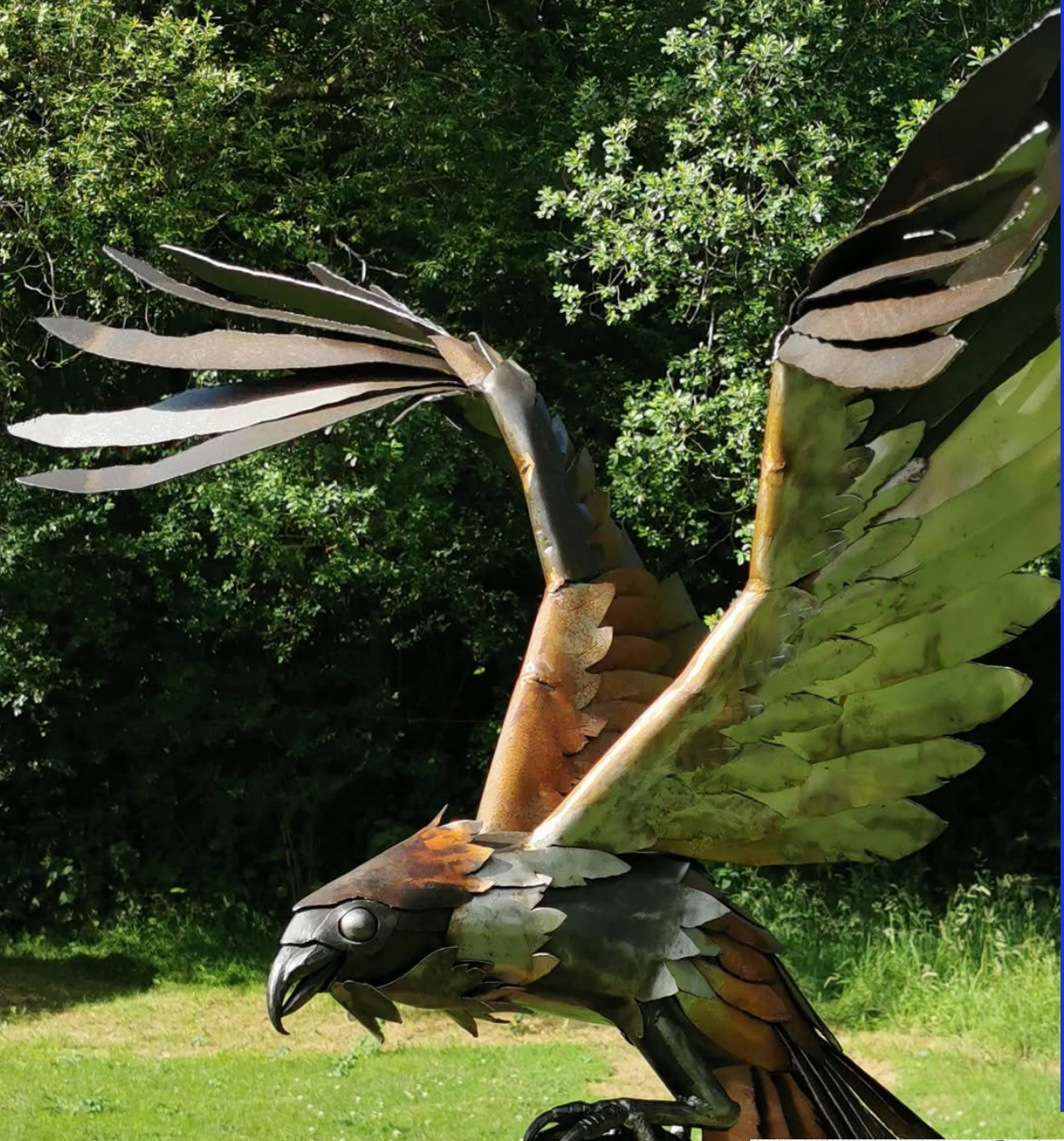


# Newsletter



September 2026



"Osprey" by Spike Blackhurst.

Pictures of the creation of this work can be seen in this newsletter.

[blacksmithingwithspike.co.uk](http://blacksmithingwithspike.co.uk)



Welcome to the September newsletter from the British Artist Blacksmiths Association.

As the AGM is close to the deadline of the September issue of the newsletter, I thought it wise to start early. It feels like I finished the August newsletter just last week, but that might be because I did.

The painter is now working on the last rooms that need to be done, so by the time you are reading this, the house should finally be finished. Except for the heating, the radiators will be installed the first week of September. I was planning organising a forge-in this summer, to celebrate the finishing of the work, but with all the delays it's going to be next year. Janette and I would like to welcome you to "Forge-In at John's" on June 5th and 6th, with the possibility to build up on Friday the 4th. On site camping is possible. More details will follow in the next newsletter, although you can find the poster for it in this one (made by a real human designer, no AI involved!).

The 2026 BABA AGM is history by now. But what a great event it was, the people who were there will be talking about it for a long time. You might have seen pictures on social media, I expect there will be more in an upcoming edition of Artist Blacksmith. But that won't transfer the feeling of being there and participating.

