

Newsletter

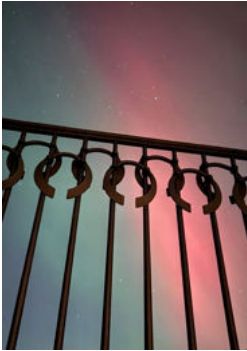


B A B A

British Artist Blacksmiths Association

November 2024

Cover picture: Forged ballustrade photographed during the Northern Lights in Scotland 10/10/2024.
Photo credit Shona Johnson



Editors Notes

Welcome to the November Newsletter for the British Artist Blacksmith Association

The second newsletter. I'm getting more used to the software, although I now realise it is useful if I make notes of the settings. But I'll get there!

More important (for me): the forge is finally up and running! Now to find time to start making things. Which shouldn't be a problem. If not for the frequently asked question "what are you going to make first?". Now my mind is throwing up obstacles to find something relevant to make as a first item. What was the first thing you made in your forge? And when it's up and running, do you have an item you make every time you light your forge, to get yourself going?

But now, back to BABA. On 12 and 13 October there was a fully booked workshop titled **Aspiring to Design - "The Basics"**. Under the expert guidance of Pete Hill and James Price the attendees got a lot of information and exercises to improve their skills. It turned out to be quite challenging! In one of the upcoming Artist Blacksmith magazines you will find a full review.

More important though: there is another workshop around the corner. This one is titled **"Designing, Measuring and Making Sure it Stays Put... Down South!"**. If you ever fitted a gate, fence or something else that was mounted to a wall you might know the struggle. Adam Booth – Pipers Forge, Jim Whitson – The Blazing Blacksmith and Pete Hill – Ratho Byres Forge you will tell you all about "how to attach stuff to stuff and not have it come unattached". Use their experience to prevent mistakes yourself! The workshop is on 9th and 10th November and there is still time to register!

[Click here to book your place!](#)

P.S. Please do check out the "Jobs, Training & Opportunities" section. Amongst educational institutions there is a journeyman job available! In the classifieds section you will find multiple new interesting offers!

And throughout the newsletter you will find hyperlinks to make it easier for you to get to relevant information!

Also check out the article from the NHIG. They are asking for your help.

Its Back! And moving down south!

Designing, measuring and making sure it stays put. An introduction to making site-work work for you at either end of a job!

A workshop led by Adam Booth - Pipers Forge, Jim Whitson - The Blazing Blacksmith and Pete Hill - Ratho Byres Forge - over 100 years of collective experience and making mistakes, so you don't have to!

Hosted at the forge of Kelly Burton, located in the midst of the Northamptonshire countryside.
Old Dairy Farm, Upper Stowe, Northants, NN7 4SH.

Saturday the 9th November and Sunday the 10th November 2024 (£100pp)

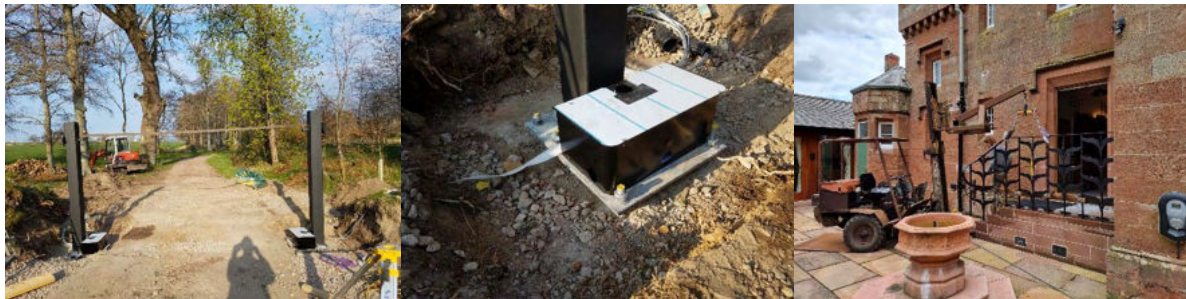


This weekend event will be a chance to learn about some of the possible approaches to both the preparatory stages of a project and the final installation. The weekend will include discussion, demonstrations and hands on opportunities.

First day topics will include designing for a specific location, site survey techniques and approaches, apps to make this easier, thinking ahead, looking for issues, problem solving and tools that can make the measuring process easier and more accurate. We will undertake a hands-on demo surveying existing openings with the opportunity to have a go. Discussion of design approaches will follow with a focus on identifying the site parameters and restrictions that might guide the design process.



On the second day the focus will be on installing and fixing your work, fixing types and their uses, advantages and disadvantages with hands-on demos with tips and tricks. This will include most relevant fixing options, such as mechanical anchors, resin fixings and hot lead, with different drilling options and the chance to try these out.



Time allowing there will be a couple of presentations showcasing past projects, showing how the site influenced the design and how they were installed.



It is planned the event will take place from 10am - 5pm on Saturday and 10am till 3pm on Sunday. Hopefully folk can get together Saturday evening for a beer and to talk smithing.

Lunch for both days will be included at the onsite café (buffet style) and will be included in the ticket price, along with refreshments. The event will be limited to a maximum of 20 attendees.

While we are unable to offer camping at this time of year, there is limited parking for folk with campervans (6 ONLY) first come first serve basis at an additional £10 per night, who can park up at the venue. There is no shortage of budget hotels within 5 or 6 miles.



