



Newsletter

March 2026



Cover image:

A study for a big sculpture in stainless steel by Nicola Georgina Peckham

<https://www.whytehaartforge.co.uk/>



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

The February newsletter has been released yesterday, but there is already interesting information for the March Newsletter. To prevent me forgetting things, I'm starting on the March issue.

Last month's guest editor, Kobe, has passed away very unexpectedly. He has left a big hole behind in our lives.

The work in the house should be nearing the finishing line, but at the moment I'm getting a bit frustrated with workmen not showing up when expected, with a big risk of causing a delay. I am a bit fed up with the caravan, I want back in the house! A proper bed, a kitchen where you can move and especially comfy seats. And get all the stored stuff out of the forge so I can start doing blacksmithing again.

I don't have any blacksmithing events to report about this issue. But, something we all have been waiting for:

THE NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!

In this newsletter you will find an introduction to the website by Henry Pomfret, the editor of Artist Blacksmith. He guides you through the website and tells you where your input is needed.

Next month there will be a review of the BABA sponsored Skills Workshop: hole punching.

And the next Skills Workshop has been announced already: Power Hammer Techniques and Tooling. If you are interested in this one, the deadline for registration is the 14th of March! More information about this workshop in the "Jobs, training and opportunities" section of this newsletter.

For those who missed the interesting movie about the "Penwith Gate": it will be shown at the Stroud Film Festival! Check the Blacksmithing events page for more information.

Can you believe it? It's the 10th of February and the newsletter is finished! Unless there is something that pops up and is worth a mention here, I'm off the hook!

Nope. That would have been too easy. Last minute additions: a request from a German apprentice looking for an Erasmus internship and a (free!) flypress in the classifieds.

newsletter@baba.org.uk



What is BABA and why join?

For 47 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



Detail from the cover sculpture by Nicola Georgina Packham

Comment from the Newsletter editor: "building your profile" is only available for BABA members.

The New BABA Website is Live!: Time to build your profile

Henry Pomfret

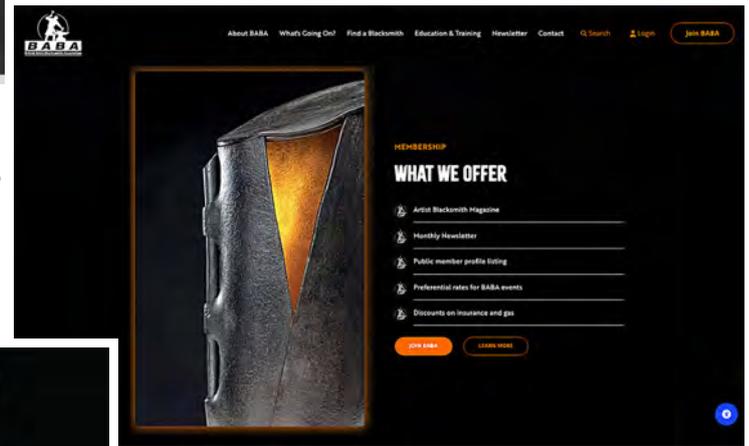
At last we have a new and much improved website that will be more useful and attractive to both the membership and the public. Here's a quick look at how the home page appears, followed by some instructions on the way to build your online profile, so potential clients can see examples of your work and find out who and where you are.



THIS IS THE HOME PAGE

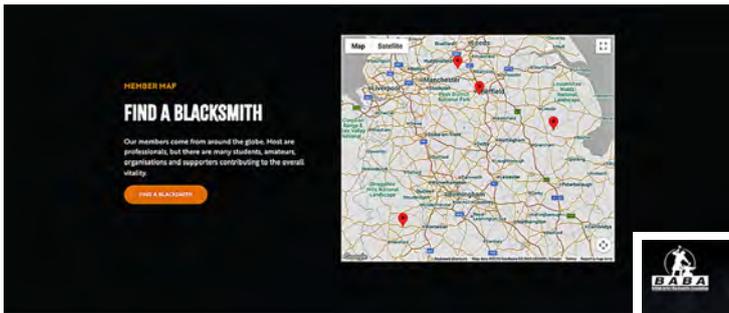
Broken into sections here, simply to fit it on the page.

WHAT WE OFFER
A list of some of the benefits of membership. There is a link to more info BABA and a button for viewers to join.

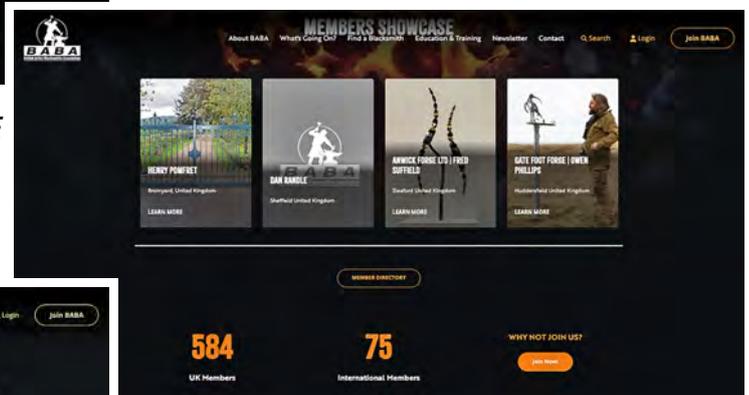


FIND A BLACKSMITH

Search all members with a directory listing.

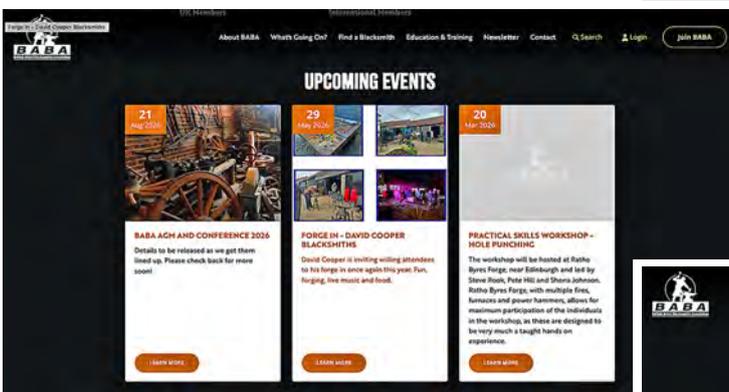


MEMBERS' SHOWCASE
Randomly selected from directory listings, this displays an ever-changing selection of members. The image is the first one uploaded to their profile. Clicking "Learn More" links to that person's directory profile.