Normally I would moan here about the long trip, but somehow it didn't feel like the 8 hours it was (on the way down, back was 9 1/2 due to two road closures).

Personally I would like to thank all the people involved in organising and realising this event. Including the catering (it was great!) and the icecream man (not really involved in the event, but his icecream was spectacular). But especially Katie Ventress and Kelly Burton whose work was the base for this years AGM.

And of course welcome to all new council members. You will see more about them in a next issue of Artist Blacksmith.

The year is well on it's way in the second half. The number of blacksmithing events for the rest of the year is winding down. But that doesn't mean there is nothing left to do. Check the "Blacksmithing events" page and find events still in the planning.

[newsletter@baba.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@baba.org.uk)



## What is BABA and why join?

For 48 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, meetups, digital events and much much more

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

[www.baba.org.uk](http://www.baba.org.uk)



The finished AGM work with the designers Katie Ventress and Kelly Burton.  
Photo by Shona Johnson



## THE BABA MAGAZINE ONLINE ARCHIVE

**Have you had a chance to search through the BABA magazine archive yet?**

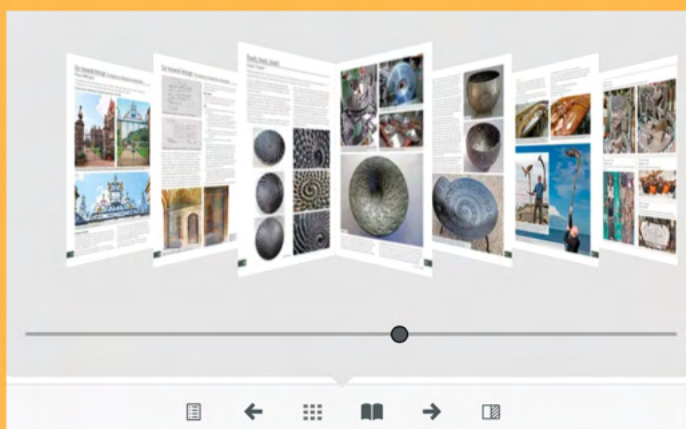
If not go to the members area of the BABA website and click on the “Magazine Archive” link.

**This tremendous resource, spanning 47 years, gives all BABA members access to every BABA magazine from the very first one, British Blacksmith, published in November 1979 right up to the latest publication.**

The archive is very visual, you can read through each magazine online as if you were reading the printed copy. If you are interested in researching a specific subject or name, type that word or name into the search box and every magazine with that word printed will come up with a direct link to the relevant page.

**Join BABA to access the full magazine archive, receive four printed magazines via post each year, a monthly digital newsletter via email, the opportunity to attend blacksmithing related workshops, Forge-Ins and an annual conference, plus much, much more!**

**To become a member, visit the BABA website [www.baba.org.uk](http://www.baba.org.uk)**



# commissions

Work by Stephen Lunn

## Wildlife Gate

People are always asking me what I make and I always start by saying that I do not make gates. Perhaps I will now have to stop saying that.

These gates are for a private client who was building a boundary wall around his house. The hinges were built into the wall to my design and to the strength required. The hinge was positioned so all the gate is visible when closed, and allows the gates to swing right back parallel to the wall when open. This then forms two picture panels framed by the stone wall visible from the house.

The designing part was great fun. My client took me in his 4x4 to show me his hobby and passion; creating wildlife habitats then watching the varied wildlife set up home and prosper. We drove to a lake where two swans have made a home and saw a nest with eggs in, until the male saw us, when we made a hasty retreat. Then onto an owl box in the garden with a family of barn owls. Travelling along a coal road we drove through some very old birch woods to look for deer and foxes. Unfortunately there were none in sight, but I did see my first buzzard and a kestrel flying at what seemed 100 mph through the trees - quite a sight. We drove back to the house where he told me of all the other wild and plant life around. What else could I design after such a wonderful brief?

*Your work could be here. If you have a commission that you are pleased with, send us photos and some writing about it. Send all information to Terry Clark.*



The gate starts with the pond, going through the woodland, all framed by the sweeping tree, which supports the owl.

The end stile forming the tree starts with 60mm diameter mild steel, tapering down, with heavy tree-bark texture formed by top and bottom tools on the power hammer. Some of the animals are 3-D; these gave me the most pleasure to make. I made them first in clay, which was very easy as you can add on an extra piece or cut away with great ease, then forged in metal to the same dimensions. The fox and the deer are dished 6mm and 4mm plate.

They were hot dip galvanised, spray painted, with foliage colours of copper and bronze; the animals being coloured as natural as possible. Painting started with a 2-pack epoxy zinc primer, machinery enamel for weather proofing, and then the details were coloured using house gloss paint. I found this the cheapest and easiest way to obtain all the different colours required. To make the gloss paint spray well I thinned with white spirit, then added a small amount of cellulose thinner which seems to break the surface tension of the paint when wet. This made it flow nicely onto the other paints and enabled me to build up different colours while still wet, and to blend them together making a more pleasing effect. The gloss paint when dry is then coated with a very thin metallic paint which removes the gloss shine, giving back a metal feel with the colours shining through.

Total hours worked:

382 hours to make, 52 hours to galvanise, paint and fix



Photographs Stephen Lunn

Interesting Internet.