What is BABA and why join?

For 46 years, BABA has developed and promoted the work of the modern artist blacksmith. BABA has united thousands of professional and amateur smiths (and interested many others) across Britain and the rest of the world in a spirit of friendship and collaboration, to learn about, enjoy and advance the extraordinary craft of creative blacksmithing. To this end, we:

- Organise forge-ins and hold an annual conference
- Hold masterclasses, where members can get involved and ask the tricky questions
- Publish a for members magazine (usually 4 issues per annum) and a monthly newsletter
- The members website, with member galleries and useful resources
- Offer a competitive discounted forge insurance scheme
- Organise the production of large public sculptures to display the talents of the members
- Organise talks from leading experts from around the globe
- Organise gallery exhibitions, competitions, meet-ups, digital events and much much more

For full details and to become a member click on the button below

www.baba.org.uk



Locking mechanism of a 17th century iron money chest which held the money and documents of the Company of Scotland
National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh

My daddy is a blacksmith!

What is your name?

Huw Phillips

How old are you?

6 2/3 years (at the time of the interview)

Who is your daddy?

Owen Phillips (<https://gatefootforge.co.uk/>)

Where do you live?

Yorkshire

Do you help in the workshop?

Daddy helps me make stuff.

I hammer stuff.

(At the 2024 AGM) I made firetools and a bracelet

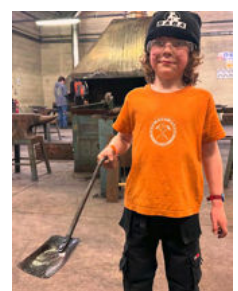
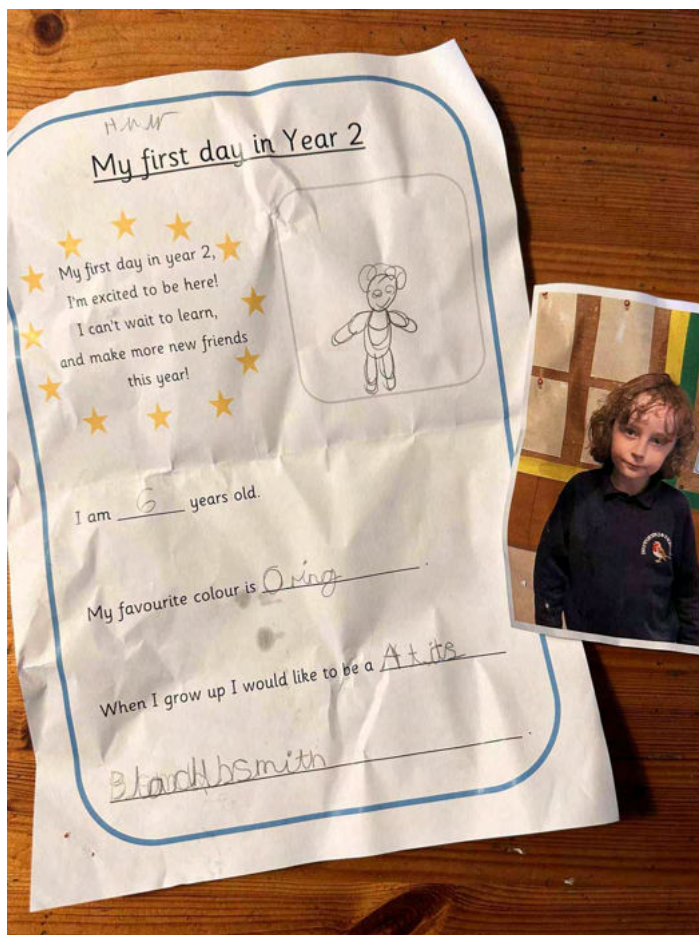
The best thing I made were the firetools

I sold abstract sculptures at a local art exhibition

What do your friends think of your daddy being a blacksmith?

My friends like it, one even wants to be a blacksmith!

I want to be a blacksmith myself.



And now for something completely different

By John von Peij

Last month's was meant to be a one-off, but after Arty Maguire mentioned he made bug-pikelets with his Nanni I received requests for that recipe. Of course you can find a recipe online, but that would not be Arty's recipe. So I reached out to Will Maguire who passed the request on and I received this lovely reply:

Hi John,

I understand you requested Arthur Maguire's Bug Pikelet recipe after reading Arty's "feature" in the BABA newsletter.

Spoiler alert: they contain no actual bugs! Ours are made using a special 'bug pan'.

So here it is-

1 1/2 cups Self Raising Flour

1-2 tablespoons of raw sugar

1 1/2 cups milk (any kind -I use soy milk because we have a vegan in the family)

Mix all three ingredients with a whisk to remove all lumps and create a thick but still pourable batter. Heat pan over medium heat and lightly oil.

Using a tablespoon, pour individual pikelets and cook 2-3 minutes (or until bubbles start to form in the batter). Turn and cook a further 1 minute. Remove from heat to a plate and continue the process of cooking more. The challenge is trying to cook them quicker than they are being eaten! Enjoy warm, plain, or even buttered.

Regards,

Arty's Nanni.



Additional comment the editor:

The "bug pan" mentioned can be found online. Unfortunately I haven't been able to find one in the UK (I'm sure my special needs pupils would love to make these bug pikelets). If you find one online, be careful to check postage before you click on "order"!