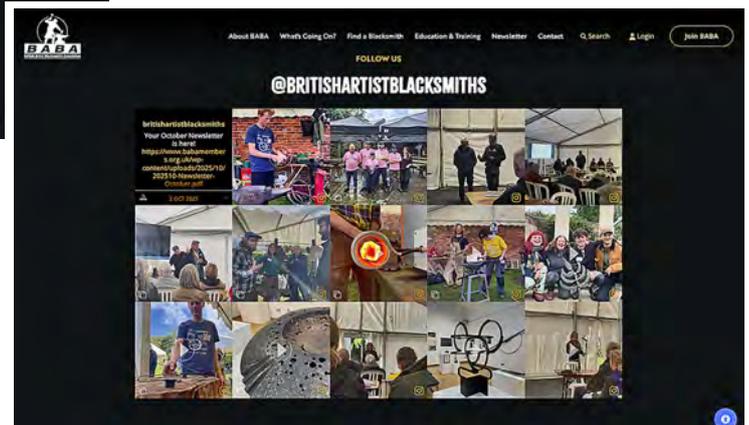


UPCOMING EVENTS

Forge-ins, masterclasses, conferences etc.



SOCIAL MEDIA
Images that link to posts that appear on BABA's social media accounts.

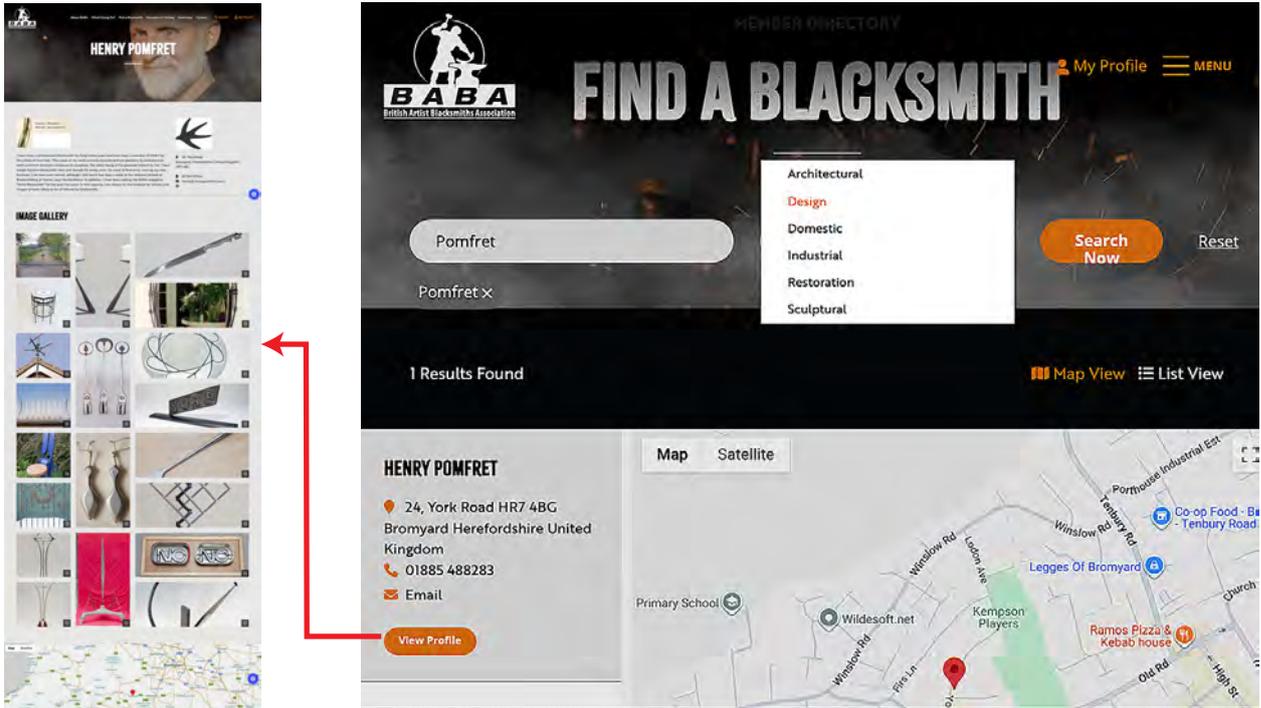


WHY YOU NEED TO BUILD A PROFILE

Inclusion in the BABA directory means that members of the public can use the "Find a Blacksmith" tool to find you and see examples of your work. It is also a great place for you to find and contact other BABA members. This may be an individual, others in your area, or smiths who specialise in the same work as you.

"Find a Blacksmith" is fully searchable. You can search by name for an

individual. Alternatively, you could search for anyone specialising in sculptural work for example, or a number of other specialisms. Or, you could search for any smiths in a county, such as Derbyshire, Antrim, Ayrshire, or Powys. The result shows that person's contact details, including a live link to email or to a website. The "View Profile" button takes you to that person's public profile page.



To be included in this directory, you will need to build your own profile. This consists of two parts, the "Member Profile" and the "Directory Profile". The Member Profile gives BABA the information about your membership and contact details such as postal address, shipping address if different etc. Important: The Business address is

the one that locates you and puts the pin in the map. The Directory Profile is the one that builds your presence in the directory (if you wish to be included).

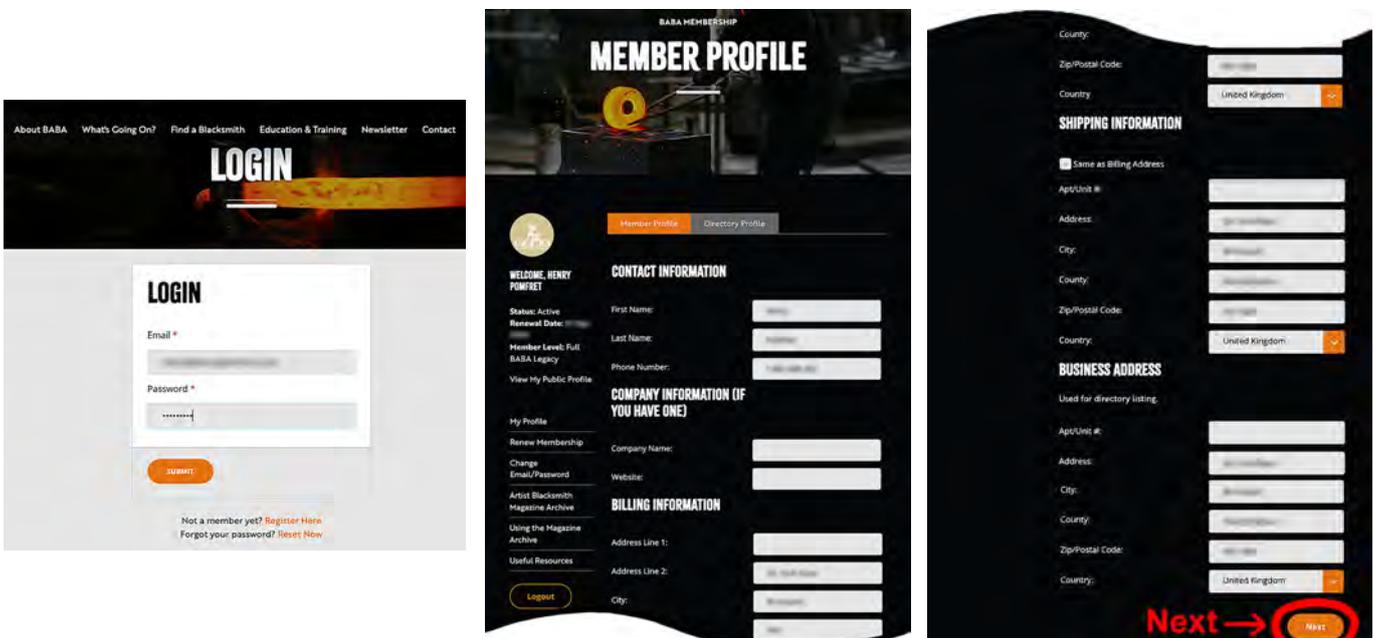
LOGIN

Go to www.baba.org.uk and click the "Login" item in the menu.



