Williams of Bullfinch is looking for a Local (West Midlands) turner to produce a small number of these from timber supplied.

He will be grateful if you could pass on this request to your members.

I have attached the drawing * and some links.

<http://bullfinch-gas.co.uk/images/bge-decorative-flames.pdf>

<http://bullfinch-gas.co.uk/news/90-olympic-torch-burner-2>

Thanks for your help

Regards

Adrian Sims

*The technical drawing and contact details are available from the Editor



