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Welcome along to the July Newsletter for the British Artist Blacksmith Association.

Well, it has been an interesting start to the summer with lots of events and masterclasses taking place across the country. In this month's newsletter there are plans a foot for new forge-ins, international guest speakers, and more updates on the BABA conference happening later this year. As well as adverts from new suppliers', details about workshops for let and lots of useful tools for sale.

In BABA News - Several of the BABA council have now reached their full term in office and as such will be standing down at the AGM, me included. The association will be looking for some new blood to join the team in the autumn following the AGM and Conference. So, if you feel like you could spare a few hours of your time and have interesting ideas on how to grow and develop BABA as an organisation please do step forwards and get in touch.





What is BABA & Why Join?

For 45 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 the 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 go to: http://www.baba.org.uk/



Irish Iron: The online Woodford Furnace Festival 2020

Paul Rondelez

Not to be deterred by Covid-19, the organisers of this annual festival took it online and global. Despite some initial problems, the result was a very successful event.



Earth, wind and fire...

Photo Pierre Rondelez

I ron production is not often accentuated as a part of Ireland's heritage, but until the 18th century, the country was self-sufficient in its ferrous needs. Several hundred bloomery furnaces, from the Iron Age until the Late Medieval period, have now been excavated in Ireland. Later, in the 17th and 18th centuries, the industry was dominated by the charcoal-fuelled blast furnace and, as in many cases, these ventures were relatively short-lived. The country is peppered with upstanding remains of these monumental furnaces. One area, the Sliabh Aughty Mountains in west Co. Clare and south west Co. Galway, has no less than four 17th to 18th century blast furnaces that are still standing.



Eighteenth-century blast furnace at Bealkelly, Co. Clare
Photo Paul Rondelez

To further research, document and spread the word on this iron industry, the Sliabh Aughty Furnace Project was founded in 2014. It was decided to regularly hold events around the theme of iron production within the area, which led to a small-scale conference with craft-related activities in Mountshannon, Co.

Clare in 2014 and a 'Battle of the Smiths' (which turned into a cooperative forge-in) in Scarriff, Co. Clare in 2016.

In that same year, Christy Cunniffe, Monuments Adviser for County Galway, wanted my advice on what was suspected to be an archaeological site on the slope of a hill in the Galway part of the Sliabh Aughtys. The hard, dry bumps sticking out of the wet field, however, were not man-made but large accumulations of bog iron ore. The next Furnace Festival was going to be a bloomery iron smelting event.

And so it was. The village of Woodford in Co. Galway, where a blast furnace was erected in 1681, is one of the only remaining settlements in Ireland, which were specifically founded for making iron. In 2018, ten iron smelting teams from across Europe descended on the place to make Irish iron anew. Lee Sauder, from Virginia, USA; bloomery iron maker extraordinaire, came over to teach six Irish people the skills of bloomery iron smelting. The big unknown was the ore, which showed very low silica and high manganese contents. We need not to have worried; each team produced a bloom of iron, with one team making 26kg of iron out of 60kg of ore!



The first Irish iron bloom in over 300 years, Woodford 2018

Photo Pierre Rondelez

The idea behind the Festival was "Irish Iron", that is to say objects of art and practical use made from local materials only. One thing which became apparent in 2018 was that forging bloom fragments into useable bar iron required a lot of time and effort when done manually. We needed power hammers.

In 2019, the Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association (IABA) had agreed to team up and was represented by about 15 members who brought with them two power hammers. Furnaces were pumping out blooms of iron, power hammers squeezing these into bars, smiths at the ready at their hearths. But all was not well; while the smelters were making bloom after bloom, the blacksmiths were struggling to forge something out of it. Many modern-day smelters either smelt for public display, at events or open-air museums, or as a hobby. They may have little interest in further processing the iron. Therefore, they may only make blooms and the iron is not used afterwards. The blooms are preferably large and nearly always rich in carbon which makes for a lovely display of sparks after the smelt. Bloomery iron also contains a fair amount of slag which modern-day blacksmiths are not used to. Quite a few wonderful objects were made in the end, from belt buckles over brooches to knives, which were all successfully auctioned off, but in future we definitely needed better carbon control at the smelting stage.



Forging the bloom into bar

Photo Pierre Rondelez



IABA member Jeremy Stanley on the power hammer Photo Paul Rondelez

That was the plan, anyway, for the 2020 Festival. Several grants were obtained, including one for inviting over a team of Japanese smelters. A new source of high-grade bog iron ore was found and then Covid-19 hit. Waiting first - it might not be that bad by the end of August - and then more and more, a creeping certainty that groups from all over coming to Ireland to smelt and forge iron in front of several thousand people simply was not going happen. 'If Mohammed cannot go to the mountain, then the mountain must come to Mohammed', with the 'mountain', in this case, being Irish bog iron ore. This ore was going to be sent out to the teams, the grants people were flexible on this matter, and the smelts were going to be part of a livestreamed online-only Furnace Festival. The deal was that the teams receiving the ore would attempt to make forgeable, low-carbon iron.



Drying the iron ore destined for Japan

Photo Paul Rondelez

This was a relief for the teams, who could stop worrying if their planned Ireland trip could or could not go ahead. Our contact in Japan, Professor Yasuyuki Murakami, suggested that Master Akira Kihara, National Living Treasure of Japan and one of only a handful of people who knows how to make the 'Tamahagane' (Jewel steel) needed for the traditional katana swords, was willing to try and smelt our Irish bog ore in his Tatara furnace. Now, that sounded like a challenge! The Japanese magnetite ore used in tataras is very dense while our bog ore, being porous, was very light even though it contained over 90% Fe2O3. Our ore contained no silica, which led to some scratching of Japanese heads.



First charging of the ore in the Tatara furnace

Photo Kimio Andou

We had also put out word that teams would be welcome to participate through 'solidarity-smelts'. They would be part of the online event but would use their own ore. As well as people from New Zealand and Spain signing up, there was a lot of enthusiasm to take part from the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) in the far east of Siberia. We already knew there were several groups

in that region who made bloomery iron. They forge this into knives and Jew's harps, among other items. Google translate only goes so far and until the week before the live event on 23 August, it was still unclear how many Sakha teams would participate and how they were planning to do so.