The member database has been transferred so you can enter your usual email. You WILL need to use the "Forgot password" link as, for your privacy, we don't store your passwords. You should receive a "Reset Password" email. If you don't see it, check your Junk folder and try once more, before contacting webadmin@baba.org.uk.

Non-members may register and be taken to the joining page. If a current member, you will be taken to the Member Profile (below). Fill out the details relevant to you, not forgetting the Business address if you want to be marked on the map. Click the "Next" button at the bottom to continue to the Directory Profile.



continued →

The New BABA Website is Live!: Time to build your profile - CONTINUED

DIRECTORY PROFILE

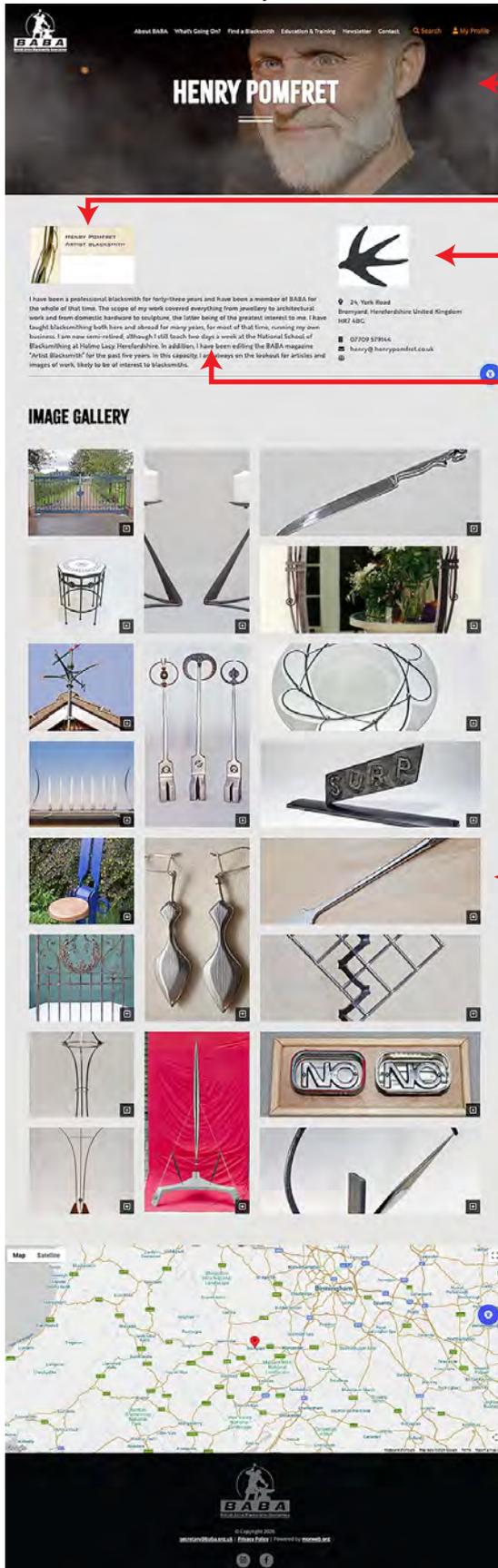
Having clicked "Next" you come to the Directory Profile. The first thing you will see is a tick box with this notice: "Do you wish to be included in the online or print Member Directory?"

If you DO NOT wish to be included, leave the box blank and don't bother filling out the fields. You MUST however, scroll to the bottom and click "Submit" to confirm your contact details.

If you wish to build your profile, please fill out the fields as indicated.

IMPORTANT: File names:

Please check the file names of any images you wish to upload. The system will not accept punctuation or other special characters. Hyphens, underscores and numbers ARE acceptable.



Tick this box if you wish to be included in the directory

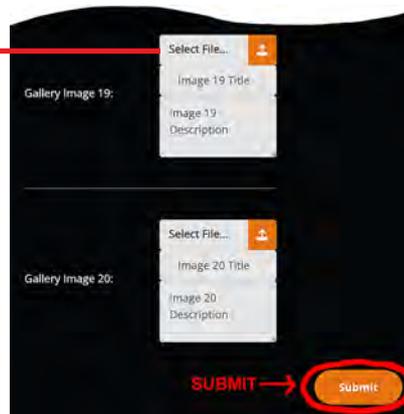
BIO

Some words about yourself and/or your business.

Typed directly into the box or compose something elsewhere and copy and paste it into the box.

SPECIALISATIONS

Tick any boxes that apply to you. Using any of these search terms, people will be able to find you in "Find a Blacksmith".



IMAGES

You can upload up to twenty images.

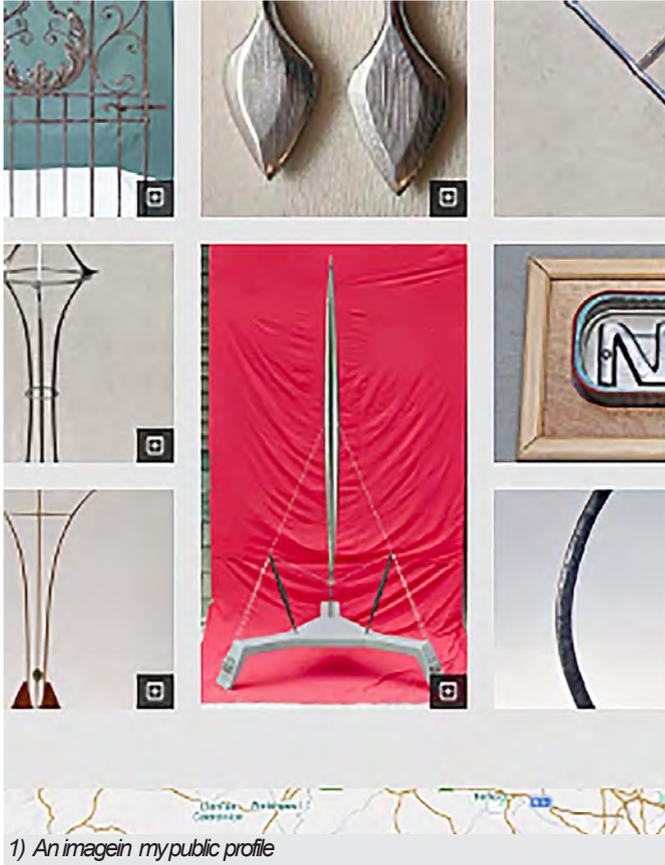
Either drag an image onto the "Select File" box, or click "Select file" and find the file on your computer, pad or phone.