Here we go again. I found some interesting posts on the social media I follow that I would like to share with you. But, as usual, I am asking you to share interesting things you found in the world wide web with all of us.



How steel is made in Great Britain - Incredible factory tour.



Just a nice piece of rhythmic hammering in a forge.



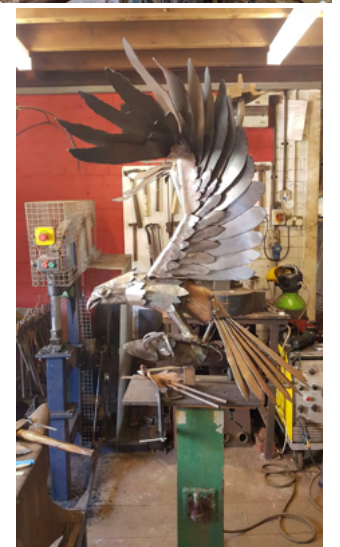
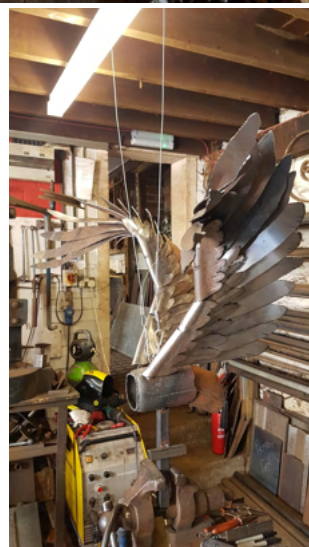
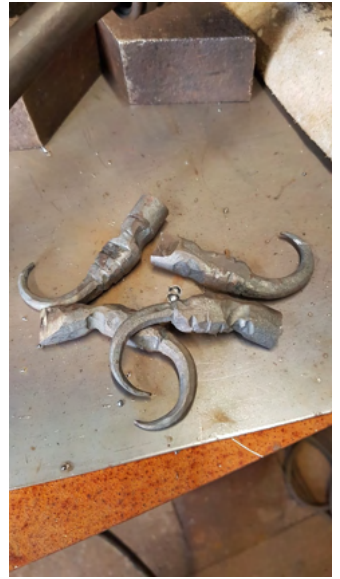
After July's article about "The harmonious blacksmith" by Handel I present you a very well known piece where blacksmiths play an important role: Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. It might not ring a bell (anvil?) but I'm quite sure you'll recognise it.



At the AGM Katie's team were making ammonites. They were using leather hammers. not to damage the structure.

Colin told me about this video about the Thor Hammer Company, where these hammers are made. A long watch, but worthwhile!

Here are some pictures of the creation of Spike Blackhurst "Osprey", seen on the cover of this newsletter. You can follow Spike on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blacksmithingwithspike>



## Blacksmithing events

[5th - 6th September: Dorset County Show - Dorchester, United Kingdom](#)

[6th September: 13e Internationaal Smedentreffen - Wijkre, The Netherlands](#)

[19th - 20th September: Newbury Show - Hermitage, United Kingdom](#)

[26th September: Messer-Feuer-Stahl - Laubuseschbach, Germany](#)

[26th - 27th September: BFBA Focus - Stoneleigh, United Kingdom](#)

[25th - 27th September: Gotha gluhet - Gotha, Germany](#)

[3rd - 4th October: The Phil Johnson Masterclass - Ratho Byres Forge, Ratho, United Kingdom](#)

[16th - 18th October: 2ième Rencontre de Forgerons - Celles-sur-Belle, France](#)

[17th October: Butterley Forge-in - Butterley, United Kingdom](#)

[Untill 31st October: An exhibition of contemporary forged metalwork - Pitlochry, United Kingdom](#)

[5th - 7th November: Denkmal - Leipzig, Germany](#)

[5th - 7th November: Iron Notes - Tallinn, Estonia](#)

## 2027

5th - 6th June: Forge-in at John's - Falkirk, United Kingdom

[3rd - 6th September: Biennale Europea d'Arte Fabbre di Stia - Stia, Italy](#)

## 2028

3rd - 4th June: Forge-in at David Cooper's forge - Burton Agnes, United Kingdom  
More information to follow

9th - 13th September: BABA's 50th anniversary celebration, Margam Castle, Port Talbot, United Kingdom  
More information to follow



## 2026 Competition Calendar

- **7th March:**  
**Annual Judging Seminar & First Round – Hereford, UK**

- **4th May: North Somerset Show**

- **21st, 22nd & 23rd May: Devon Show**

- **4th, 5th & 6th June: Royal Cornwall Show**

- **12th, 13th & 14th June: Royal Three Counties Show**

- **20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd July: Royal Welsh Show**