In the meantime, we had received very encouraging news from the Japanese team, which, due to circumstances, had to smelt a few weeks earlier than the online Festival and would contribute a video of their smelt. Eighteen kilograms of steel had been smelted out of sixty kilogram of ore and the quality was judged as 'ready to be forged into Japanese swords'! And then the cherry on the cake; two weeks later, we received a documentary-grade video of the Tatara smelt, which ended with footage of part of the iron being made into high-grade steel traditional Japanese knives.



Japanese/Irish steel knives

Photo Yasuyuki Murakami

Around the same time, video footage of excellent quality was coming in from Sakha, not only showing the smelts but also the shamanic blessing, which accompanies iron production there, as well as detailed explanations of the production of the objects made. Turns out that bloomery iron, together with "Bulat" steel production (a form of Wootz steel), is regarded as an important aspect of the Sakha traditions, which have been experiencing a renaissance in the last few decades. Bloomery iron is currently produced at thirteen locations in Sakha Republic and accounts for an important part of domestic iron use.



Making iron in the Sakha Republic is very much a family affair

Photo Vasily Gerasimo

OK, so an eight-hour, live-streamed event, going from east to west to capture the time differences between about twenty teams in twelve different countries, was possibly a bit over-

ambitious. Nerves were running high as 23rd August grew closer. Footage as well as details on participation were still coming in until the day before the event and only a few hours before the start of the event at 12.30am, did a broadly fixed programme emerge. A final check of all the settings in the excellent open-source Open Broadcasting Software (OBS) and we were off.

Not all went perfectly. We learned the hard way that footage with different resolutions needed different output settings, and after a while the computer microphone refused to connect to 'Zoom'. But viewers could enjoy footage from Japan and Sakha and also from the 2019 Festival in Woodford. There were live contributions from the European and US smelting teams, as well as from Dublin blacksmith Colm Bagnal who forged bar iron made at the previous event. At the same time, viewers could hop between live footage on the streams of the individual teams

The biggest surprise of the event was how the new bog iron ore reacted; as it contained virtually no silica, hardly any slag formed. Slag, up till our Festival, was considered to be instrumental in the formation of bloomery iron in the furnace. However, iron was made by all and, in most cases, in the form of solid well-formed blooms.



Tapping slag during the smelt

Photo Pierre Rondelez

For all except two of the teams, the iron turned out to have a medium-carbon content of around 0.3 to 0.7%. All of this iron was very nicely forgeable. Several of the teams experimented with lowering the height of the furnace shaft and top-notch iron of around 30% yield, was made in furnaces only 30cm high in the space of a few hours.

So, what's next? The main plan for the future is to truly get a grip on controlling the carbon content of the iron made and, Covid permitting, the next Festival should see some twenty to twenty five furnaces pumping out small blooms of iron several times per day, with parameters being changed and the carbon content of the output systematically checked. That way we will be able to make the iron the blacksmiths require.

Our online adventure has also shown us the possibilities of the net and, in future, we hope to have two-way streaming of the event combining the action in Woodford with that of smelters and smiths who would not be able to travel to Ireland.



Romain Bohr, Luxembourg Photo Romain Bohr



Adrien Morat, Lorraine, France Photo Adrien Morat



Katie Surridge, England Photo Katie Surridge



Mark Green, North Carolina, USA Photo Andrew Welton



Master Akira Kihara's Tatara furnace





Iron is born...





Brooch by James O'Toole

Photo Katie Surridge



Belt buckle by James Wood

Photo James Wood



Bloom and knife from the 2018 "God Furnace" by Robert Seiler (see cover) Photo James Wood

Some objects made from "Woodford" blooms since 2018



Pendant by Eoin McDonagh

Photo Allan Lynch



Axe by Simon Collins and James Wood Photo Simon Collins

Paul Rondelez is Chair of the Historical Metallurgy Society (HMS).

He has a doctoral degree from University College Cork on the subject of iron production in late medieval Ireland. His research is concentrated in the archaeology and history of iron smelting

and smithing in Ireland in the late medieval and early modern period.

More information and footage can be found on our website, www.furnacefestival. org, while updates are frequently posted on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ Woodfordfurnacefestival

Go to 'Woodford Furnace Festival 2019 Fringe' on YouTube for highlights of that festival. If any of those reading this would be interested in joining our adventure or visiting us next year, please contact Paul at prondelez@yahoo.com

Smelting in the Sakha Republic





Left: Sakha, also known as Yakutia, is a federal Russian republic. It has a population of mainly ethnic Sakha and Russians.

Comprising half the Far Eastern Federal District, it is the largest subnational governing body by area in the world, being slightly smaller than India. Its capital is the city of Yakutsk. It is also known for its extreme and severe climate, with the lowest recorded temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere, although much of the republic has very warm summers.

Source: Wikipedia - "Sakha"

Below: The "Khomus", also known as the Jews Harp or Jaws Harp is the national musical instrument of Sakha. It is very popular and is played widely so becomes a very marketable item for blacksmiths skilled enough to make instruments of the highest quality and tone.



Smelting in Tastah, Sakha (Yakutia)

Photo Hugh Brown photography



Bloomery iron khomus's made by Arian Afanasiev

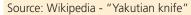
Photo Arian Afanasie

The Yakutian Knife

The Yakutian knife is the traditional knife of Yakuts, an ethnic group from the Sakha Republic region in Siberia. It is used for working with wood, hides, skins, fish and meat or for combat. The knife has been used in Yakutia for hundreds of years without significant changes in its design.

Typical Yakutian knives have a blade length of 4–7 inches (10–18 cm), and 1–1.5 inches (2.5–3.8 cm) wide. An unusual feature of this knife is that the blade is asymmetrical; one side of the blade has a fuller, that is, a groove in it and a chisel grind, while the other side has no groove and has a convex edge, meaning it rounds down to the edge, rather than having a straight bevel.