Give the image a title and then a description (a caption).

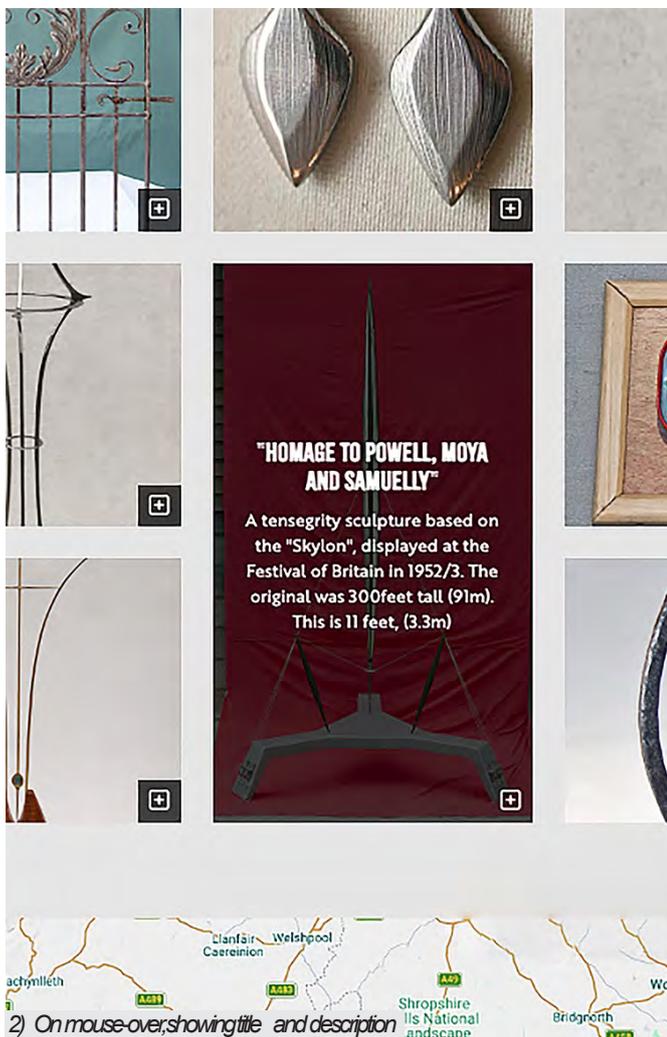
You can always edit, but whenever you make ANY changes to either Member or Directory profiles, you must click the "SUBMIT" button for those changes to take effect.

IMAGE GALLERY

When the mouse is hovered over an image in the gallery, the title and description you entered is displayed. Images 1 and 2.

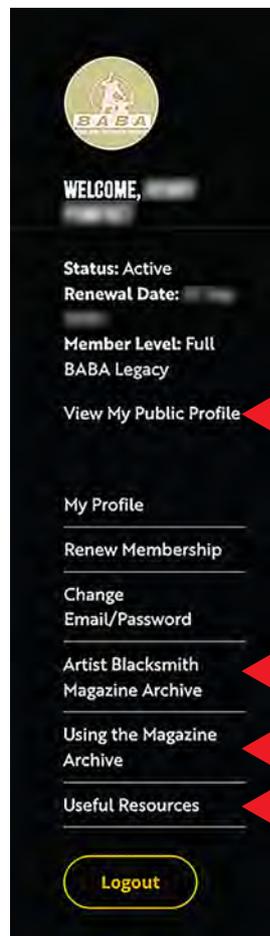


If you click on any image, a larger, complete version is displayed, along with the description. Image 3.



"MY PROFILE" SIDE-BAR

On the left of both the Member and Directory pages of "My Profile", there is a side-bar with some useful links.



Apart from renewing your membership or changing your login password, you may find the following useful.

'VIEW MY PUBLIC PROFILE'

This is your link to see the profile you are building/have built as others will see it. It can be useful to check on progress while you are uploading, to see how it's looking.

'ARTIST BLACKSMITH ARCHIVE'

Your direct link to 180 issues of the BABA magazine.

'USING THE MAGAZINE ARCHIVE'

This links to a brief tutorial on how to use the archive.

'USEFUL RESOURCES'

Includes the Constitution, Council Minutes and various policy documents such as Safeguarding and Health and Safety, which as a BABA member, you may download and adapt for your own use. We have ideas for lots of other material, drawings for tools and other kit, old books etc which will build over time.

Interesting Internet

I assume most (if not all) of you have internet and follow different social media. And on those social media different people. If I come across an article I like (mostly on Facebook), I save that article (click on the three dots in the top right-hand corner). This will be where I will share those with you. But that is what I find interesting. What about you? Please send me links to topics you find interesting (newsletter@baba.org.uk).
Click on the images to go to the website mentioned.



The making of "trust" sculpture by Zeevik Gottlieb

Watch as I craft the sculpture of a man and woman in perfect balance called "Trust". Witness the mesmerizing art of forging as raw metal transforms into a symbol of harmony and connection. Don't miss this captivating creation process!



A short video by Jim Hopkins, but I found it original enough to mention here.

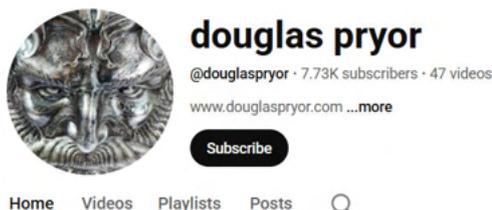


Not blacksmithing, but a stunning piece of metalwork anyhow!
By Douglas Pryor:

This piece is made from a single piece of 16ga 220 Bronze (technically a brass alloy due to its zinc content). The material has excellent formability and lovely color, 220 bronze is known for its ability to withstand outdoor exposure. I've been enjoying using it for sculptural pieces as it naturally colors differently than the 260 brass or pure copper. It has been sealed in renaissance wax to preserve the metal's natural color.

Hand raised over shaping stakes and chased over pitch it required 13 annealing cycles to reach its complete form.

Medium: 16ga 220 Bronze
Size (inches): 10.5" x 6.5" x 4.5"



After seeing the stunning piece above I decided to look into Douglas Pryor, the artist who made it. He has many more videos of similar stunning work, also in steel. With extensive videos of how he made the work. His youtube channel is definitely worth a look!