Saint Eloy, patron saint of blacksmiths

By John von Peij

As you can see on the events-page, there are several events celebrating Saint Eloy (also known as Elooï, Eligio, Elegio, Eligius and other variations).

Saint Eloy is the patron saint of blacksmiths but relatively unknown in the UK. In France, Belgium and The Netherlands he is well known and a many blacksmiths organise an event on (or around) 1 December. But why is he the patron saint of blacksmiths?

Eloy was born around 590 near Limoges in France. He became an extremely skillful metalsmith and was appointed master of the mint under King Clotaire II of Paris. Eloy developed a close friendship with the King and his reputation as an outstanding metalsmith became widespread. With his fame came fortune. Eloy was very generous to the poor, ransomed many slaves, and built several churches and a monastery at Solignac. He also erected a major convent in Paris with property he received from Clotaire's son, King Dagobert I. In 629, Eloy was appointed Dagobert's first counselor. Later, on a mission for Dagobert, he persuaded the Breton King Judicael, to accept the authority of Dagobert. Eloy later fulfilled his desire to serve God as a priest, after being ordained in 640. Then he was made bishop of Noyon and Tournai. His apostolic zeal led him to preach in Flanders, especially Antwerp, Ghent, and Courtaai where he made many converts. Eloy died on December 1, around 660, at Noyon.

The most famous story around Saint Eloy is St. Eloy was made the patron saint of farriers and blacksmiths, thanks to a popular legend about him shoeing the severed leg of a horse. The legend says that one day, St. Eloy was trying to shoe a particularly difficult horse, a horse that acted as if he had the devil in him.

To make the horse easier to shoe, St. Eloy cut the leg off of the horse and proceeded to shoe the detached leg. When he was finished, the saint reattached the leg to the horse by simply making the sign of the cross. Other versions of the story maintain that Jesus came to Saint Eloy and aided him in replacing the severed leg.

Eloy is the patron saint of horses and cattle and is also the patron saint of goldsmiths, blacksmiths, metalworkers in general, numismatists/coin collectors and the British Army corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME).



*Image: a lifesize statue of Saint Eloy by Paul Gregoir
Used with permission
<https://www.paulgregoir.be/kunst/>*

NHIG CONFERENCE 2024

Perhaps the secret to it all is listening...

I'd never been to an NHIG event, despite being a blacksmith for approaching 20 years. Recent questions regarding heritage ironwork projects had brought me into contact with the amazing NHIG co-ordinator Jessica Renison, and she invited me to the conference with the promise that she thought 'I'd find it interesting'.

It is certainly a spectacular venue and the Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) staff were incredibly friendly and accommodating hosts. However, it was with some trepidation that I made the journey from deepest, darkest Norfolk to west London. I needn't have worried.

The programme was packed, as was the Garden Room, with experts, students and practitioners of all sorts mingling and sharing experiences. There were plenty of blacksmiths, along with architects, conservators, representatives from the building, charity and statutory heritage sectors, as well as project managers, historians, archaeologists and administrators from far and near. Finding yourself in the midst of such a throng, it may be tempting to fill any awkward silences with speech, but it was soon apparent that to get the most from the day I should be listening.

Although 'Tradition and Innovation' was the day's theme I'd say listening was the connecting thread that wove the day together. Whether that's listening to specialists, listening to each other, listening to the stories of makers past told by the history of an object, or listening to the object itself.

I was inspired by the knowledge of the specialists that spoke and the stories they had come to share, whether that was David James, Daniel Jackson, and Andrew Harris talking about deciphering the history of, and efforts to maintain, Tijou's astonishing contribution to Hampton Court Palace, or Jane Sidell's ambivalence about the value of the term 'traditional', her obvious love of bollards and their connection to the inspection and preservation of ancient monuments.



*David James, Daniel Jackson, Andrew Harris.
Image by Proctor Taylor*



Tijou screen tour.

Faye Davies spoke with incredible passion (and brevity) on the complex 150-year history of Gt. Yarmouth's winter gardens (she was one of the 10-minute heroes) and left me in awe of her commitment to seek out and cherish the historic connections between the local community and the fabulous building and attempt to chart a new course in order to safeguard its future. To my mind, it's easy to get wrapped up in the details and practicalities of how to fix something and forget to listen to why and to whom it's important.

Amongst other things Ali Davey and Reed Hudson from Historic Environment Scotland (also 10 minute heroes) wanted to listen to us all share our experiences of ferrous surface finishes, the good and the bad, to add our learning to their research which also aims to draw together the decades of research by others to create a community resource we can all benefit from. They shared a QR code to expedite this process if you'd like to get involved – (NHIG editor's note: we included this project in our last newsletter but they are still looking for case studies and shared experience so here it is again).



I thought the theme of 'stopping to listen' also pervaded the section by Rowan Taylor and Ben Fitchford as they used a case-study to explore the structural problems of a set of gates at a reservoir entrance, investigate its causes, decipher the reasons behind the historic repairs (and the unintended consequences of previous good intentions) and compare possible outcomes from various potential solutions. This complexity of decision making inherent in protecting and restoring heritage ironwork was beautifully articulated throughout their self-styled 'Waldorf and Statler' session.