The blade is traditionally forged from locally sourced iron ore smelted by Yakutian blacksmiths. The groove in the blade makes it lighter and allows the blacksmith to reduce the amount of metal needed to make larger knives. The knife handle is historically made from birch burl and is thick and egg-shaped in cross-section. It fits the hand and can also be used wearing gloves. The birch also protects the hand from the cold effects of the knife steel in extreme cold, a common condition in Siberia during winter months. A cow-tail knife sheath completes the ensemble.





Sakha knives made by Arian
Afanasiev Photo Arian Afanasiev

One of the Sakha teams participating in the 2020 online Festival was based in the village of Sata in the Nyurba District. The team was led by Arian Afanasiev, tenth-generation blacksmith who makes a wide variety of objects using iron, steel and "Bulat" from his own blooms. Bulat is a high-grade steel often referred to in Russian legends.

Il objects and otos t is a e rian fanasie



Khomus or Jew's harp, bloomery iron



Scissors, bloomery iron



Bloom. Bulat and knives. Bulat steel



The shaman blessing the smelt for the online Furnace Festival



Arian Afanasiev and team



 $The \ bloom \ is \ consolidated \ with \ large \ wooden \ mallets \ and \ then \ cut$



Bloom with greetings from the far east of Siberia

Blacksmithing Events:

Upcoming Events

Great Yorkshire Show 11th -14th July

The Royal Welsh Show 22-25th July

New Forest Show 25th-27th July

Edenbridge & Oxted Show 27th-28th August

Dorset County Show 7th-8th September

Newbury Show 16th-17th September

BABA AGM and Conference September 2024

Things to look forwards to...

Will Maguire Masterclass, Ratho Byres Forge, Scotland 14 - 15th Sept 2024

BABA AGM & Conference Expressive Metals, Hereford 21st - 22nd Sept 2024

Aspiring to Design - "The Basics" Museum of Making, Derby 12th - 13th Oct 2024

Designing, measuring and making sure it stays put. Northamptonshire 9th - 10th Nov 2024

If you know of an event taking place BIG or small email the details to;



Celebrating the



GREAT

Tuesday 9 - Friday 12 July 2024

Great Yorkshire Show 11th -14th July

Tickets available on the website

For competion details contact the show directors

01423 541 000

Open from 8-6 each day

https://greatyorkshireshow.co.uk/









The pinnacle event in the British agricultural calendar, the Royal Welsh Show...

Along with an exciting four-days of livestock and equine competitions, with entries travelling from far and wide to compete, the Royal Welsh Show has something to interest everyone through its wide range of activities including forestry, horticulture, crafts, countryside sports, shopping, food and drink and a 12-hour programme each day of exciting entertainment, attractions and displays.





THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BLACKSMITHS AND THE NATIONAL BLACKSMITH COMPETITION COMMITTEE (WCB AND NBCC)

The WCB gives annual national awards for the Champion Blacksmiths static and live, together with the runners-up. These are established from combined competition results at authorised county shows. The competitions are regulated by the Rules of the NBCC.

The Static National Champion Blacksmith is an award for static display ironwork.

The Live National Champion Blacksmith is an award for live hot forging ironwork.

The Shows which are authorised are:

Points will be awarded at each of the below qualifying rounds. Static & Live Winners of each Championship - 10 points and a framed certificate; Reserve - 4 points and framed certificate.

North Somerset Devon County Show Edenbridge & Oxted Royal Three Counties Royal Welsh Dorset County Show

Royal Cornwall New Forest and Hampshire County Show

NBCC Judging Seminar & Competition at Hereford College

The Rules of the NBCC can be seen on the website www.blacksmithscompetition.co.uk. At the bottom of the "Home" page click on rules and regulations.

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS:

The Blacksmith Section is grateful for the support of:

The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

The Worshipful Company of Farriers

The National Blacksmiths Competition Committee

Blacksmiths Guild

Philip J Harrison, Building Surveyors Ltd

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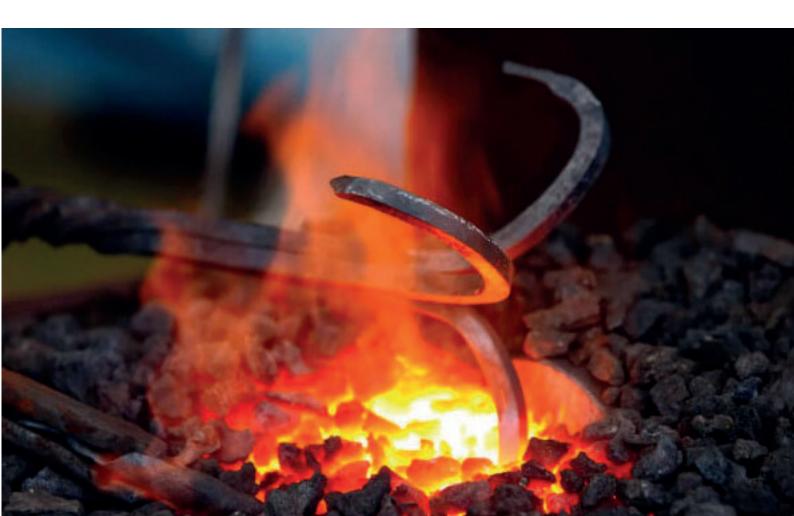
Wessex Farriers Supplies Ltd



The New Forest Show is one of the largest and most prestigious agricultural events in the UK. Join us this year for a unique and immersive experience that celebrates the best of rural life.

With livestock competitions, equestrian events, fun forest activities, local food and drink stalls, craft vendors, educational exhibits, and entertaining performances, it's a must-visit for anyone looking to connect with nature, learn something new, and enjoy a fun-filled day out.

https://www.newforestshow.co.uk/



Aspiring to Design - "The Basics"

A design workshop organised for BABA members Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th October Museum of Making, Derby, DE1 1BS

Led by James Price and Pete Hill

A two day design workshop the aim of which will be to consider basic ideas around the role of design in your work and basic drawing skills.