Eric Wenger



I was born in Hastings, Minnesota in 1962; in 1965 my family moved to Palatine, Illinois where we lived until I was 13. My parents were originally from Lake City, Minnesota and still have many relatives in that area. When I was about 9 my parents bought a house in Lake City, and we would spend our summers there. When I was 13, we sold our house in Illinois and went to live in Lake City.

The town itself is situated in the Mississippi River Valley and the surrounding land is some of the most beautiful that I have ever seen. I still get back there whenever I can, and no

matter where I have travelled and lived, Lake City will always be home.

As a child I was always shy and introverted. When we moved to Lake City, I became even more withdrawn. I started spending long hours in my grandfather's woodshop and learned the joys of working with my hands. This is also about the time I was introduced to art.

Art, for me, has been almost a salvation. When I was working I could take all those pent-up words and emotions and release them. The pleasure the artist derives from working with the different mediums is something that never goes away. At least, it hasn't for me in 28 years, and I hope it never does. I slowly began spending more time in the high school art studios. By the time I was a senior, I usually didn't come home until after dark. My parents were afraid I was addicted to drugs - I was addicted: it was art.

After high school, I went to college in River Falls, Wisconsin. It was there that my art training began in earnest. The teachers there encouraged the study of philosophy, theology, and history. After all, an artist with nothing to say isn't much good. I have always leaned toward expressionism, rough textures & very passionate & dramatic subject-matters. Over the years my views and tastes have changed and with maturity I seem to prefer the more subtle and introspective subject-matters. I have begun to prefer a happy whisper to an angry scream.

mediums but slowly settled on hammered steel sculptures. Over time my work gradually began to get larger until I was creating figures 5 to 14 feet in height. My fascination with the figure began to overshadow almost everything else, at least as far as subject matter. My philosophy had to do with the glorification of mankind, or at least the human spirit. I was trying to capture the timeless emotions and conditions that man has experienced throughout the ages.

To further this goal I was encouraged to go back and study the masters from many different cultures. During the course of this study I discovered a shocking revelation, for me. To portray pain and anger is easy; happiness and quiet contentment are far more challenging. The truly great masters can do both; if you don't believe me, study it for yourself: it can be very enlightening.

When I first started learning blacksmithing, it was an extension of my use of metals in fine art. As my enthusiasm for the techniques grew, I dove deeper into the historical uses and objects created by the previous generations. My interest in historical blacksmithing culminated in my apprenticeship with a gunsmith where I helped to restore historical firearms. As I worked with guns from the 18th & 19th centuries, I was constantly amazed by the skill and precision of the old smiths.

After my apprenticeship I became involved in historical blacksmithing. But over the years the urge to create new and original work became stronger & stronger. As I worked I began to incorporate modern welding and technology into my metalwork. I also returned to non-functional sculpture and moved away from the traditional crafts.

Today my work includes modern wire-feed welding, but I still make extensive use of forging and traditional hammering & shaping. I believe that in the combination of the old and the new we can take the art of metal-working further than our forefathers.

My work with Islamic calligraphy has had a profound change in my work. As I said earlier, all my previous work has been image-based. But with the prohibition on images in Islam, it has forced me to rethink and readjust all my previous training and experience. The change has been very exciting. I have been forced to go back to my very early training and relearn the basic rules of composition and balance.

I also have had to change the way I look at the world. Instead of my ideas and concepts coming from my imagination, I am seeing potential artwork all around me. I am flooded with new ideas almost constantly. It is exciting and frustrating at the same time.

The current body of work represented here is based on Islamic calligraphy, each piece is based on a word. In addition, I also have a number of abstract free-form pieces.

Although the subject matter has changed, many of the techniques have remained the same. I borrow from both the old and the new as I continue to push the envelope of Islamic calligraphy as modern art.



*Alif La Mimm. 2006
Painted, hammered steel & glass
10" x 13" x 40"high*



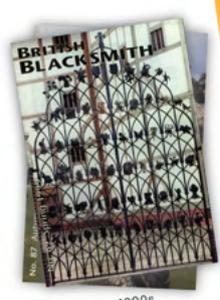
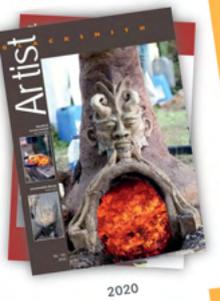
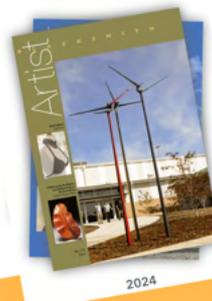
*Allah "God" or "Creator". 2000
Painted, fabricated steel*



*Bismillah, "In the name of God". 1999
Painted, hammered steel & wood
26"x 18" x 33"high*



*Lama "Not yet". 2006
Painted, hammered steel on marble base
13" x 12" x 25"high*



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



Blacksmithing events

[7th March: annual Judging Seminar and first round of the National Blacksmith Competition - Hereford, UK](#)

[8th March: Stroud Film Festival with the "Penwith Gate" film - Stroud, United Kingdom](#)

[20th - 21st March: BABA Hole Punching Skill Workshop - Ratho, United Kingdom](#)
BABA members only, see the "Jobs, Training and Opportunities" section of this newsletter.
[This workshop is fully booked.](#)

[14th - 16th April: Iron Notes - Oslo, Norway](#)

[25th April: 10. Olchinger Frühjahrsausstellung - Muhlbach, Germany](#)

[15th - 16th May: BABA Skills Workshop "Powerhammer Techniques and Tooling" - Ratho, United Kingdom](#)
BABA members only, see the "Jobs, Training and Opportunities" section of this newsletter.

[16th - 17th May: Coutellia - Thiers, France](#)

[29th - 31st May: Forge in at Dave Cooper's forge - Burton Agnes, Driffield, Yorkshire, United Kingdom](#)

[31st May: Hamerslagdag - Roggel, The Netherlands](#)

[6th and 7th June: Feu, Fer & Savoir-faire d'hier - Trazegnies, Belgium](#)

[19th - 21st June: Ferraculum - Ybbsitz, Austria](#)

[22nd - 27th June: Feuer verbindet - Hagen, Germany](#)

[6th - 9th August: Biennale der Schmiede in Kolbermoor - Kolbermoor, Germany](#)

[21st - 23rd August: BABA AGM 2026 - Milton Keynes, United Kingdom](#)

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

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

2027

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

DC Blacksmiths 2026 forge-in

29th-31th May 2026

**Arrivals from noon on Friday more of a setting up day
with a full day of forge fun planned for the Saturday**

Camping available on site

Local band booked for Saturday Night knees up with catering

Theme and more details to follow!