Reed Hudson & Ali Davey HES.
Image by Proctor Taylor

The most mind-blowing session for me was the 10 minute presentation by PhD student Kutsi Akcicek. The current phase of his research project is capturing and analysing the acoustic emissions from 4 samples of wrought iron subject to accelerated weathering. That's right: he's listening to iron rust and attempting to interpret what the material is saying in order to understand and infer the amount of stress it's experiencing. The aim is to develop a passive, non invasive method of analysing the condition of iron within the fabric of a building in order to intervene before catastrophic rust-jacking failures occur. He's listening to the metal and learning it's language so it can tell him how it's doing inside the building without having to look! I have to add that he gets my top marks for data visualisation!

This process seemed revolutionary to me, but during a tea-break conversation with Robyn McPherson, a conservator from the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, she told me how they are using the same equipment to study whether wooden artefacts are adversely affected by relaxing the environmental constraints in her museum in order to be more energy efficient.

Almost all the other sessions consisted of two or more speakers in a conversation which was an unusual (to me) and engaging style and allowed the listeners to compare and contrast ideas, techniques and experiences. Being open and free-flowing by design, including taking and answering questions from the audience, meant that even with unfamiliar subjects you were swept along by the speakers' enthusiasm and passion for a lifetime of learning. In the unlikely event that you had specific knowledge of the topic, the speakers added depth by offering nuggets of hard-won wisdom which were generously shared and contributed to the inclusive and nurturing atmosphere of the whole event.

Thanks to Bethan Griffiths, Jessica and all the NHIG volunteers for bringing us all together and keeping the talks on schedule. Thanks also to the HRP staff who braved the elements to show us the magnificence of Tijou's work throughout the Palace and its grounds. I'm very grateful for Jessica's invitation and that I made the effort to attend – it was a really ear-opening experience, which is still resonating with me weeks afterwards.

James Spedding, Holkham Forge



*King's Staircase HCP
Image by Proctor Taylor*

HELP WANTED

The NHIG team are interested to know your views on training and accreditation in conservation/restoration work.

If you could take a few moments to complete this short survey, it will really help us get a clear picture of what training is needed and wanted.

[**Click here for the survey**](#)

Blacksmithing Events:

4 November: Florian Reinert will talk about metal shaping - Online Event
[Click here for more information](#)

9 - 10 November: BKS Gembloux '24 - Gembloux, Belgium
[Click here for more information](#)

BABA event

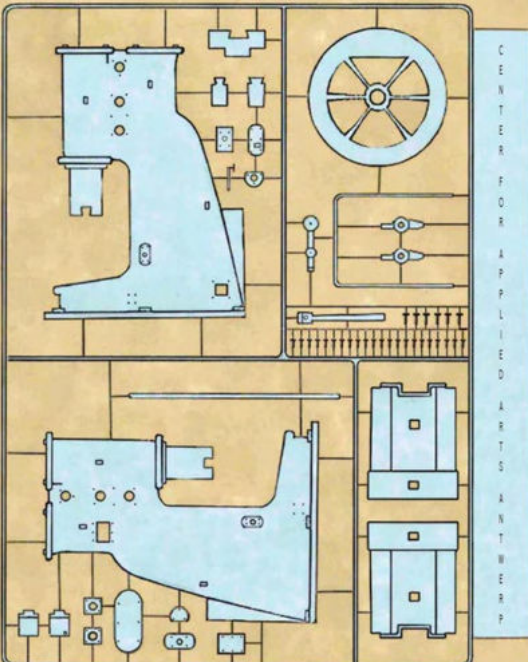
9 - 10 November: Designing, measuring and making sure it stays put -
Upper Stowe, United Kingdom
[Click here for more information](#)

17 November - Dag van de Ambachten bij Smederij De Bruyn - Aalst, Belgium

30 November - Sint Elooifeest 2024 - Mechelerzande, Belgium

30 November - 1 December: Fete de Saint Eloi - Versailles, France
[Click here for more information](#)

Sint - Elooifeest 2024 DIAMANTSTRAAT 3
MECHELERZANDE 2275



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Van harte welkom op het Sint-Elooifeest zaterdag 30 november
om 16:30 op bovenvermeld adres.

Ook zin in het avondmaal? Reserveer dan voor 15 november via:
kristo.bruno@gmail.com. Gelieve hiervoor 30 euro/pp te storten
op rekening: BE09 3632 3369 4157. Steun de vzw!

www.caaa.academy

KRISTO 7

BKS - GEMBOUX '24
9 NOV (10 - 18) & 10 NOV (10 - 16)
JOURNÉES DE LA COUTELLERIE 2024



@ CHAUSSÉE DE NAMUR 28
CUTTING TOOLS
WWW.VISITGEMBOUX.BE

COCKPIT

SAVE THE DATE

Winter Open Studios returns this November!

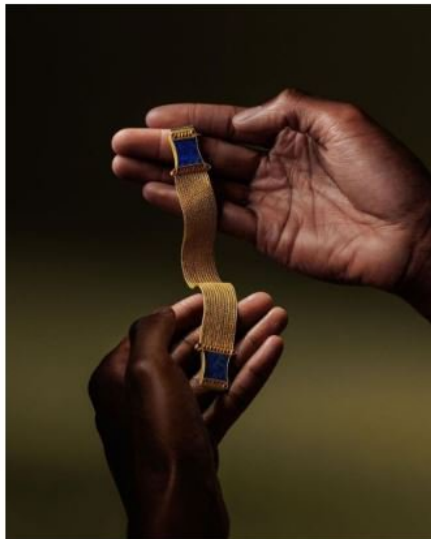
Cockpit's celebrated Winter Open Studios returns this festive season, bringing you the chance to meet and shop direct from over 175 of London's finest artist-makers.