The workshop will be a platform to promote the idea of thinking more consciously about design, how it can be a beneficial tool to make your work both stand out from the crowd, keep your work fun and engaging for yourself, and enable you to resolve technical issues before beginning the work. We are hoping that this event will be appealing to less experienced smiths, those new to the craft, those who have done skills based courses or who are self taught.

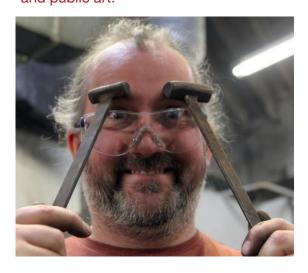


The workshop will run from 9.30 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 9 am to 4 pm on Sunday. Cost for the two day event will be £160.00 per person.

Tickets will be available on the website in the next month or so, but in the meantime we will start a waiting list, with those on the list having priority booking once tickets are released. Please email Pete Hill at design@baba.org.uk to add your name to the waiting list or for further information.

Relow

Pete Hill, Ratho Byres Forge, Edinburgh Pete graduated art school, where he studied 3D design, and has now been involved in the design and forging of contemporary forged metalwork for over 30 years. Alongside Shona Johnson, he currently runs a team of 4 in the production of both architectural work and public art.





Above
James Price, Lewes, East Sussex
James completed an arts degree course, followed
by time at Hereford and then as a journeyman
before setting up his forge in 2004. Combining
original contemporary design and high quality
craftsmanship James creates work that is firmly
rooted in the present.



The Australian artist blacksmith Will Maguire will be holding a Forging Masterclass hosted at Ratho Byres Forge, Scotland from 14th - 15th September 2024

Thick Shadows, Supple Line: Exploring Liveliness in Iron

The workshop in Scotland will be an intensive weekend of forging in the wonderfully equipped workshop at Ratho Byres Froge. An opportunity to work as a group on a larger scale to explore ideas of the tension between control and happenstance. Working toghether we will build a composition of large sculptures based on the figure. This process will provide the opportunity to work with and against 'good' technique, to explore and think about tensions between notions of craftsmanship, and the inherent liveliness of iron and the forging process.







With only 15 spaces available, this is a unique opportunity to work as a part of a group, in a well equipped forge, under the guidance of the renowned Australian blacksmith, Will Maguire.

Tickets are £160 for the two days which includes lunch email rathoshona@gmail.com to add your name to the waiting list for priority booking as soon as tickets are available on the BABA website

BABA AGM & Conference

EXPRESSIVE METALS

20th - 22nd September 2024

International & UK Demonstrators and Speakers

Will Maguire Australia

United Kingdom

Cara Wassenberg Charles Lewton-Brain Canada





Free Camping with your booking Tickets will be on the BABA website very soon check facebook and the BABA newsletter for further information and additions to the programme

BABA Conference and AGM 2024 20th - 22nd September 2024

EXPRESSIVE METALS

Centre for Rural Crafts, Holme Lacy, Hereford, HR2 6LL

We once again return to the Centre for Rural Crafts at Holme Lacy, home to the National School of Blacksmithing for the 2024 BABA AGM and conference, Expressive Metals.

We have a busy and exciting programme with lots happening over the weekend, both at the college campus throughout the day and then into the evening at Holme Lacy Village Hall, a short walk from the campus. There will be free camping close by for delegates and catering will be provided and available to purchase along with your event ticket. For those that are not campers, a quick check on google will show several local inns or holiday homes nearby available to book.

We have three exciting demonstrators traveling from Australia, Canada & West Sussex to share their knowledge and love of manipulating different metals and materials in expressive ways with you.

A forging area with 36 hearths, allowing space for everyone to take part in creating a piece of work with the simple brief "Wearable Iron" over to you to get as expressive as you wish creating something to be worn.

Bring your work for **The Inner Space** exhibition, details in Artist Blacksmith174 and in the Newsletter or contact Steve Rook <u>secretary@baba.org.uk</u>

Bring your work for **The Inner Space** exhibition, details in Artist Blacksmith174 and in the Newsletter or contact Steve Rook <u>secretary@baba.org.uk</u>

Show Me How arena where some of those attending are happy to pass on their skills, if you wish to have a slot to pass on a skill contact Shona Johnson chairwoman@baba.org.uk

Show & Tell an informal opportunity to share images of your work and say a few words if you wish. It is always inspirational seeing what other creative makers or doing and hearing the thoughts behind a design or a particular way of forging. please send 5 images to Pete Hill babaslides@gmail.com

Tailgate Sale, bring along any items that you wish to sell or gift.

NHIG (National Heritage Ironwork Group) will have a display on boards of the work currently being carried out alongside examples of traditional heritage ironwork. Members of NHIG will be available to answer any questions you may have.

We are continuing to develop and add to the programme so watch this space!!

The Demonstrators

Will Maguire - Australia <u>australia.www.willblacksmith.com</u>

Will Maguire trained initially as an industrial blacksmith in Australia, then spent several years as a journeyman overseas, working, learning and collaborating with some of the best smiths in England, USA, Russia, Europe, Ukraine and Japan. Will is currently one of a few contemporary blacksmiths in Australia combining his contemporary designs with traditional forging skills creating innovative practical and sculptural work.

On Will's visit to the UK he will do a masterclass in Scotland at Ratho Byres Forge on 14th & 15th September, this will limited to 15 delegates. Anyone wishing to attend can put their name on the waiting list by contacting Shona Johnson at rathoshona@gmail.com Tickets on the BABA website soon! The figurative sculptural piece created will be brought to the AGM & Expressive Metals Conference for everyone to enjoy.

At the AGM Will plans to explore the human form in closer detail and will demonstrate the expressive nature of soft iron by capturing a varied sense of human emotion working at the anvil with fullers and a striker.

There will also be a presentation from Will on the work he creates at his forge in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales.

Charles Lewton-Brain - Canada www.ganoksin.com/member/charleslewtonbrain

Charles Lewton-Brain is a master goldsmith. He trained, studied and worked in Germany, Canada and the United States. A world renowned author, educator, artist and former teacher and Program Head at Alberta College of Art and Design, Lewton-Brain has been recognised globally for his art work, and received Canada's highest honour for Craft, The Saidye Bronfman Governor Generals Award. He was one of the founders of the Canadian Craft Federation, Canada's national organisation, and served as President for over two years.