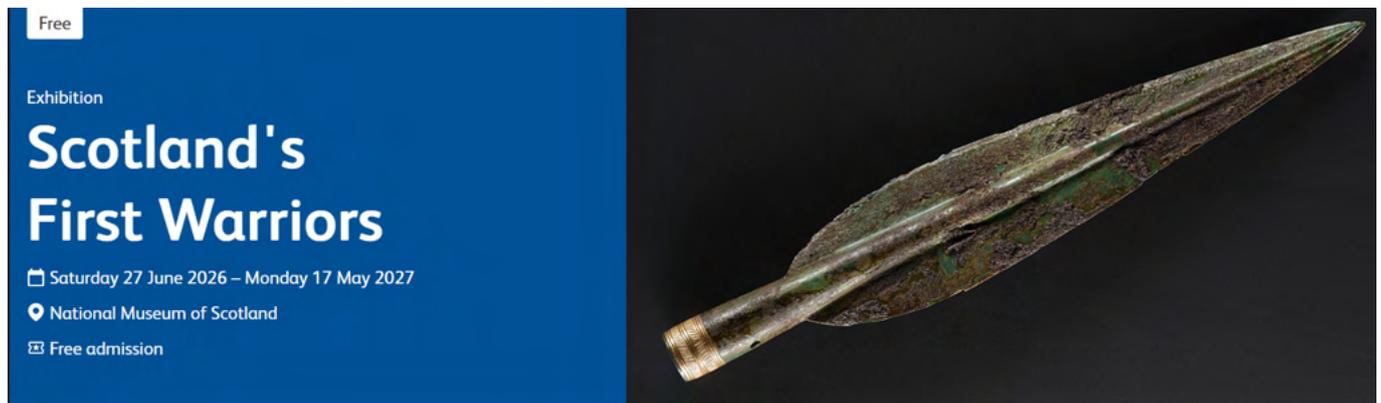


Please rsvp to dcblacksmiths@gmail.com / 07932111836

Hill House, Main Street Burton Agnes YO25 4NG

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.

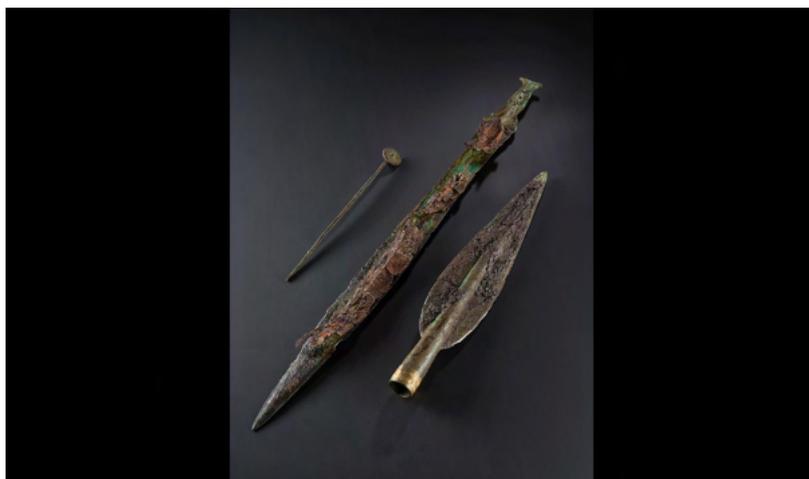
Scotland's First Warriors explores how and why people fought, the impact of war, and the legacy of prehistoric conflict.

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

Blacksmithing competitions

I have been asked to publish information about blacksmithing competitions around the country. This will be in addition to the blacksmithing events mentioned in the previous chapter. Click on the links to get more information about the organisation or competition. If the 2026 page for an event is not online yet, there will be no link.

[The NBCC Blacksmithing competition](#)

[7th March: annual Judging Seminar and first round of the National Blacksmith Competition - Hereford, UK](#)

[North Somerset Show - 4th May 2026](#)

[Devon Show - 21st, 22nd & 23rd May 2026](#)

Royal Cornwall Show - 4th, 5th & 6th June 2026

[Royal Three Counties Show - 12th, 13th & 14th June 2026](#)

Royal Welsh Show - 20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd July 2026

New Forest & Hampshire Show - 28th, 29th & 30th July 2026

Edenbridge & Oxted Show - 30th & 31st August 2026

Dorset County Show - 5th - 6th September 2026

BFBA "International" event - 27th September 2026

[The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths](#)

[The Neville Schulman competition - Deadline 1st August 2026](#)

The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

First Recorded 1299. First Charter of Incorporation Queen Elizabeth I 1571



The Neville Shulman Prize Brief 2026

The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths (WCB) Neville Shulman Prize Competition for 2026 is now accepting entries.

This competition is open to all UK-based blacksmiths to design and make a new piece of decorative ironwork for use and display at WCB luncheons and dinners in the future.

2026 Prize Fund - £1000

- Entries may take any form but must weigh no more than 2.5 kilogrammes
- Entries must fit within a 200mm cube.

The WCB are looking for superlative examples of the blacksmith's craft, incorporating traditional techniques along with the usual high standards associated with the WCB awards system and the static entries judged at NBCC shows.

- Both functional and sculptural pieces are encouraged.
- Submissions should have a value of £1000 – consider this in your work.

This competition encourages and promotes the hot forging of iron, steel and other metals. Blacksmiths may use any method of construction, but the submission should primarily be designed and made using hot forging techniques. Gas, plasma and laser cut profiles are permitted but they must be worked as traditionally cut out profile.

2026 Competition Timing

1 August 2026 - Completed forms are to be sent to the Clerk of the Company (accompanied by 4 good quality photos showing).

1 September 2026 - A shortlist of pieces will be selected by the WCB and the applicants informed by the Clerk.

21 September 2026 – The shortlisted pieces will need to be delivered to the judging venue.

26-27 September 2026 – The shortlisted pieces will be judged in person over the weekend.

12 October 2026 - Non-winning work will need to be collected from the judging venue.

22 October 2026 - Winners will be announced at the WCB Michaelmas Awards Luncheon where the winning piece/s will be displayed.

Notes:

The Neville Shulman Prize competition will be run annually until a new collection of **10** finished pieces that show the very best of the craft of the blacksmith is completed. There may be more than one winner each year. The winning pieces will become the property of the WCB.

- A maximum of two pieces may be selected each year.
- If the criteria and standards are not met, no pieces will be selected.

Please complete an entry form available from <https://blacksmithscompany.co.uk/craft/awards>

TERMS & CONDITIONS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

- Submissions are only to be made using the WCB Neville Shulman Prize entry form. This may be obtained from the WCB website.
- Any entry forms received after 1 August 2026 or not completed correctly will not be accepted.
- Work submitted must be original – copies of previously-made works are not permissible.
- Work submitted must be made by an individual smith.
- Work must meet the size and weight criteria.
- Discreet makers marks are permitted.
- Competitors may only enter one competition piece per year.
- Previously submitted pieces may not be re-submitted in subsequent years.
- Three WCB judges (Bronze or above Medal Holders) and a WCB guest will judge the competition.
- The Neville Shulman Prize entries may be included in the NBCC static competitions.
- Shortlisted entries must be received at the judging venue by 20 September 2026.
- Competitors are responsible for delivery and collection of their work to and from the judging venue.
- Artwork must be delivered to, and collected from, the judging venue on the dates listed. The WCB will dispose of any artwork not collected by 16 October 2026.
- The WCB will not pay any return postage costs.
- The WCB will be entitled to publish an image of or make use of any piece of work entered into the competition free of charge.
- Although every care will be taken, the WCB cannot accept responsibility for loss of, or damage to, any artwork.
- Proof of posting is not proof of delivery.
- The judge's decision is final.
- Any competitor wishing to lodge an objection must do so in writing with a £25 deposit. The WCB will consider each objection, and its decision shall be final.