Join us on 21-24 November in Bloomsbury and 29 November-1 December in Deptford to discover one-of-a-kind pieces, meet incredible craftspeople and find truly special gifts for the holiday season — all while supporting independent makers.

Discounted earlybird tickets (including our brand-new Open Access Pass!) will be available to newsletter subscribers from Monday 30 September — keep an eye on your inbox to be the first to score tickets!

**Click here for more
information about the
Open Studio in
Bloomsbury**

**Click here for more
information about the
Open Studio in Deptford**



Work by Samuel Waterhouse (left) and Bola Lyon (right).

PRESS RELEASE

29 August 2023

Rachel Reckitt Retrospective *Chance Encounters*

Opens at the Museum of Somerset

The life and works of a remarkable Somerset artist, with a daringly independent spirit, are being celebrated in a new exhibition opening at the Museum of Somerset on 19 October.

Rachel Reckitt (1908-1995) was a 20th-century modernist artist who lived and worked in West Somerset for over 60 years. She was a unique-artistic talent who worked entirely on her own terms, even training as a blacksmith when she was in her 60s. Reckitt is amongst previously-overlooked female artists to feature in a new film, *War Paint – Women at War*. This feature documentary, by BAFTA award-winning director Margy Kinmonth, champions the powerful female perspective of conflict through art.

Sarah Cox, Exhibitions Manager at the South West Heritage Trust, said: "Reckitt was a woman who, in many ways, rejected the conventions of her time, gender and class. Her lifelong-artistic endeavor, inspired by her astute observations of people and places, spans avant garde painting, sculpture, wood engraving and blacksmithing. We are delighted that this new exhibition and documentary film will shine a light on the achievements of this inimitable Somerset artist."

In preparation for the exhibition the South West Heritage Trust has acquired 13 new works by Reckitt, adding to its growing collection of works by local female artists. Amongst them is *Ruins* which was painted by Reckitt whilst travelling in Sweden, shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War.

Ruins will be displayed alongside paintings, sculpture and wood engravings on loan from public and private collections. Highlights include the RAF Museum's *Spanish Refugee Family*, which further shines a light on her war-time experiences. In 1939 Reckitt moved from Somerset to London to support the war effort, helping to evacuate families from the city and sending children to Golsoncott, her family home in Somerset, which became a nursery.

War Paint Director Margy Kinmonth said: "I am delighted to have discovered the work of Reckitt, an exceptionally talented artist who has not had popular recognition, until now. I am proud to showcase her conflict work in the film, looking in detail at her wood engravings and oils of bomb-damaged London and the refugee crisis during the Blitz. Reckitt's talent at capturing the detail of domesticity and homelessness in her art is exceptionally moving and she stands out as another great, but previously overlooked, female British artist." The exhibition is supported by the Golsoncott Foundation, a charitable Trust established to support the arts as part of Reckitt's legacy.

Penelope Lively, Rachel Reckitt's niece and Trustee of the Foundation said: "We are delighted that this comprehensive exhibition will bring my aunt's work to a larger audience. She was a central figure in my life, and I watched and marvelled at her versatility, up to and beyond her recreation of herself in later years as one of the few women artist blacksmiths."

The exhibition, *Chance Encounters: The Art of Rachel Reckitt*, opens at the Museum of Somerset, 19 October 2024 – 15 March 2025. It will be supported by a programme of events including gallery tours, family activities and an engagement programme for schools. Visit museumofsomerset.org.uk

For further information please contact
Beth Jerrett,
PR & Communications Lead Officer,
beth.jerrett@swheritage.org.uk
01823 347418.



Classifieds: Toys for the toy shop....



Toby Forbes Gower:

The widest range of Blacksmithing tools at sensible prices:

[Click here for Toby's webshop](#)

clever tools for blacksmiths

...not missed until today?

There are a number of little helpers that make forging easier and more efficient. Even a traditional craft can be optimised...



Holdfast

This tool is perfect for fast clamping different workpieces directly onto the anvil. Only a simple hammer is needed to attach or detach the clamp. The size of the tool is suitable for different anvils and the shaft clamps securely in the square or round holes.



Guillotine

This helper allows various jobs if you are working alone. Finishing, settling, punching and much more.

Flexibel handling due to the bevelled C-Frame design. With fast and easy tool change, suitable for different tool dimensions. Fixation on the square hole of the anvil or for mounting on the workbench.



Adjustable spanner

The adjustable spanner is a perfect universal bending bar. The handle can be extended with a piece of pipe. This enables more power transmission. Hint: You can clamp a raw material with the same cross-section as the twisted material on one mouth-side. This allows working with a larger lever without damaging the adjustable spanner.

Due to import regulations, we can only deliver from a minimum order value of 150€.

[Click here for the Angele website](http://www.angele-shop.com)





Victory Tools Power Hammer Sales and Hire

Power Hammer prices from £4295 plus vat.

Being a blacksmith for many years and having to weld a mile to buy my first Massey, I fully understand the hardships of buying your first power hammer. With this in mind, I have decided to hire out our new Anyang ST power hammers to help you complete your job with the option to deduct the hire charge from the full price if purchased.