Credited with inventing fold forming, a metal smithing technique recognised the world over as the only new, original innovation in metal working in millennia, Charles will demonstrate fold forming techniques using copper sheet at the BABA AGM. Fold forming uses the metal's flexibility to make complex forms resembling chased, constructed and soldered shapes. For those captivated by the forms that can be created through fold forming, the techniques that Charles will demonstrate can be transferred to be used in steel allowing the blacksmith the ability to create organic sinews forms not always possible to achieve by forging. This is a wonderful opportunity to add another skill and way of thinking to your own practise as an artist blacksmith. Charles will also give a presentation of his work.

Cara Wassenberg - United Kingdom carawassenberg.com

Cara Wassenberg is a metalsmith, teacher, and sculptor. Although she is originally from a fine art background, during her career she has consistently developed her skills in metal working. Following an initial introductory year spent at Hereford College of Technology she learnt from craftspeople in Germany, the US and England. She is fascinated by the process and has more recently learnt more about the casting of glass. Her preferred sculptural materials are iron and copper.

Cara will give a power point presentation titled Material, Method and Making Your Way. In this talk she would like to share with you some of her educational experiences, the places people, workshops and materials that influenced her and continue shape her work practice today.

Catering

Catering will be provided from Friday lunchtime at an additional cost. Breakfast and evening meal will be served in the marquee behind the Holme Lacy village Hall. Lunch will be served at the college campus. The majority of dietary requirements can be catered for.

See the registration form of catering details and costs.

Camping

Camping is free and very close to the college and Holme Lacy village Hall!! The camping facilities are basic with portaloos in the camping field. There are basic showers facilities available at the college. A google search will bring up various inns, Airbnb's local campsites and different styles of hotels locally for those who prefer not to camp on site.

Registration

Timing to be confirmed but we hope that delegates will be able to arrive and pitch tents from Thursday afternoon.

Registration will be at the college campus from Friday morning 9am - 12noon

T-Shirt

No BABA AGM event would be complete without the keepsake T-Shirt. This is being designed this year by the talented Stephen Lunn, Anvil Man of Red Row Forge, Morpeth. Watch this space for Stephens exciting design. The T-shirts will be available to purchase at the conference event and on the BABA website when you book your conference ticket.

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE BABA WEBSITE VERY SOON!!



BABA AGM & Conference Exhibition 2024



"INNER SPACE"

Personal expressions in metal forming: Interior pieces for the home.

This is an opportunity to design and make something unique for that 'inner-space', the home interior.

Organized by Steve Rook, initially, this exhibition will take place at the BABA AGM 20th to 22nd September at the National School of Blacksmithing, Holme Lacy, Hereford.

Should you agree, your piece or pieces entered for 'INNER SPACE' will then go on to be exhibited at Fire & Iron Gallery in Surrey for the Mole Valley "Arts Alive Festival" one of the biggest community arts festivals in Surrey, comprising around 80 local events taking place throughout October 2024. Otherwise, you may take your work away at the end of the conference.

Dimensions:

- It must fit within an imaginary cuboid measuring no more than 400mm x 400mm x 1000mm.
- The work does not need to fit the space closely. It can be smaller, much smaller if you wish.
- The finished work must be either completely stable and free-standing, or it could equally hang on a wall.
- The work can be positioned horizontally, vertically or at an angle, so the space to fill could be a metre high or a metre wide or 'tilted' as long as the other two dimensions are both within 400mm.
- The piece should be thoughtfully designed and explore/demonstrate the skills of the blacksmith.

Entry form and date:

Please email Steve at **secretay@baba.org.uk** and we will send an entry form which will contain further information. To help us plan, we will need to know what is coming, how it is arriving, etc.

If your work moves on to Fire and Iron Gallery, please give consideration as to how it will be protected during transport.

The closing date for return of entry forms will be the 31st of August. Work for exhibition would need to arrive on the 19th or 20th September

On to Fire & Iron Gallery

Fire & Iron's director, Lucy Quinnell, would like each maker to provide a paragraph about themselves and their work, and she can help with this if required. This is your chance to promote yourself to a wider audience, and to get feedback regarding public reaction to your work. It is likely that unsold work could remain on display beyond the end of the festival, to give it a longer time period and a greater chance of selling.

- All work must be safe for exhibition purposes and fit for sale. Your work will be for sale unless you wish otherwise. This is a great opportunity to get paid for what you have made for the AGM and to get your name and work in front of the general public as well as invited professionals such as architects, interior designers and garden designers.
- Sadly, Fire & Iron Gallery cannot accept any lighting these days without the full (and prohibitively expensive!) regulatory requirements. An electrical test is no longer sufficient.
- All work will be insured while in Fire & Iron Gallery's care.

A few words from Lucy Quinnell:

"Go for it. Do the very best work you are capable of and finish it beautifully. Exhibiting work in public is your chance to shine, and who knows where it will lead? There is still a reassuring public thirst for really high-quality, interesting work, finished well.

My advice is to imagine a client and aim for something they will want to live with for the rest of their lives; something that will make them smile every single time they see it, or even use it, if it has a function beyond artwork. Picture it in their home, with visitors, children, pets, and cleaners. Where will it go? How will it work with the rest of their space? Is it safe? Is it compliant? And so on. I look forward to seeing some really exciting work."



Its Back! And moving down south!

Limited Numbers for our November 2024 BABA event....Keep an eye on the events section on the BABA website, tickets will be live 6 weeks prior to the event.

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.

Classifieds: Toys for the toy shop....



Toby Forbes Gower:

The widest range of Blacksmithing tools at sensible prices:

http://www.tfg-design-in-metal.com/shop

clever tools for blacksmiths

ANGELE

...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... ANGELE TECHNIK oHG 88416 Ochsenhausen Germany www.angele-shop.com



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.