- **28th, 29th & 30th July: New Forest & Hampshire Show**

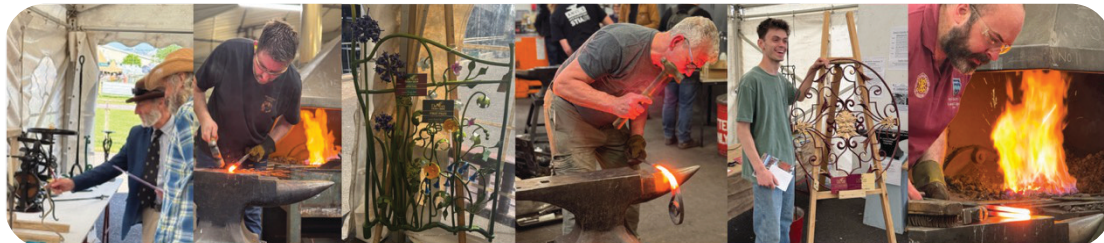
- **30th & 31st August: Edenbridge & Oxted Show**

- **5th & 6th September: Dorset County Show**

- **27th September: BFBA "International" Event**



[championblacksmith.co.uk/events/](http://championblacksmith.co.uk/events/)



## What is the NBCC?

The National Blacksmith Competitions Committee (NBCC) is the official organising body dedicated to promoting, overseeing, and scoring the premier UK blacksmithing competition circuit.

Our mission is to foster high standards of craftsmanship, support educational progression for students, and crown the National Blacksmith Champions each year. The circuit brings together traditional hand-forging techniques, modern design, and community judging to showcase the very best of British blacksmithing.

### How the Championship Circuit Works

The road to the National Championship is a rigorous test of skill, consistency, and speed across two distinct styles of competition:

#### 1. Live Forging Competitions

- **The Challenge:** Competitors are given a set time limit, sometimes based around a specific theme or a technical set piece.

#### 2. Static (Show) Competitions

- **The Challenge:** Pre-made pieces are brought directly to the show for judging. Pieces must be predominantly of a forged nature and entirely the maker's own work.

### The Scoring & Grand Finale

At each accredited round, 10 points are awarded to the Show Champion and 4 points to the Reserve Champion across both Live and Static categories.

At the end of the season in September, the points are tallied to determine four official National titles: Champion and Reserve Champion in both Static and Live Forging. Generous cash prizes (up to £1,000 for National Champions), certificates, and the silver challenge cup are awarded thanks to the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths (WCOB) and our industry sponsors.

### How to Get Involved

Ready to step up to the block or show off your latest creation? We would love to see you there.

**Competitors:** Check the competition calendar on our website, find a regional show near you, and download an entry form.

**Students:** Take advantage of our dedicated student classes—it is a fantastic way to build your confidence, test your skills, and earn CPD certificates for your CV.

**Join the Community:** Even if you aren't competing this year, come down to a show, introduce yourself, and watch the sparks fly. It is the perfect place to get inspired and meet the wider blacksmithing family.

### Additional Competitions & Resources

- [National Blacksmithing Competitions Committee](http://www.championblacksmith.co.uk): [www.championblacksmith.co.uk](http://www.championblacksmith.co.uk)
- [The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths](http://www.blacksmithscompany.co.uk/): [www.blacksmithscompany.co.uk/](http://www.blacksmithscompany.co.uk/)
- [The Neville Schulman Competition – Deadline: 1st August 2026](http://www.blacksmithscompany.co.uk/craft/awards): [www.blacksmithscompany.co.uk/craft/awards](http://www.blacksmithscompany.co.uk/craft/awards)





## **DORSET COUNTY SHOW 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026**

***Your guide to events at the Blacksmiths Guild stand located a short walk from Gate 4 alongside the Countryside Ring by the Pond [www.dorsetcountyshow.co.uk/Home](http://www.dorsetcountyshow.co.uk/Home)***

### **NATIONAL BLACKSMITHS COMPETITION**

Round 9 of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths / NBCC Competition. There are Live Forging and Static Display Classes at each of the 10 qualifying shows held throughout the summer. Those accruing the most points throughout the heats become National Static and National Live Champion Blacksmiths. Their names will be announced shortly after the Dorset show and awards made at the WCB Awards Luncheon in October

Static Classes: Indoor or Outdoor Fire Basket, an Item of Kitchenalia and a Decorative Item suitable for fixing to a House Indoor Wall

Live Classes: A Saleable Item forged in 30 minutes and a Suffolk Latch in 90 minutes

### **BLACKSMITHS GUILD LIVE FORGING COMPETITIONS**

Six classes of Live Forging against the clock for Professional, Student and Amateur Blacksmiths and Farriers. The classes include: Decorative Nail forged in 20 minutes, Boot Scraper, forged in 90 minutes, Door Knocker forged in 90 minutes, the Tommy Tucker Challenge - a Set Piece forged in 90 minutes, Horseshoe and a Forged Heart Design

### **DEMONSTRATIONS**

Blacksmithing and other Metalworking demonstrations will be held throughout both days

### **HAVE-A-GO**

Your opportunity to try your hand at our ancient craft under the supervision of a Master Blacksmith. One hour sessions and you 'Take What You Make'. Bookings throughout the weekend at the Blacksmiths Stand or phone / text 07979 597431

### **SALES TABLES**

- Caimbeul's Forge Bespoke Traditional Blacksmithing
- Chris Sumner – Decorative Art
- KD Knives
- Malcolm Shepherd Artistic Blacksmithing
- Noel Keogh Exhibition of Blacksmithing Items
- OSD Custom Leatherwork
- Rob Fielding Blacksmith and Blacksmithing Tutor at Kingston Maurward College

### **VISITOR VOTES**

You will find Voting Slips around the stands for you to vote for your favourite item. The Blacksmith receiving the most votes will receive a cash prize

***WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!***

# BABA

## British Artist Blacksmiths Association

AT NEWBURY SHOW 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

LIVE and Student Forging

1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes

All Members can come along and make use of the 8 gas forges to make a flower to take home, materials supplied.