For more information about our new Anyang ST power hammers, any of our second hand power hammers or forge force induction heaters, please contact us on 01362687116 or email us at nigelbarnett@artist-blacksmith.co.uk

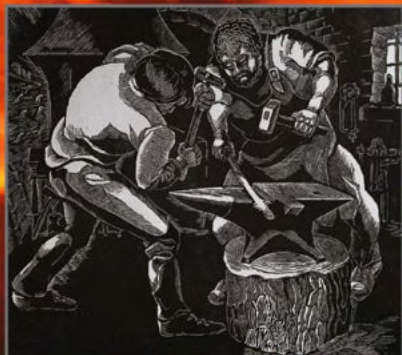
[Click here for the website](#)

The History of Iron Making

by Amina Chatwin **Isbn 9781901037227** £60

Amina Chatwin's major illustrated work on the 'History of Iron Making in Britain', a work twenty years in the compiling, and amounting to almost five hundred pages.

History of Iron Making in Britain



Amina Chatwin

The author decided to write a comprehensive history of iron working in Britain from the Iron Age to Victorian times. The completion of this monumental task was spread over many years, during which time she attained a deep understanding of the craft plus gaining practical experience from the masters themselves.

Miss Amina Chatwin the author compiled this History of Iron making in Britain, Celts to Victorians, over a period of some fifteen to twenty years. It ranges from the early technical achievements of smiths back in the Celtic period to the backgrounds of many of the great iron masters in more recent times.

Into the New Iron Age

First edition hardback, Into the New Iron Age **isbn 9781901037258** . RRP: £35
by Amina Chatwin

There is now a great revival of creative smithing in Britain. How did it come about and what are the influences that helped to open up the craft to 20th century design?

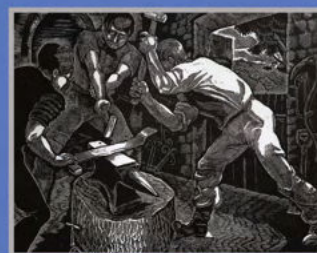
PART 1 Looks back to the past-to Art Nouveau, Gaudi, and the ironwork of Charles Rennie Mackintosh explores the more recent input from Europe and America: follows the formation and development of the British Artist Blacksmith Association and seeks to define Modern Ironwork.

PART II Consists of monographs on eighteen of our finest Designer Metal smiths and sculptors, including: Terrence Clark, Alan Dawson, Alan Evans, Stuart Hill, James Horrobin, Giuseppe Lund, Charles Normandale, Peter Parkinson, David Petersen, Walenty Pytel and Antony Robinson. Look into their minds find out how they arrive at their designs and tackle the problems of their commissions.

Discover what modern techniques they employ. architects will find here a comprehensive survey of the contemporary ironwork available, giving an insight into the strengths and various styles of major smiths creating ironwork for our own time. 224 Pages.

Total of 440 illustrations, Photographs, drawings and wood engravings.

Into The New Iron Age:



**Modern British
Blacksmiths**

Amina Chatwin

REARDON PUBLISHING
nicholasreardon@aol.com

Double forge for sale

Alldays double forge for sale, good working order but does require repairs to the canopy. Would consider all reasonable offers. Further information please email or phone Situated in Cumbria

Steve.hopps2@gmail.com
07870785322



John Hughes a'i Fab Cyf

Masnachwyr Glo, Poteli LPG a Logiau

Solid Fuel and LPG supplier

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As well as Welsh Anthracite in various sizes and Imported Steam Coal, we also have a limited supply of bagged Welsh Steam Coal available.

Please get in touch if you would like further information.

Best Regards

Aled Hughes





Cast iron forge for sale

£950 or offers

Cast iron double forge with stainless steel hood.

Watertray and coke tray included

No tools included

Any questions? Please contact

Terry Clark 01483 235244

Sally Clark 07768 830933

Email sally@artsmith.co.uk

Anvil for sale £230

Collection only - Near Guildford, Surrey

Buyer collects, cash on collection

You are welcome to view

Any questions? Please contact

Terry Clark 01483 235244

Sally Clark 07768 830933

Email sally@artsmith.co.uk

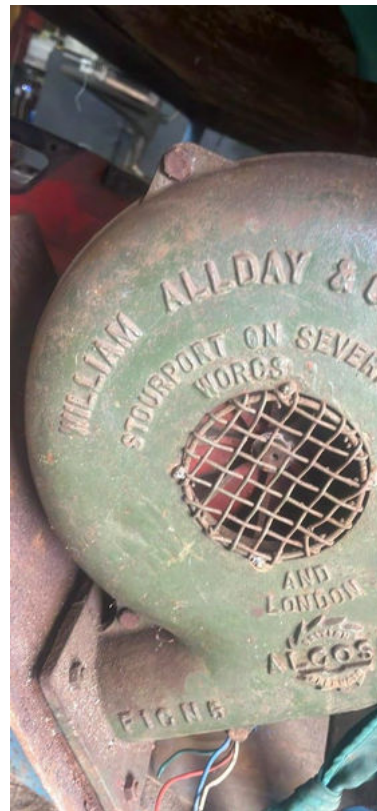


Cast iron forge for sale

Cast Iron single forge in full working order, originally from school workshop in very good condition and has no done no real work. The forge is located in the Wirral Merseyside. The forge will break down in to components plus loading assistance is available. See attached photo's.

Looking for offers around £1500-

If you are interested please contact Wolfgang on 07719 146829.



