ARTISTIC BLACKSMITHING
AT
RATHO BYRES FORGE

BLACKSMITHING COURSES

Brochure



Courses are two days in duration,
We host courses on dates agreed with participants throughout the year.

Cost of Course £480.00
(includes VAT)

Introduction

What will you get from your time at Ratho Byres Forge?
The opportunity to work with your hands!

There can be nothing more satisfying than creating even the simplest item with your own hands from raw materials. During our courses you will definitely be "Hands On" and I shall be with you, all the time, to teach, demonstrate, advise and help.

The courses are led by Pete Hill FWCB, a practitioner with over twenty years of innovative blacksmithing experience. Over many years, the smiths of Ratho Byres Forge have worked with and trained people of all abilities, both at a professional level and for fun.



The workshop at Ratho Byres Forge, in which you will be learning, is one of the largest and best equipped forges in Britain. The courses are generally taught on a one to one basis, though I can accommodate two participants if required, this is to provide a quality experience for each student.

The course can be individually tailored to suit a whole range of levels, from basic skills through to more advanced techniques, but in every case they are designed to be and have proven, educational and enjoyable.

The types of course

Our Introductory **Beginners Course**, is designed to cover the basic skills and techniques that a blacksmith must learn and master before moving forward to more ambitious projects. These sessions have proved to be very successful and enjoyable.

The **Intermediate Course**, allows past participants to utilise and practice the basic skills they have already learnt, while working on a project of their design and choice.



Leaping Sable Antelope made on an Intermediate course

For those who have the basics under their belt or who have previous experience and wish to focus on technical skills rather than a project, we offer a range of **Advanced Courses**. These cover in more depth, the techniques touched upon in the beginners courses. Each course focuses on a given area, to deal first with the theory, the application and then the processes involved, with demonstrations, practical exercises and where possible finished articles. All our courses run from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm each day.

Beginners Courses

These courses focus on the basics, with demonstrations and personal instruction, one to one. You will learn hand forging skills, how to use the fire and correct and safe use of basic hand tools. Over the course we will cover the following techniques; Upsetting, Drawing down, Punching, Splitting, Forming, Twisting.



During the first day you will make and take home a poker, a personalised nail, and a leaf key fob. On the second day of the course you can choose between making a small project of your own choice or one of our set pieces.

Intermediate Courses

This course gives you the chance to work on a project of your own over the two days. The range of items made over the years has been huge, from the functional to the funky. What you make is up to your imagination, while we work to make your time in the forge an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Our aim is to share with you, the pleasure we get from the forging of hot metal. You will definitely go home with a sense of personal achievement.



Advanced courses

Our advanced courses cover a range of four technical topics. We can either cover a single topic over the two days or a different one each day, depending on the interests of the student and their level of experience.

Fusion forging, covers the theory and practice of forge welding. You will learn a number of techniques for this very traditional skill including branch welding and welding under a power hammer. Forge welding is a complex technique to master but with concentration and a little luck you will leave with the basics.



For **Making the Connection**, you will explore a number of differing ways that two or more elements can be brought together or joined. Topics include riveting, collars, punching and tenoned joints. You will be working both by hand and with the assistance of a striker, with demonstrations and practice pieces.



Powerhammer and Press takes you through the safe and varied use of the powerhammer and press. We will cover the various uses of the hammer and the application of tooling. You will use the press for punching and see how the two tools can be best employed in combination.

Tool making is an important part of the blacksmiths work historically. You will cover the making of tongs, chisels and power hammer and anvil tooling and leave with some tools of your own.

These courses are tailored to your specific areas of interest and may incur additional material costs, please phone to discuss details and cost prior to booking.

Information Page

Contact details

P. Johnson & Company,
Ratho Byres Forge, Freelands Road, Ratho, Midlothian. EH28 8NW.
Phone 0131 333 1824 Speak to Pete Hill for further information
enquiries@rathobyresforge.co.uk

www.rathobyresforge.co.uk (for current course dates)

How to find us

The forge is well placed for access by road from all directions and is only five minutes from Edinburgh Airport. There is a map showing our location on the web site.

Where to stay

Should you require accommodation try The Bridge Inn in Ratho, it is within walking distance of the forge and provides high quality B&B , phone 0131 333 1320. There are also a number of national hotel chains within a few miles of the forge.
For caravans and camping we recommend Linwater Caravan Park which is only a few miles from the forge, who can be contacted on 0131 333 3326 or www.linwater.co.uk .

Food and drink

We provide tea, coffee and biscuits. Please bring a packed lunch each day. There are a local shop in Ratho.

Timetable

This is not fixed but typically goes as follows.

Working day starts at	8.30
15 minute tea break	10.15
We work on until lunch at	12.30
Continue forging	13.00
Coffee (15 minutes)	15.00
Stop work for the day	16.30

COURSE BOOKING FORM

First Name.....Surname.....

Address .....
.....
.....
Phone number.....
email .....

Please the date agreed with Pete below

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Please indicate the type of course
Beginners
Intermediate

COST PER PERSON OF THE TWO DAY COURSE IS £480.00 (includes VAT)

PAYMENT

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE IN FULL WHEN BOOKING OR YOUR BOOKING SECURED WITH A NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT, THE BALANCE TO BE PAID AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE YOUR COURSE.

FULL PAYMENT (£480.00 per person)

DEPOSIT (£240.00 per person)

Payment can be made by cheque payable to "P. JOHNSON & COMPANY" or by bank transfer to Bank of Scotland, sort code 12-20-26 account number 01964479, please quote "course" and your surname as reference. WE DO NOT ACCEPT CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND REMITTANCE TO;

P JOHNSON & COMPANY, RATHO BYRES FORGE, FREELANDS ROAD, RATHO, MIDLOTHIAN. EH28 8NW. Tel 0131 333 1824 email enquiries@rathobyresforge.co.uk