Free camping for BABA Members over the weekend.

Saturday Night entertainment: the 1909 party

Live Music, DJs, food and a fully stocked bar

Sign up on the NEWBURY SHOW website

<https://newburyshowground.co.uk/farriers-blacksmiths-entries/>

# BUTTERLEY FORGE-IN

## Hello Folks!

We are very pleased to announce that we are hosting a forge-in!

Mark your calendars and come and join us in the forge on the  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**Butterley Court Farm  
Bromyard HR7 4NG**



**Theme is “ Your Favourite Book”**

**Camping arrangements possible at Adrian's  
(Yew Tree Cottage, Bredenbury, Bromyard HR7 4TJ)**

**Bring something to eat and share for a BBQ Saturday night, and  
whatever drink you wish to enjoy & share.**

**Adrian doing the usual Full english breakfast Sunday morning**

**Contact Lee for more info: [Lee.valentineblacksmith@gmail.com](mailto:Lee.valentineblacksmith@gmail.com)  
Lee:07467950642 Or Adrian:07921083231**

# **BUTTERLEY FORGE-IN**

## **WHERE IS EVERYTHING?**

**BUTTERLEY FORGE**



**YEW TREE COTTAGE**



**Theme is “ Your Favourite Book”**

**Camping arrangements possible at Adrian’s  
(Yew Tree Cottage Bredenbury, Bromyard HR7 4TJ)**

**Bring something to eat and share for a BBQ saturday night.**

**Adrian doing the usual Full english breakfast Sunday morning**

**Contact Lee for more info: [Lee.valentineblacksmith@gmail.com](mailto:Lee.valentineblacksmith@gmail.com)**

**Lee:07467950642 Or Adrian:07921083231**



**The Phil Johnson Masterclass**  
**Ratho Byres Forge**  
**3rd & 4th October 2026**  
**Presenting Jacob Edwards and Kit Garnett**  
**Words by Shona Johnson**

My father, artist blacksmith Phil Johnson, founder of P. Johnson & Company at Ratho Byres Forge, passed away in December 2022 at the age of 80. Phil was passionate about forging, passionate about BABA and passionate about passing on skills. He believed in the importance of giving those new to smithing valuable experience in a vibrant, commercial, busy workshop, such as Ratho Byres Forge.

Myself and partner, Pete Hill, have this same passion for smithing, for BABA and for passing on viable, useful skills to the next generation of smiths who are creating and leaving their own legacy on the built environment. To this end we take on several smiths each year for work experience at Ratho Byres Forge.



Over the past year, alongside Steve Rook, a fellow smith and BABA stalwart, we have hosted a series of weekend skills workshops at Ratho Byres Forge. These have been well attended and alongside new skills being acquired, friendships have established and a level of creative excitement has been generated as these new skills are explored further.

We have hosted many and varied masterclass events at Ratho Byres Forge in the past, most recently Will Maguire from Australia, and in 2019, Ian James from Vancouver Island, Canada, both big names in the world of contemporary artist blacksmithing.

Pete and I, as Phil did, feel that it is important to support the next generation of smiths to ensure that our craft continues to develop and we, as smiths, remain excited and passionate about the forging of metal.

We want to celebrate, enthuse and encourage the young smiths within our profession that are doing interesting creative work, pushing boundaries and taking the craft of the contemporary artist blacksmith forward in a healthy and positive direction.

Working together on a project, as we have seen on past masterclasses, drives this passion and deepens one's understanding of how we can manipulate steel with forging processes while working alongside other smiths who are sharing their knowledge.

We hope to make "The Phil Johnson Masterclass" an annual experience and for this, the initial event, we have invited Jacob Edwards and Kit Garnett as the designers and team leaders. Both are established young smiths, each having graduated with a degree in Artist Blacksmithing from Hereford College of Arts in 2019 and both are currently running their own successful forges where they are each working to commission.

Both of them have developed a design for a sculptural piece to be forged at Ratho Byres Forge. Jacob and Kit will each work with a team of 6 smiths to produce their individual sculptures. Jacob is influenced by traditional Japanese architecture, bold forms celebrating the forging process.

Kit's influence is the flowing lines and distortion from the Art Nouveau movement creating

intricate forms exploring the forging process and connections.

The two final designs are excitingly different and working on these two projects side by side is going to make for an extremely interesting weekends forging for those that attend.

Jacob Edwards

Title - 'Perspectives'

This sculpture is an exploration in my interest of structures and how we can perceive them as



such a massive thing, when in reality they pale in comparison to the vastness of the universe. Inspired by Thomas Telford and his Craigellachie Bridge, as well as the cast concrete pylons in Mallorca. The sculpture will stand 3 meters tall with the main supports being made from 100x20mm steel, with two shooting stars crossing the top.