Retirement Sale

David Stephenson, Pickering, North Yorkshire.

davidblacksmith61@gmail.com

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Please contact David for prices and availability.

Including: Anyang 15kg power hammer (2 sets of dies)

Johnson and Jepson 'Goliath' power hammer (dated 1910)

Forge hearth and blower

Mobile forge with foot bellows

2 x fly presses

3x anvils (41/2 cwt, 64kg, 26kg - all excellent faces)

3x leg vices

Engineers vices

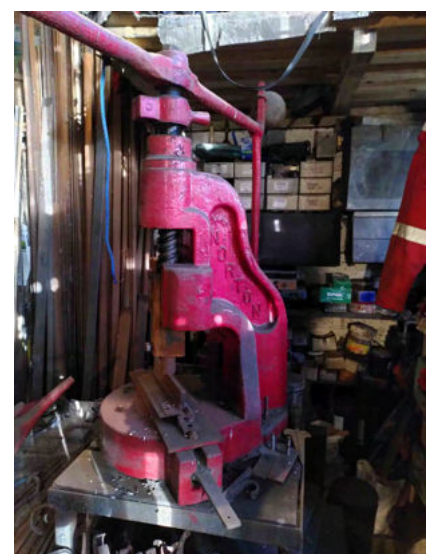
Mig Welder

Drill press and bits

Many anvil stakes and tinman's tools

Tongs, hammers and hand tools.

Grinders etc.



Jobs, Training & Opportunities

Work Experience & New opportunities

If you are looking for a new job, or looking for some vital work experience why not send in a few words about yourself and experience and the part of the UK that you are looking to work in and we will include it here for you.

I know a few of the more established players will be looking for some extra help in the new year on those upcoming projects in the pipeline so feel free to get in touch via email and send me those job adverts. You can also check out the BABA directory for a full list of Blacksmiths offering “Work Experience”

Looking for help in the forge? why not send in the details the newsletter is now reaching a much wider audience of talented smiths who might be just the person you were looking for to join the team.

Newsletter@baba.org.uk



VACANCY :

JOURNEYMAN BLACKSMITH



PHOENIX FORGE

*Are looking for a new smith to join the team,
The role will include:*

*Forging and Fabricating bespoke architectural
ironwork, producing stock products, helping with
metalworking classes and sitework as required*

**PLEASE APPLY BY SENDING A CV & COVER LETTER TO
INFO@PHOENIXFORGE.CO.UK**

**Workshop Address:
Mile End Farm, Trevaughan, Carmarthen, SA313QL**



The National School
of Blacksmithing



national_school_
blacksmithing



NATIONAL.SCHOOL.BLACKSMITHING

Why choose us?

The National School of Blacksmithing is the longest established blacksmithing college in the country. You will have the opportunity to learn the craft of blacksmithing and build your practical skills in our world leading workshop facilities, under the guidance of an experienced team of lecturers from a variety of industry specialisations.

Courses we provide:

- BTEC Level 2 Diploma Blacksmithing
- BTEC Level 3 Diploma Blacksmithing
- BA (Hons) Artist Blacksmithing
- Level 2 Welding Apprenticeship
- Level 3 Blacksmithing Apprenticeship
- Level 3 Farriery Apprenticeship
- Short Courses

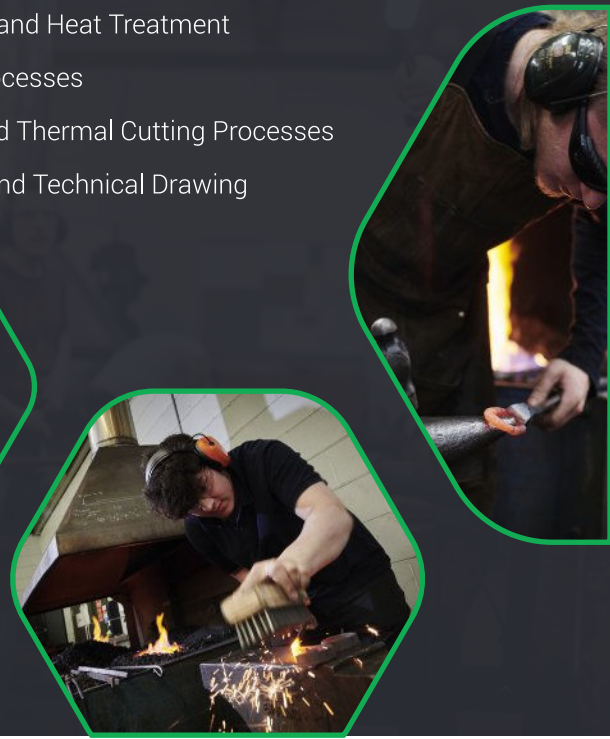
Popular modules:

- Understanding and Using Forging Techniques for Blacksmithing and Metalworking
- Blacksmithing and Construction Skills
- Large Scale Design and Make
- Repoussé, Restoration and Conservation
- Metallurgy and Heat Treatment
- Forging Processes
- Welding and Thermal Cutting Processes
- Freehand and Technical Drawing



Holme Lacy
College

Holme Lacy, Hereford, HR2 6LL





SRUC Oatridge, West Lothian

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) was established in 2012 through the merger of the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) with Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge Colleges. Through these institutions, we can trace our lineage back over 100 years.

Ready to learn blacksmithing?

