

# Press Release

## Blacksmithing returns to Avoncroft Museum

### For Immediate Release

Blacksmithing, the art of turning crude metal into a usable implement, has been practiced since the Iron Age when primitive man first began making tools from iron.

During June, volunteers at Avoncroft Museum have been learning this art in the Museum's Chain Shop as part of a scheme to restore heritage skill demonstrations to the site.

Tim Goddard, the blacksmith in residence, taught a group of ten volunteers and staff to light and control the fire, bend and shape the metal using a variety of tools, then finally fire weld, to create a chain link. The links can then be put placed together to create an intricate chain.

Oliver Rees, Education Officer, commented "I think it's very important that these skills are passed on and people have the opportunity to witness them, because just maybe they may decide to go into that profession in the future."

Rachel Shepherd, Head of Customer Services and Volunteer Coordinator, commented, "The staff and volunteers had an incredibly enjoyable day learning this important skill and we look forward to demonstrating this to our visitors."

In addition, Avoncroft will be running 'An Introduction to Blacksmithing' one day courses in September and October for anyone who is interested in learning such an ancient art. If anyone is interested in attending a course, or would like further information please contact the Museum on 01527 831363 / 01527 831886.

## **Editors Notes**

- Avoncroft Museum is a registered charity. Charity Number 241644.
- For further information please contact Rachel Shepherd, Head of Customer Services, on 01527 831363 or [enterprises@avoncroft.org.uk](mailto:enterprises@avoncroft.org.uk)
- Admission prices: Adult £6.60, Senior £5.50, Child £3.00, Family £16.50.