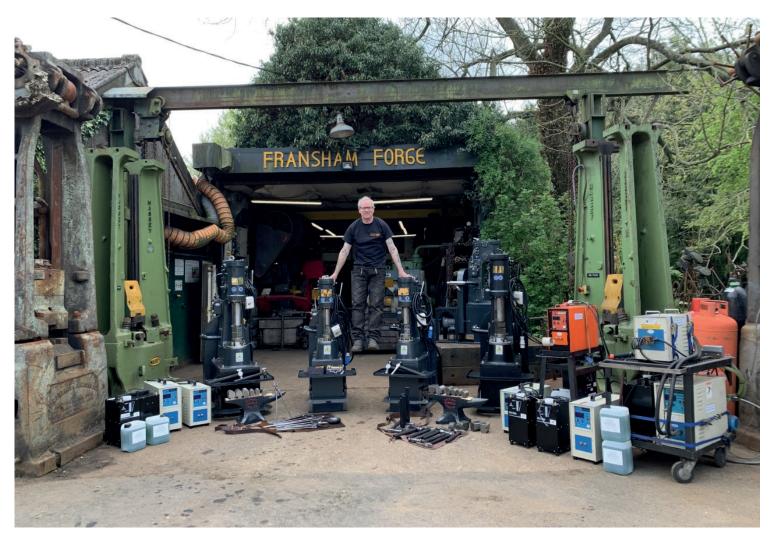
Flexibel handling due to the bevelled C-Frame design. With fast and easy tool change, suitable for different tool dimensions. Fixation on the square hole of the anvil or for mounting on the workbench.

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€.





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 hard-ships 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

http://www.artist-blacksmith.co.uk/



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, Hereford, HR2 6LL



Power Hammer for Sale



Ross Rigby 2cwt one piece hammer 3 phase Built in 1951

In good working order and, as still wired in, can be seen in operation. While old this is of solid construction made in an era when things were built to last. Unlike modern hammers this is a one piece hammer, which means installation is super easy. It simply bolts to workshop floor without the need for any special foundation saving both time and money.

Offers over £ 5000

Located in North Yorkshire, just outside Thirsk, YO7 2BJ

If you're interested, then do get in touch by contacting

Chris Topp 07773 368 643 / christoppironwork@gmail.com

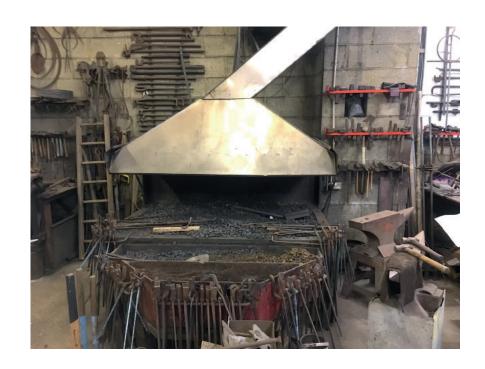
Please do forward to anyone you think will be interested

Cast iron Forge For Sale

Cast Iron Double Forge with Stainless Steel Hood. Also with water and coke tray. (No tools included)

Please contact Terry Clark 01483 235244 Sally Clark mobile 07768 830933 Email sally@artsmith.co.uk Guildford, Surrey.

£950 or offers.



Selection of 25 Steel Forming Stakes and 1 holder

£490.00 or offers

Collection Only - Near Guildford, Surrey Buyer Collects - Cash on Collection You are welcome to come to view Any questions please contact Terrence Clark Artist Blacksmith

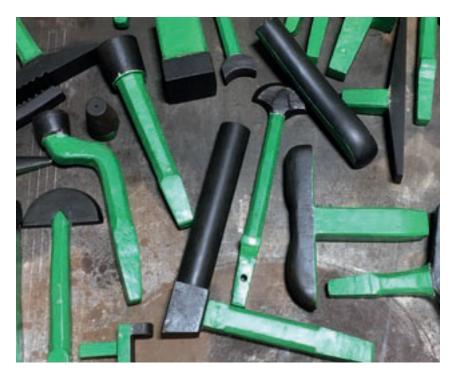
Please contact Terry Clark 01483 235244 Sally Clark 07768 830933 email sally@artsmith.co.uk

Two Anvils For Sale

£230 each First come first serve

Collection Only - Near Guildford, Surrey Buyer Collects - Cash on Collection You are welcome to come to view Any questions please contact Terrence Clark Artist Blacksmith

Please contact Terry Clark 01483 235244 Sally Clark 07768 830933 email sally@artsmith.co.uk







Richardson and Smith

8 Victoria Square, Whitby, YO21 1EA

Live Auction Dispersal Sale of Blacksmith's Equipment

Saturday 17th August 2024

Including: Geka 80A Hydracrop Punching Machine, Samuk Forklift, General Equipment and Stores







On behalf of Godbold Blacksmiths Ltd, Egton, North Yorkshire, YO21 1TZ

For more information or a catalogue visit: www.richardsonandsmith.co.uk
Or call 01947 602298

Blacksmiths Workshop to Let



Later this year there will be a workshop unit of approx 900 sq ft becoming available, just outside of Ashford in Kent.

The unit is tucked away at the back of a working farm, has 3 phase electric supply, big doors, easy access for delivery lorries, no residential neighbours, a toilet, storage area and an insulated office with a sink.

At a small agreed cost I can leave the 3 phase sockets, alarm & CCTV I have installed, or remove everything to leave a bare unit with just single phase sockets.

I expect the landlords will set the rent circa £475 at lease renewal. Business rates exempt with small business rates exemption.

Workshop floor area circa $11m \times 6m$, storage and office area combined space around $3m \times 6m$. The pictures are very old and the workshop doors have since changed, but the scale drawn plan of the unit is accurate to date.

For more info ring Joel on 07714631202



Retirement Sale:

John Spence:

As I am about to retire I wish to sell all of my equipment to vacate the unit I am in at the moment.

Please see attached photographs showing the larger machines all 440v.