SRUC's City and Guilds level 2 Certificate in Forgework course starts this January! Gain hands-on experience in metal shaping, creating tools, and crafting artistic pieces. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this course offers expert guidance. Enrol now and forge your future!



C&G Level 2 diploma Forgework

This 16-week full-time course is designed to prepare you for an apprenticeship in farriery or to follow a career as a blacksmith/in blacksmithing.

Location:
Oatridge

Study mode:
full time (1 year)

Start date:
January 2025

Duration:
1 years

Agency code:
FWO1

Ready to try your hand at blacksmithing?

Join us for a Forgework Taster Session at SRUC Oatridge on 28th November - morning and afternoon session available! Learn the basics of shaping metal and create your own unique piece. All tools provided – just bring your enthusiasm! Spaces are limited, so book now!

[Click here to register for the Forgework Taster Session](#)



The Art Workers' Guild

Creative Connections is a year-long programme which creates a space for creative people who are beginning to establish themselves professionally. Programme participants meet and connect with Guild members, build supportive networks with each other and develop their professional practice.

The programme includes hands-on workshops, talks, discussions and social events - all opportunities to connect with other creative people to share insights and ideas, encourage each other and navigate the challenges of sustaining a career.

Creative Connections is open to any creative person at the start of their creative career. Applications for 2023-24 are closed. If you would like to know more about applying for 2024-25, please email Leigh Milsom Fowler (leigh@artworkersguild.org) to register your interest.



[Link to Artworkers Guild](#)

[Link to Men's Sheds Association](#)

Happy & Healthy Men

Connection, conversation and creation – that's what joining a Men's Shed is all about.

Men's Sheds encourage people to come together to make, repair and repurpose, supporting projects in their local communities.

Improving wellbeing, reducing loneliness and combatting social isolation.

What is a Men's Shed?

Men's Sheds (or Sheds) are similar to garden sheds – a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They're about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter.

Activities in Sheds vary greatly, but you can usually find woodworking, metalworking, repairing and restoring, electronics, model buildings or even car building in a typical Shed. Sheds typically attract older men, but many have younger members and women too. Whatever the activity, the essence of a Shed is not a building, but the connections and relationships between its members.



The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust is a charity that transforms the careers of talented and aspiring makers by funding their training and education, creating pathways to excellence and strengthening the future of the UK's craft sector.

Scholarships

QEST offers scholarships of up to £18,000 for the training and education of talented and aspiring craftspeople. We want to sustain vital skills in traditional and contemporary crafts and contribute to excellence in the British craft industry.

Apprenticeships

QEST offers funding of up to £6,000 per year towards an apprentice's salary, for an apprenticeship of up to three years. QEST apprentices have trained in glassblowing, pottery, beekeeping, shoemaking and more.

Applications are now closed for our Autumn funding round. The next round opens from 6 January - 10 February 2025.

Emerging Maker Grants

The Emerging Maker Grant is a new funding opportunity for talented early-career craftspeople. The grant provides funding of up to £10,000 to committed makers to enhance their craft skills and advance their careers.

Building arts programme

A collaboration between The King's Foundation and QEST, this 9-month programme is aimed at students or practitioners who have at least three years' experience in practicing their craft to explore the multifaceted nature of the built environment.

This Programme is applicable to people who work in industries such as architecture, design, carpentry, metalwork, painting and stonemasonry.

[Click here for the QEST website](#)

Association News



BABA DEVELOPMENT FUND

The BABA Development Fund is specifically for seed-funding events and projects such as masterclasses, in the form of an interest-free loan administered by the Council. Candidates should submit a written application outlining why funding is required, and how much is needed, together with a proposal as to how and when the loan will be repaid. Applications will be considered by the Council. For enquiries/applications regarding the Development Fund please contact the BABA Secretary,

Steve Rook; secretary@baba.org.uk

BABA Event Fund

If you are planning on hosting a in person forging event, big or small there are funds available to help with the cost of hosting the event. For further information get in touch with Tony:

Treasurer@baba.org.uk



Newsletter@baba.org.uk

Volunteers needed!



Give up a little of your free time to help grow BABA, raise public awareness and help organise the events,

How long will it take?

How long is a piece of string, As much or as little time as you can spare
to help push the organisation forwards

What benefits are there ?

You get an orange T-shirt at the Agm, bragging rights, and a seat on the council

Newsletter@baba.org.uk

WHETHER YOU ARE A PROFESSIONAL OR AN AMATEUR WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE IMAGES OF YOUR WORK

You have several options:

Single images with a title/caption for 'gallery' pages are most welcome at any time.

Gallery

A collection of 3 to 6 images of pieces by one artist. Please limit text to 100 to 150 words maximum. A very brief description or something about the inspiration or the artist's philosophy. A small insight.

Commission

Similar to the above, but relating to one specific commission. The finished piece, some detail shots, or perhaps some images that clearly show aspects of the making. Again, with just a very brief outline of the commission.

- 1) Please send images at as high a resolution as possible.
- 2) Please give a title or caption for each image.
- 3) If you did not take any given photograph yourself, please give the name of the photographer so they can be credited.
- 4) Please ensure that the images are not blurred and try to avoid confusing backgrounds
- 5) WeTransfer <https://wetransfer.com/> is quick and easy to use. Dropbox, GoogleDrive or similar works too

Send images and text to Henry Pomfret: artistblacksmith@baba.org.uk

