

Date

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **College Students Collect Wood for National Competition**

Following previous successful events, the New Forest Trust is running their seventh national competition this year for people in training to become quality furniture makers. A group of students from Plymouth University came to collect some New Forest wood for the 2012 competition.

This competition gives trainee wood craftsmen the opportunity to make a name for themselves, as the first prize, kindly donated by Axminster Tool Centre, is for a voucher worth £800. Winning this national competition will give the best start a craftsman could wish for in their furniture making career. The quality of the furniture produced for this competition is incredibly high, and it is estimated that at least 50,000 people came to view the exhibits last year. There is also an award that is decided solely by the visiting public. This attracted a great deal of interest in previous years and exhibitors are particularly keen to hear the public's views.

This year sees the introduction of a competition of the Talented Enthusiastic Amateurs (TEAs) which will give the trainee furniture makers another dimension to their education.

The competition will be judged by three internationally known judges – Martin Grierson, James Ryan and Richard Williams. It will be held at The New Forest & Hampshire County Show held in the centre of the Forest, at New Park, Brockenhurst on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July.

For further information please go on to the web site of the New Forest Trust and follow the links – [www.newforesttrust.org.uk](http://www.newforesttrust.org.uk) For tickets for the Show go to [www.newforestshow.co.uk](http://www.newforestshow.co.uk) or ring the credit card hotline on 01590 622409. There is a 20% discount until 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Photograph from left to right show Rebecca Thomas, Thomas Tregaskes, Tony Hibbin, Henry Williams, Ollie Smith, Ian Reveley and Ed Lewis

#### **Further information for editors**

The New Forest Trust was formed to promote the conservation of the New Forest and help in practical ways to secure its viability for future generations. Many of the projects they are undertaking are concerned with the sustainability of Forest life and this led to the original idea of raising awareness of the quality, potential and plentiful supply of New Forest timber for commercial, hobby or educational use, and a means of stimulating the local economy and encouraging wood related arts and crafts. This nationwide competition for trainee woodworkers and furniture makers has drawn entrants from across the country.

#### **Information on Axminster Tool Centre**

Axminster Tool Centre has its roots very much in woodworking crafts, developing into a business that today offers the widest range of tools, machinery and tooling accessories in the UK and one that offers all woodworkers a single point of supply. Ranging from simply a box of screws to the latest cordless drill driver or a new lathe, Axminster is able to accommodate virtually any woodworking requirement.

Whilst continuing to be a family-run company, Axminster has developed an extensive and worldwide business, witnessing dramatic growth over the past few years and sourcing products from both within the UK and overseas. Axminster is now in a position to offer more than 16,000 product lines.

The Axminster brand is fully personified by the Axminster catalogue – 600 pages of more than 12,000 products and packed with lots of useful facts and figures. It is widely regarded by many of our customers as the essential guide to woodworking tools and machinery.\*

The Axminster Tool Centre catalogue is like no other, providing huge appeal to a vast range of customers, encompassing the public sector, educational establishments, industry, trade professionals, enthusiastic hobbyists and serious home users. The service in place to support the catalogue is second to none, with a large investment in stock and logistics to ensure that products are available and distributed to customers by the fastest method possible.

Free technical advice is available to all customers via the central call centre (call 0800 371 822 option 3) and the Axminster Tool Centre retail outlets offer customers a great shopping experience. Axminster now has 3 retail outlets: Axminster in Devon, Sittingbourne in Kent and the recently opened High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire.

Axminster also offers a range of woodworking courses, including woodturning, carving and routing with the aim of introducing and encouraging beginners, and advancing the more experienced with their woodworking skills. For more information regarding the courses, please contact Vicky Turner on 0800 9751905 or visit [www.axminsterskillcentre.co.uk](http://www.axminsterskillcentre.co.uk).

Despite expansion, innovation and diversification, Axminster Tool Centre remains a family affair, with three generations of the Styles family involved at every level of the business. Although the tool and machinery business in the current economic climate is no easy option, the recent investment and developments will make a major contribution towards the company continuing its success.

\*If you would like to request a copy of Axminster's FREE 2009 catalogue please call 0800 371822 or visit [www.axminster.co.uk](http://www.axminster.co.uk).