Kit Garnett

Title - "Divergence II"

Originally inspired by early 1900s Art Nouveau jewellery, the design highlights forged processes and connections in a structured, intricate form.



We aim to have both Jacob and Kit, and their respective teams, create their design over two days. Ratho Byres Forge is well equipped with various power hammers, hydraulic presses and several forges, furnaces and induction heater, which will perhaps give those attending the opportunity to work in new and maybe different ways than they are familiar with.

The Phil Johnson Masterclass will be held on Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th October 2026 at Ratho Byres Forge, Freelands Road, Ratho, Scotland, EH28 8NW

There are 12 places available and the cost per person is £130.00 which includes lunch both days. To reserve your place please email [rathomasterclass@gmail.com](mailto:rathomasterclass@gmail.com) and we will send details of how to make payment to confirm your place.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide accommodation, however, there are various options close by. There is room for camper vans at the workshop and there is a camp site within 4 miles of the forge, which also has lodges. There are various budget hotels even nearer, camping pods or chalets at the "Lost Shore, Surf Resort" just outside the village and several other, more luxurious, options. Edinburgh is accessible by air at relatively low cost, if booked in advance, and we are less than 3 miles from the airport. There is also a train station nearby and we would be willing to collect and drop folk at either if the need arises. Please feel free to get in touch if you want advice on accommodation or travel.

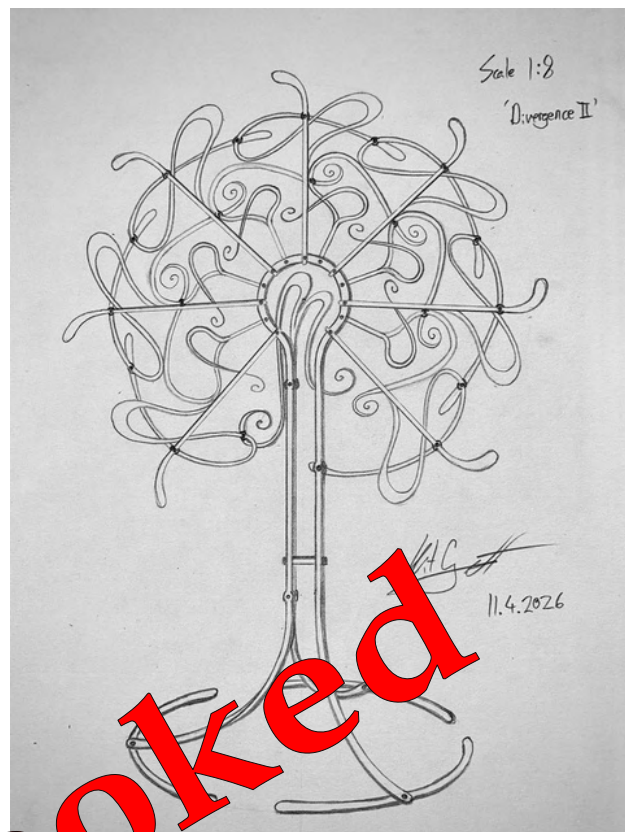
We look forward to welcoming you to Ratho Byres Forge in October!

Website info

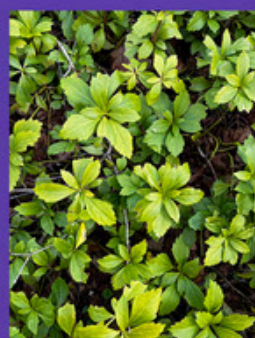
[www.jermetaldesign.com](http://www.jermetaldesign.com)

[www.kermettdesign.com](http://www.kermettdesign.com)

[www.rathobyresforge.co.uk](http://www.rathobyresforge.co.uk)



# Forged by Ratho Byres Forge



**An exhibition of contemporary forged metalwork is on display at the beautiful Explorers Garden, Pitlochry. The garden is open Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm**

**Free to explore and there is a very good cafe at the Theatre!**



**Explorers Garden  
Open until 31 October**



**PITLOCHRY  
FESTIVAL  
THEATRE**

# FORGE-IN AT JOHN'S

**FALKIRK, 5-6 JUNE 2027**



- Arrivals welcome from noon on Friday
- Camping spaces available
- Forging competition on Saturday (theme to be announced)
- Catering will be provided on Saturday evening and Sunday morning for £10 p.p.
- Please bring something to share for Saturday lunch

RSPV to [john@prikkebeen.net](mailto:john@prikkebeen.net)

We were told there is an interesting exhibition opening at the National Museums of Scotland. Not directly blacksmithing / iron related, but with many metal objects, making it interesting enough to mention here.

Entrance to the museum and the exhibition is free.



### Who were Scotland's First Warriors?

This exhibition reveals the origins and impact of conflict in prehistoric Scotland.

Explore the first signs of organised warfare, from the Neolithic (late Stone Age) to the Romans, through over 250 objects.