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

Practical Skills Workshops

Power hammer Techniques and Tooling

Friday 15th and Saturday the 16th May

The next skills workshop topic, Power Hammer Techniques and Tooling, will be hosted at Ratho Byres Forge, near Edinburgh, led by Steve Rook, Pete Hill and Shona Johnson.

The workshop will begin at 2 pm Friday 15th May.

The Friday afternoon session will be focused on theory, discussion of process and tooling and will include demonstrations. Saturday will be hands on with practical exercises and tuition and run from 9am till 5pm.

Given the hands-on nature of this workshop, spaces will be limited to 6 individuals, and due to space there will not be any option to spectate.

Because of the practical approach and the topic, priority will be given to applicants who have at least some experience using a power hammer. You might be a graduate establishing your

own workshop or a working smith wishing to expand their skill set, but due to the extensive focus on using a variety of power hammers and hand held tooling, participants will be expected to be familiar with basic use of these machines.



To apply for a place on the workshop, please submit a brief summary of your experience and how you feel you would benefit from attending. Please be sure to include your contact details and it shouldn't be more than a couple of paragraphs.

Please email applications to design@baba.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Saturday the 14th March 2026.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome on Sunday the 15th March.

Successful applicants will receive payment information and will need to pay the fee promptly to secure their place.

The allocation of places will be decided based on the applications received. If there is sufficient interest and applications we will consider scheduling an additional workshop to repeat the topic.

BABA is subsidising these workshops to enable the participant fee to be only £25.00, with attendance open to BABA members only.

A sandwich lunch on the Saturday is included in the cost, and hopefully folk will choose to enjoy a meal together somewhere on the Friday evening.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide accommodation for these classes. However, there are various options close by. There is a camp site within 4 miles of the forge, offering space for camper vans and providing 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 little 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 of these if needed. Please feel free to get in touch if you want advice on accommodation or travel.

Power hammer techniques and hand held tooling for hammers

Friday 15th May: afternoon/evening session - max 6 participants

Discuss basic techniques, do's and don'ts, tapering on flat pallets, use of shaped pallets, making tooling on saddles to fit pallets

Look at the common tooling used under a hammer.

Discuss, stop or kiss blocks, taper blocks, hand held fullers, round backs, flatters, swages, set tools, Vee blocks and butchers, include sketches on white board or flip chart

Mention material selection for these various tools, rough and ready or more considered, depending on job to be done and expected life span required of tool. Hot work tools steels, more robust steels, recycling steel for tooling, pro's and con's.

Discussion of options for forming tools, machining, grinding, laser cutting, forging etc.

Options for securing blocks and tools under hammer.

Saturday 16th May: Practical session, 9.00am

Demo basic techniques, using selection of tooling under different weights of hammer
Students to try hammers and some of these tools

10.30 tea break

All to forge a round back from supplied tool steel, handle and harden. This could be at any size to suit students own equipment.

1pm lunch (included in cost)

After lunch (till end of the day)

Look at isolating masses with side sets and fullers to produce set tools with integral handles.

Produce Vee block or swage block

Opportunity to try other tooling or forge additional tools or try forging on variety of hammers from DP tyre hammer to 5cwt.



As access to a hammer will be at a premium, participants will be encouraged to try the different hammers -DP tyre hammer, 30kg and 50kgs modern air hammers, 2cwt and 5cwt Massey hammers, thus ensuring everyone can be working as much or as little as they wish.

Application - Erasmus Internship

Blacksmith - Metal construction

Hello,

my name is Donato Widmann. I am an apprentice in Germany and want to do an Erasmus internship in the time of 28. July until 20. August 2026.

Your advantages

I don't cost you any money and insurances are completely covered (by my apprenticeship company).

What I search

I am looking for a company that is interested in having an Intern from another country, showing him their way of doing the craft and everything around it. Because unfortunately I just speak German and English, we will have to communicate in English.

Something to me

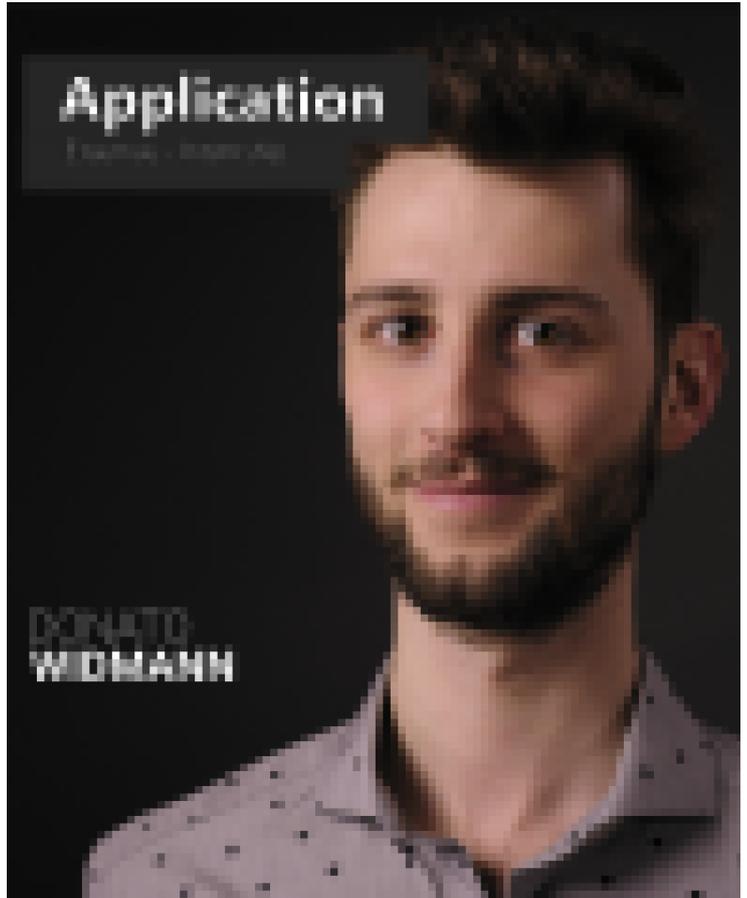
I am 25 years old and in the last of 3,5 years apprenticeship. In Germany I know smiths making fences, gates and similar projects mostly. My wish is to see more blacksmithing (or other metal working techniques) in combination with art, if that is possible as well as your (probably) different way of working.

