

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

WE6844 BASIC BLACKSMITHING

Tutor: ANDREW SMITH

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 31 MARCH – SUNDAY 2 APRIL

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course is intended to introduce you to the basic skills of the blacksmith, the techniques of working hot metal in the forge and to the implications of these skills for design and form.

You will work on the following: detailed use of the fire, drawing down tapers, upsetting, bending, punching, twisting, welding, splitting.

All tools are provided for the course so it is not necessary to buy tools for the course other than the items listed on page 2.

By the end of the course you should have had a good introduction to the techniques of the blacksmith and you should feel more competent with understanding and recognising how these techniques are applied in decorative and sculptural metalwork. You should be able to confidently undertake further explorations of this fascinating and rewarding craft.

If you wish, bring ideas with you in draft form and, if time allows, tuition is given on a one-to-one basis according to the ideas presented. Ideas may need to be adapted for the time available.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS

Starting points. For those with little or no experience who want to go back to basics and would like a structured introduction to a subject. Also for those who have some previous experience in hand working.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Andrew Smith, an experienced artist, craftsman and tutor, trained at the Royal College of Art. He has a large portfolio of architectural commissions, from sculpture to functional metalwork.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 31 March

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course.

Other days: Saturday 1 April

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue until 12.30pm
12.45pm	Lunch at the main house
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working – the forge is not open in the evening.

Departure day: Sunday 2 April

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue until 12.30pm
12.45pm	Lunch (main house)
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Included in the fee for this course: all fuel costs and mild steel stocked by the College.

Available from the Shop:

Drawing equipment (ie. sketchbook, pencil, pencil sharpener, rubber)

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

Clothes suitable for workshop use

Steel toe capped boots

MOST IMPORTANT: Students must wear goggles (provided) and suitable protective clothing for this course. Leather aprons, welding gauntlets and goggles can be borrowed from the Forge. Other protective equipment – e.g. welding helmets, ear defenders – are also available in the Forge.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please note that tutor supervision is required at all times when students work in the forge. The tutor's instruction on health and safety will include access to and use of the power hammer. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

For your safety it is mandatory to wear steel toe capped safety boots when undertaking a course in the Forge. Students must provide their own footwear and bring them with them to wear on the course. If you fail to bring suitable footwear, you will not be able to take part in the course.

Safety boots can be purchased from most tool hire shops and builders merchants as well as online.
www.cromwell.co.uk www.bhinone.com