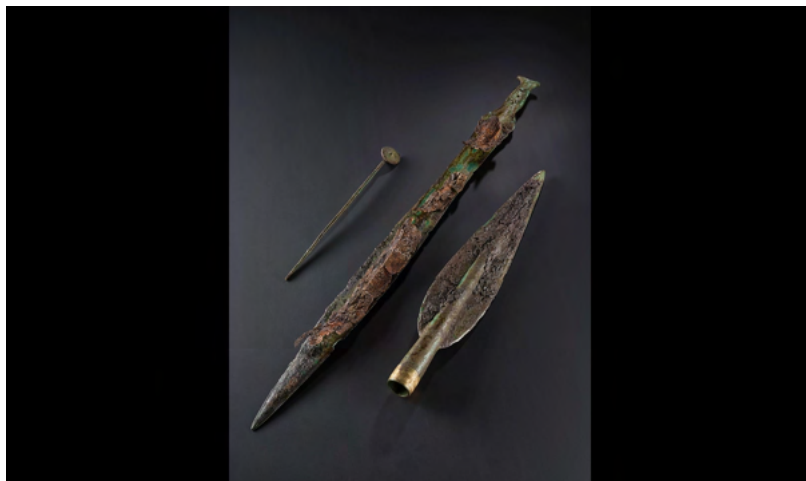
Scotland's First Warriors explores how and why people fought, the impact of war, and the legacy of prehistoric conflict.

Internationally significant archaeological discoveries from Scotland will be on display for the first time.

Visitors will see the [Carnoustie Hoard](#) - which was deliberately and thoughtfully placed near a Bronze Age round structure. It includes a spearhead decorated with gold, and a bronze sword in a wooden scabbard. An exceptionally rare find, it dates from around 1120-920 BC.

The exhibition maps the journey from the sword - a Bronze Age invention - through to the Roman concept of a professional soldier.

Scotland's First Warriors is a unique exhibition that engages visitors with the very nature of war.



Objects from the Carnoustie Hoard:  
a disk-headed pin, sword in  
wooden scabbard and spearhead

# **JOBS, TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Work experience and new opportunities**

If you are looking for a new job, or for some vital work experience, why not send in a few words about yourself and your experience and the part of the UK that you are looking to work in and we'll 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 for those upcoming projects in the pipeline so feel free to send us an email.

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](mailto:newsletter@baba.org.uk)**

To whom it may concern;

I am a Canadian bladesmith/blacksmith currently travelling the world looking for blacksmithing and bladesmithing opportunities. I am a 24 year old man and I've been smithing for about 10 years now, I am self-taught and my main focus has always been bladesmithing. Currently I am working out of Fallen Forge in South Australia making knives and I'm a member of the Artist Blacksmith's Association South Australia and out of there shop I am making tools. I am now to change my direction of smithing into more traditional tool making and gates/ artisan pieces and I'm looking to work/apprentice at a shop overseas to learn as much as possible and be as helpful as I can to your shop. I have forged hammers and tools to use in my shop through processes I've learnt from other smiths as well as reading old literature on traditional blacksmithing. I am yet to take the leap into trying to forge a gate/railing or large artisan piece due to lack of space but am very intrigued by this idea.



My knife making skills are excellent, though I am yet to test for my journeyman smith through the American Blade Society. My smithing processes are efficient, and every heat is set up for with intention before the steel is pulled from the forge and every hammer blow is intentional. I have worked with a variety of trip/ power hammers from Little Giants #25 and #50, Big Blu 165lb pneumatic, Massey 3wt, and Anyang 50-150lb. I have more experience using the smaller hammers than the large ones but recently have got a good grasp on controlling the bigger hammers like the Massey and using tooling underneath it to forge hammers. I have collaborated with smiths in the past as a striker and director on a 2 man operation with ease. Outside of forging equipment I also have experience operating equipment such as forklifts, skidsteers, and picker cranes.

Of the last 10 years of smithing, I've been taking custom knife orders for about 7 years and have sold 200+ knives to customers as well as various other small forged items. I have made a variety of tooling for my shop including hammers, tongs, top tools, and hardie hole tooling. I have also restored coal forges, blowers, post vises and various parts on my little giant trip hammer. I am able to comfortably operate most power tools found in a metal shop such as



grinders, saws, drills (drill presses) and all hand tools as well as stick and mig welders. I have not had the opportunity to use a mill or a lathe but would be keen on learning if the opportunity is there. In my past work experience outside of blacksmithing I have been able to interpret engineers blueprints but am not an expert, all the drawings I have done for myself have been done by hand or mocked up on a CAD process as I do have some experience on creating drawings through AutoCAD.

I hope that this letter provides you with enough information on myself and most of my capabilities that would be applicable in the blacksmith setting. If you do have more questions or seek more information you can contact me via email at [carter.gottselig@gmail.com](mailto:carter.gottselig@gmail.com) and upon request I can provide you references of makers I have worked with.

### ‘Surface Preparation & Coating’



How can we best protect vulnerable surfaces without damaging historic material? What are the approaches which cause least harm whilst promoting longevity? This one-day course will provide an overview of various methods of cleaning, treating and re-coating heritage ironwork, evaluating advantages & disadvantages, and illustrating how decisions are made in practice via a selection of case-studies. Sessions will cover:

- **Causes of coating failure**
- **Corrosion: types, rates & control**
- **Appropriate cleaning methods**
- **Surface preparation for best adherence**
- **Consolidate, overpaint or renew?**
- **Coating types & application methods**
- **Real-world examples**

This day is aimed at anyone wanting to get a better understanding of the ironwork in their care, including craftspeople, architects & surveyors, property managers & contractors.