If you are interested, I would suggest we are having an online call to get to know each other. I am very much looking forward to getting to know you.

In Kind regards

Donato Wildman

**Note from the editor: the following pictures are from Donato's portfolio.
Contact Donato for more information.**



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**

[7th March](#)



**KINGSTON
MAURWARD
COLLEGE**



Herefordshire,
Ludlow & North
Shropshire College

[3rd March 2026](#)
[18th April 2026](#)

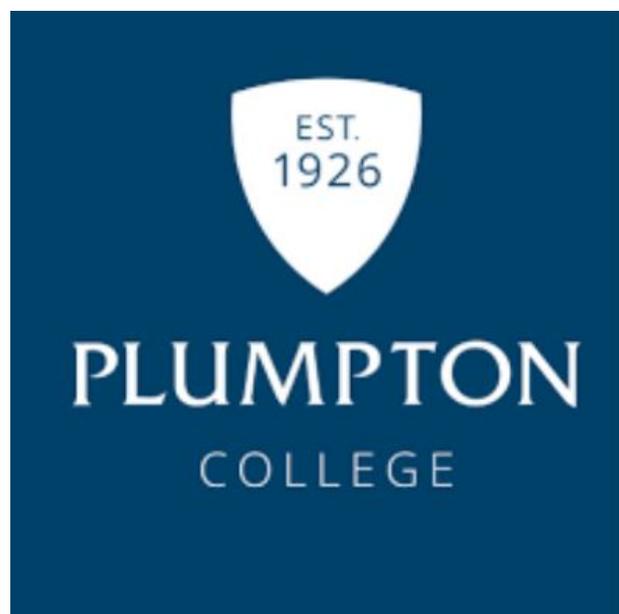


**Myerscough
College**

[18th April 2026](#)
[6th June 2026](#)



**WARWICKSHIRE
COLLEGE
GROUP**



[1st March 2026](#)
[13th June 2026](#)

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

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



Stockton-on-Tees TS18 3RH



Ratho EH28 8NW



**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](#)

For Sale

RIDGID Model R-200

BSPT Dies 1/2 3/4 1 inch RH Threader & Plastic Case

Quick starting dies for threading pipe faster and easier

Ratcheting action to minimize operator fatigue

Little Used - £290

Contact Melissa Cole, Wiltshire. email: melissa@melissacole.co.uk



I'm selling a 7.5cwt pilkington pneumatic hammer. In working order, and packs a fair punch! Comes with its original anvil and air receiver. The receiver has been thickness tested and is like new. I've attached photos.

Asking price £2750

Located Gloucestershire
Transport can be arranged at extra cost.

Seb Austin

seb@austin-uk.co.uk



Fly press (*free to a blacksmith who will use it*)

Height is 40 inches

Width (length of cross bar) is 44 inches

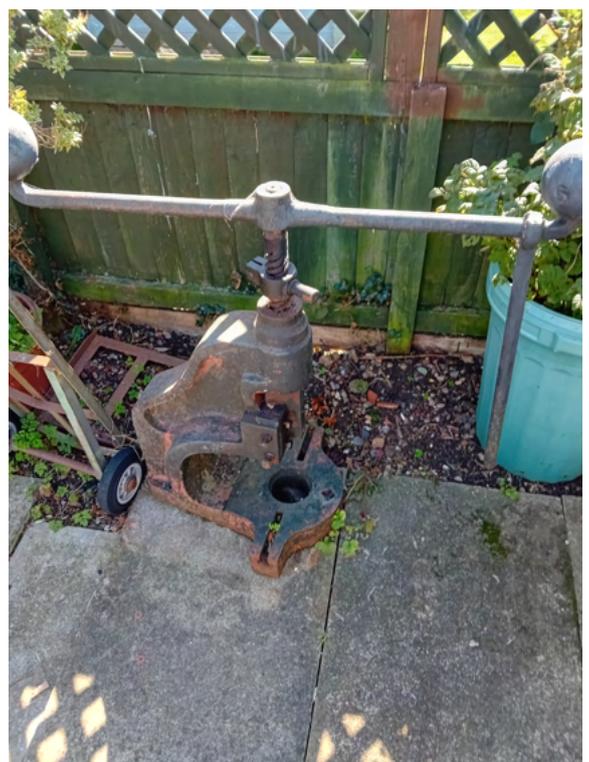
Width (baseplate) is 18 inches.

Been sitting in a garden under a tarpaulin for many years.

No assistance with lifting (elderly Gent) a sack barrow is available.

Northamptonshire.

Contact Monty on 07984174959



Jacob Edwards has these items for sale:
Contact: 07719627248, Located near Ledbury, Herefordshire.

25mm thick Welding/Fabrication table
(1.5m x 1.9m)

£750

Selling this 1.5m x 1.9m steel table. Has a
25mm thick top with minimal scarring.

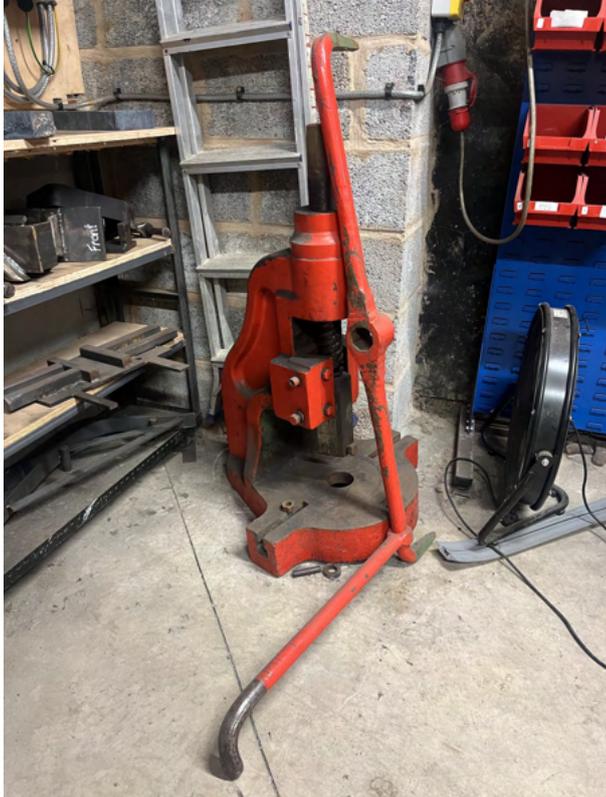
Weighs approx 650kg. I can load my end or
possibly deliver for the right price (would
need to be able to unload your end)



Norton no.8 fly press

£250

Selling this no.8 Norton fly press as its surplus. Missing the weights and depth stop. Also has
some play between the screw and ram.



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:

Stan Lawler, 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



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