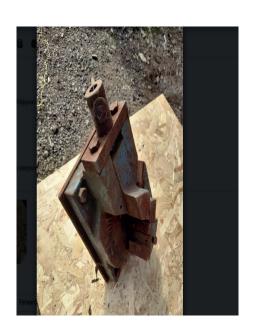
I have lots of 110volt power tools say 5" Bosch grinder for £20.00 all prefer order, masonry drills and machines etc but sale price in auctions.

I would like BABA members to have first chance before the dealers.

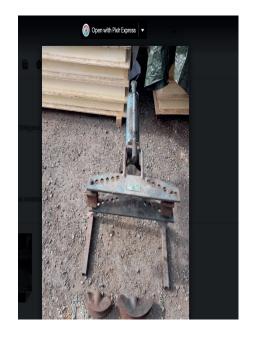
Kind regards, John Spence spencej1896@gmail.com



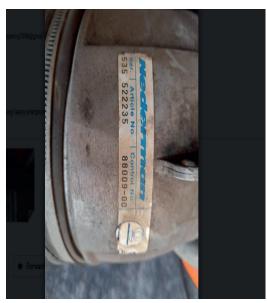










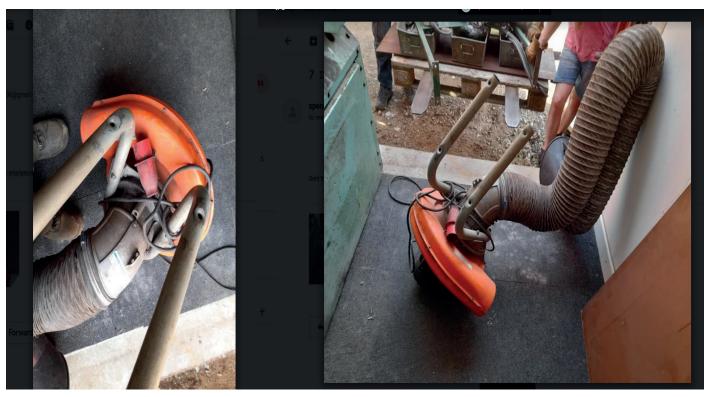




Contact:

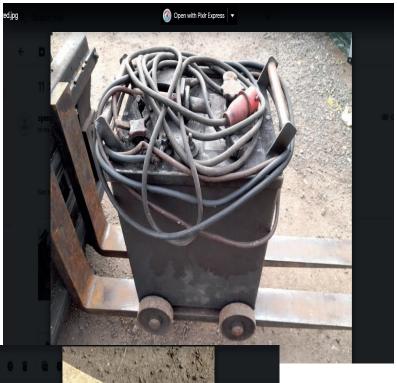
John Spence for prices and availability

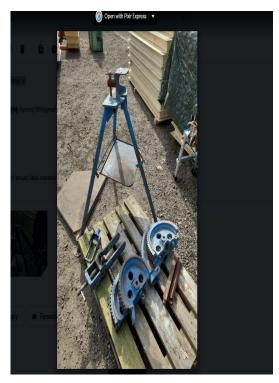
: spencej1896@gmail.com

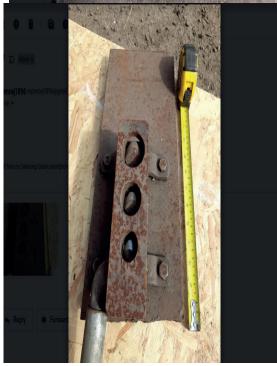


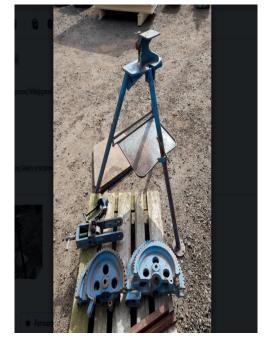














For Sale:

W 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

Solid Fuel and LPG supplier
Yr Iard Lo, Carmel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL54 7DS

t: 01286 882 160 e: johnhughescyf@gmail.com www.johnhughescoal.co.uk

Rhif TAW / VAT No: GB 162 8083 62

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



Jobs, Training & Oppertunities

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"

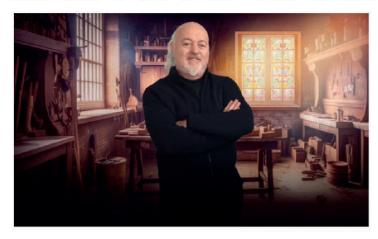
Looking for help in the forge? why not send in the details the newsletter is now reaching a much wider audience of tallented smiths who might be just the person you were looking for to join the team.







BILL BAILEY'S MASTER CRAFTERS CASTING CALL



Are you a budding Blacksmith?
Would you like the opportunity to showcase your
skills on TV?

Bill Bailey's Mastercrafters: The Next Generation is returning to Sky Arts for a third series, to shine a spotlight on heritage crafts. If you're over 18 and are a trainee, apprentice or student of the following craft we'd love to hear from you:

BLACKSMITHING

To find out more, please send an email with your name, contact number, a brief description of your craft experience and any images of your work to:

crafts@lovemondaytv.com

NB. You will need to be available for filming on selected dates between 3rd-14th June and 5th-12th July 2024 to apply.



SANDERSON

Quest Rising Star Craft Award May 2024

QEST is delighted to be partnering with international luxury interior furnishings brand Sanderson Fabrics and Wallpapers to launch a prestigious new award, with a career-changing cash prize of £25,000 🖾

The 'QEST Sanderson Rising Star Craft Award' is open to early-to-mid career craftspeople in the UK who are making a positive contribution to their craft, the wider craft sector and community.

RISING STAR CRAFT AWARD



NEW METALWORKING TENANCY

Flameworks is excited to open applications for a new artist in our metalworking community.

Suitable applicants will be active craftspeople or graduates, preferably with the capacity to offer teaching classes.

Studio W10 measures 12.5ft x 18.5ft and costs £233.00 monthly.

It is on the ground floor with rolling door access through the communal forge.

It includes a fixed metal bench, and metal storage cupboard with shelving and has both natural and interior lighting.