**Tickets:** £40 - £120 including lunch and refreshments. Member discounts.

**More information and booking can be found [HERE](#)**



## NHIG AWARD for Metalwork Conservation

We are delighted to reopen the NHIG Award for Metalwork Conservation in 2026-7. Please submit your projects for consideration between 1st August 2026 and 30th April 2027. The award will be presented at the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths Annual Awards Luncheon in October 2027. The NHIG Award seeks to recognise and celebrate excellence in metalwork conservation as an inspiration to all. Submitted work must have been carried out in the last 5 years in accordance with well-considered conservation principles.

### The judges will be interested in:

- Appropriateness of materials and techniques used
- Extent to which loss of original fabric was minimised
- Quality of craftsmanship

To enter, [click here](#).

You will need to:

provide a brief description of the metalwork  
outline the work carried out  
explain what approach was taken and why  
send images (min. 3, max. 6) separately by file transfer

A panel of experienced judges drawn from members of the NHIG Council and the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths Craft Committee will assess the entries.

The judging panel will visit shortlisted projects so please ensure that access to the site is possible.

The NHIG will publicise competition entries and outcomes as examples of good practice to inspire others. Please ensure that all permissions have been sought prior to entry and that images have been cleared for use.

### Who Can Enter?

Entries can be submitted by anyone connected with a project, although the award will be presented to craft practitioner(s) who carried out the work. Multi-disciplinary team entries are also acceptable, in which case the award will be presented to the practitioners and consultants or specifiers who jointly carried out the project. Members of the judging panel are NOT eligible to enter. A maximum of three submissions can be made per person/team.

### Opening/Closing Date

The 2026-7 Award submission window will open on 1st August 2026 and close on 30th April 2027.

### Final Decision

The decision of the judging panel is final. The panel will not enter into any correspondence regarding the decision.

## College in the UK that offer Blacksmithing

Click on the logo to find out more information about their courses. Click on the date for information about taster events / open door days.



**Brinsbury  
College**

**Coastland  
College**



**Holme Lacy  
College**

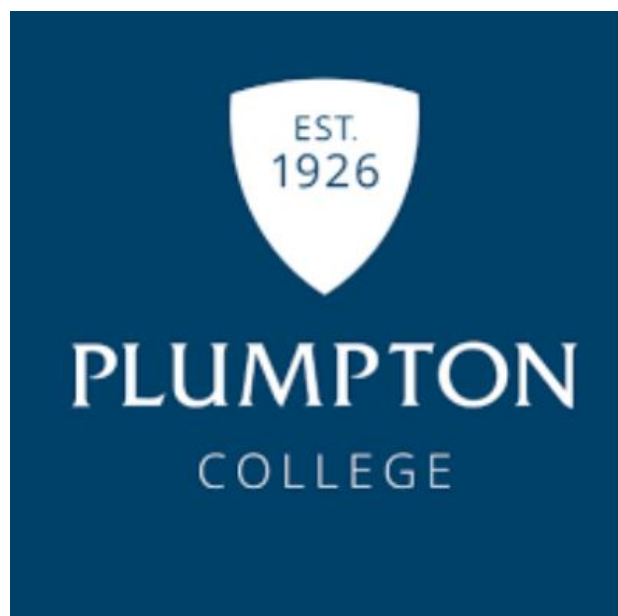
[17th April 2027](#)



**Myerscough  
College**



**WARWICKSHIRE  
COLLEGE  
GROUP**



**WEST  DEAN**

## Blacksmithing education

Beside the colleges mentioned above, there are blacksmiths specialised in teaching blacksmithing. The ones I could find are mentioned below, in random order. Do you know of others? Are you specialised in teaching? Please let me know: [newsletter@baba.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@baba.org.uk)

Click on the image to go to the website of the blacksmith.



Stockton-on-Tees TS18 3RH



Located between Exeter and Crediton



Parmenter forge - Mattingley  
RG27 8LH



AW artist blacksmith -  
Northallerton DL6 2JE



**Llanbrynmair SY19 7AA**



# THE QUINNELL SCHOOL OF BLACKSMITHING

ROWHURST FORGE - OXSHOTT ROAD - LEATHERHEAD - SURREY - KT22 0EN

- EST. 1932 -



**Melissa Cole Artist Blacksmith**

**Wiltshire SN9 6LU**



**Trevaughan, SA31 3QL**

# Classifieds: toys for the toy shop



**Toby Forbes Gower**

**The widest range of blacksmithing tools at sensible prices**

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

# 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 administrators of the fund.

For enquiries and applications regarding the Development Fund please contact the BABA Secretary:

**Simon Pooley, [secretary@baba.org.uk](mailto:secretary@baba.org.uk)**

## BABA Event Fund

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

**Tony Ingarfield , [treasurer@baba.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@baba.org.uk)**



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

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

### **How long will it take?**

How long is a piece of string? As much or as little 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](mailto:Newsletter@baba.org.uk)**