



Bitesize

Visit to George Hook & Co, Pope Street, Smethwick, W. Midlands, B66 2JP.

The Hook family have been associated with the Mother of Pearl trade since 1824. The original factory was situated in the Hockley area and was one of many that worked with Mother of Pearl, most being engaged in button making.

The arrival of shells from Australia extended the scope of the trade, and the Hook family became involved in the working of the shell for many other items such as handles for cutlery and side handles for revolvers along with jewellery and inlays for furniture.

With the introduction of plastic buttons sadly a lot of the Pearl button factories closed, and George Hook is now the last of the Birmingham Pearl button trade. George, the firm's sole remaining employee, still produces his own items as well as supplying decorative Mother of Pearl pieces for other manufacturers.

For those with a fascination for Birmingham and its tradition of creativity, a chance to meet George and learn about his trade offers a rare treat!

Numbers are limited, so this visit is open to TASBE members only and is on a strictly first-paid first-served basis.

Date and Time: **Thursday 18th April 2024 at 10.45 am.**

Parking: Street parking is available outside the factory.

Access: The factory we will be visiting is very much a workplace with cramped access, plenty of obstacles, little seating and by the nature of the work no shortage of dust! Sadly, it is therefore unsuitable for those in a wheelchair, with a walking disability, or concerns over the dusty environment.

Duration: 1½ hours, including tea or coffee.

Cost: £10.00 members.
Cheque payable to TASBE or The Arts Society Birmingham Evening
Direct Bank payment to A/C: 45091660; Sort Code: 77-85-21;
Ref: your surname followed by 'Hook'

There are unfortunately no suitable eating places in the vicinity of Pope Street, but we hope you will join us for lunch afterwards at The Bell Inn in Old Church Road, Harborne, B17 0BB:
<https://www.pubanddining.co.uk/bell-harborne> .

Queries to: Chris Arnott 07879 406105 chris.arnott121@gmail.com

To reserve your place, please complete the application form overleaf and either:

Post it to Lisa Gillespie, 11 Pinfield Drive, Barnt Green, Birmingham B45 8XA

accompanied by your cheque, or

Email it to lisa.gillespie@live.com **ensuring your Direct Bank payment is made before you e-mail the form.**

APPLICATION FORM

Visit to George Hook & Co, Pope Street, Smethwick, W. Midlands, B66 2JP.

Thursday 18th April 2024 at 10.45am

Name (TASBE members) _____

Contact Person _____

Contact phone no _____

Contact Email

I/we would/would not be interested in joining for lunch at the Bell Inn, Harborne after the visit.

Please complete the relevant option:	Cheque enclosed	£
	Direct bank payment made	£

Post:

Lisa Gillespie
11 Pinfield Drive
Barnt Green
Birmingham
B45 8XA

Email:

lisa.gillespie@live.com

For any queries:

Chris Arnott

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