

Blacksmith course at Avoncroft

Forging the way for rural skills



There is a common perception that the craft of blacksmithing, based on the ancient principles of forging metal working with a fire, hammer and anvil, is a rural skill that is becoming extinct and that there is little demand for.

It may surprise people to learn that the art of blacksmithing is still very much alive and that there are more blacksmiths working today than there were 30 years ago.* We may also associate the traditional craft with the manufacture of mundane and practical items such as gates, railings and staircases. In truth, the range of the blacksmith's work covers a multitude of applications from artistic sculptures, garden furniture, light fittings, chairs and tables and even jewellery.

The demand for this unique rural skill is what inspired Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings to run a series of courses where participants will learn the basic craft of blacksmithing.

The intensive courses, which are exclusive to Worcestershire, cover practising the basic concepts of blacksmithing techniques in a fully equipped forge using tools an anvil and instruction on lighting the fire.



The course content also includes tuition on metallurgy and how to manipulate metal using a variety of techniques, after which delegates will be equipped with the skills to create their own forged metal work to take home with them.

Avoncroft's director, Simon Carter commented: "We're hoping that the workshops will attract a range of people that may want to pursue blacksmithing as a hobby. It also provides a taster opportunity for those wishing to study something that they would be able to turn into a business enterprise. The revival of certain traditional skills, such as blacksmithing plays an important part in helping to sustain rural economies."

For more information regarding the courses please contact our Bookings Officer on 01527 831363 or bookings@avoncroft.org.uk.

Ends/

**Statistics from the British Artist Blacksmiths Association*

Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings

- Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings is a unique home for historic buildings, spanning seven centuries, which have been rescued from demolition and rebuilt in a beautiful corner of Worcestershire's countryside.
- 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
- Admission prices: Adult £6.60, Senior £5.50, Child £3.00, Family £16.50.