Studio Tenancy Includes:

- Access to our unique communal forge
- Ability to carry out paid teaching classes through the Flameworks website (requires DAB check and includes admin fees).
- Taking part in Flameworks events
- 24-hour secure access
- Profile and photography on the Flameworks website.

To apply, please email the following to hello@flameworks.org:

- a description of your practice
- a copy of your current CV
- a link to your website/social media
- photos of your recent work

Available from 5 May 2023

AVAILABLE FROM 5 MAY 2023

CALLING ALL HOBBYISTS WITH A PASSION FOR MAKING, CREATING AND TINKERING!

Do you have an impressive hobby project that you'd love to show off? Have a problematic project that needs expert advice? Or do you want to take your crafting skills to another level?

Whether it's a toy train or full sized plane, a lovingly restored vintage motorbike, puppets, woodcutters, upholsterers, glass makers, automatons and any home made invention; no matter how big or small we'd love to either help you perfect your project or show off your unique creation!

Our **Travelling Toolshed** is here to help!

Get in touch with your name, contact information and details about your project:

castingtoolshed@hungrybear.tv







The Art Workers' Guild

is launching a new year-long programme called Creative Connections. The programme will create a space for creative people, who are beginning to establish themselves professionally, to meet and connect with Guild members, build supportive networks with each other and develop their professional practice.

The programme will include 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.

https://www.artworkersguild.org/what-we-do/creative-connections/apply/





New Scholars & Apprentices Announced

We are delighted to announce 27 new craftspeople have recently been awarded QEST funding to further their training and education, with the total awarded this round reaching nearly £300,000. The 22 Scholars and 5 Apprentices include makers working in textile conservation, stained glass, bee farming, stone carving, millinery and more, across the length and breadth of the UK. Click below to learn more about the makers and their exciting plans for their QEST training.

See all new Scholars & Apprentices https://rwha-mail.co.uk/CLZ-880OE-2FYCCF-5654HD-1/c.aspx



Peer Review:

Ferrous is fast approaching and we were wondering whether anyone from BABA is coming who would be able to provide us with a peer review of the festival that would support our report to the main funder, Arts Council England? A peer review would provide a professional perspective on our work that will provide value to our understanding of its effectiveness.

This could be in the form of a brief written piece that comments on the quality and depth of the exhibitions and events or in another form such as a video. We would like the reviewer to think about some of the things in the attached document, as a guideline to what could be included.

All the best,

Rebecca

Rebecca Farkas Freelance Arts Marketing 07801 367936 www.fabartboost.co.uk

Freelancing Mon - Thurs

Arts Marketing Association Regional Associate for the West Midlands

DIMENSION NAME DIMENSION STATEMENT

Captivation (i.e. It was absorbing and held my attention)

Thought-Provoking (i.e. It was thought-provoking)

Concept (i.e. It was an interesting idea)

Distinctiveness (i.e. It was different to things I've experienced before)

Relevance (i.e. It had something to say about modern society)

Rigour (i.e. It was well thought through and put together)

Excellence (i.e. It was one of the best examples of its type that I have experienced)

Originality (i.e. It was ground-breaking)

Risk (i.e. The artists/creators really challenged themselves with this work)

the CHURCHILL fellowship



We will fund you to spend up to two months discovering new ideas and best practice among leading practitioners anywhere in the world. You can do this in person or online. Then we will help you to write up your ideas as a Report published on our website, to share your insights with your community or sector, and to turn your ideas into action in the UK.

The initial grant covers all expenses for your research phase, including all travel costs. If needed, it also covers interpreters and travel assistants.

The topic you explore is defined by you. It must meet our eligibility criteria, which include offering a practical benefit to UK society. Success will be assessed within your own terms, and may be local or national.

The success of your application for a Fellowship is not affected by your qualifications, background or age. We ask only that you are a UK resident citizen aged 18 or over. We are looking for people with the potential to inspire change.

The support we offer extends beyond the initial grant:

We offer advice and assistance with planning your research and travels, writing up your findings, sharing your knowledge and implementing your ideas.

We promote your ideas and activities on our website and social media channels.

We plug you in to our online Fellows' networks which offer local and thematic contacts and collaborations.

We offer post-research grants for your knowledge-sharing and events.

We maintain contact for as long as you like, and include all Fellows within our community.

Many Fellows start their projects at a local level, in their workplace or locality, and then grow its influence, perhaps to regional or sector level. Some find themselves affecting national levels of policy or services. Almost all say that the Fellowship took them to places and levels they had not expected. In a recent survey, 100% of Fellows said they would recommend a Fellowship to others.

Crucial to this process is the personal and professional growth that comes from a Fellowship. You have an opportunity to take time out of normal life, for learning and thinking. You will be learning in a topic you care about, from leading practitioners you have chosen, anywhere in the world. You will have the status of being a Churchill Fellow, which opens doors overseas and at home. Many Fellows tell us that their ideas were not taken seriously until they became a Fellow, when their voice was fully heard.

Fellows report that these effects are long-lasting. Our survey showed that – as a result of their Fellowship – 77% of Fellows remain globally connected, 61% are leaders in their sector and 77% feel they are more fulfilled professionally. Some 88% said it was a life-changing experience.

You can read about the impact that Fellows make here, and about the impact on a Fellow's own life here: https://www.churchillfellowship.org/

Association NEWS & Minutes



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:

Tresurer@baba.org.uk

BABA Minutes

Due to the recent change in the newsletter and how it is now published to the general public as a means of promoting the association, what we do and who we are. The Minutes from council meetings and the AGM will be sent out directly to the membership via Mail-Chimp to your registered email address. If you have't recieved a copy of the Newsletter, Magazine, or Minutes remember to update your contact details on the membership page of the website.



Volunteers needed!



What do i need to do?

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



2 K 3 M 1 1 H

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 <u>maximum</u>. 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.
- 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



BABA members can advertise second hand tools and gadgets for free in the newsletter

Businesses & non-members can advertise from just £10/month to sell their wares, so if you have some tools going rusty in the corner of the workshop or the hottest must have contraption; send me a photo and your contact info and we will spread the word far and wide.