



FORGE

FORGE IS THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FARRIERS AND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION

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The March 2022 issue of *Forge Knowledge* contains two articles:

- **Dissimilar feet: Associated lameness and remedial solutions**

By Andrew Poynton FWCF

- **Mechanical or overload laminitis**

By Griselda Beaumont

ANutr(Animal), NAF Nutritionist



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Vice-President, Peter Kristiansen (DMFA Denmark)

Secretary, Chris Linssner AWCF

www.eurofarrier.org

Farriers appointed to FRC Council

Farriers elected to FRC Council (three-year appointment)

Tom Smith, FWCF, GradDipELR,

Chair of the Council

Toby B. Daniels, DipHE, DipWCF

Derek T. Gardner AWCF

BFBA farrier on FRC council

Simon Moore FWCF

WCF farrier on FRC Council

Robin P. May AWCF

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Contributions in the form of articles, reports, letters and photographs are welcomed.

President's address

In this issue of *Forge*, we are delighted to highlight the launch of our new AWCF course. Developed by Dean Bland and Danny Bennett, it aims to help those thinking about upskilling to get the support they need to help them prepare for the exam. The assessment day is a really useful component to help farriers find out where their strengths and weaknesses lie and the type of journey their learning experience is likely to take.

Our annual general meeting will be held on 21 May and all members are warmly encouraged to attend, either in person at our headquarters in the Forge or online via Zoom. It will begin at 10 am and the business of the Association should take no longer than two hours. A number of members joined us online last year and were interested to see how their Association is run and how decisions are made. We welcome your input.

At our most recent Executive Committee (EC) meeting – the first in-person get together since Covid-19 – we invited our personnel manager Andrea Brereton to speak to us about governance, helping us ensure that the association is led by an effective EC with the right policies and procedures in place. Good governance encourages good decision making, manages risk and ensures transparency and efficiency.

She discussed what it means to be a member of the EC, acting in the best interests of the association and its



members, using our own experience to achieve the best for our members.

Our newest EC members Sam Masters and Phoebe Colton embody what it means to be on the EC. After attending an AGM, they both expressed an interest in finding out more about what's involved. They came along to a meeting, found they had plenty to offer and then officially joined the committee. They have strongly supported our events and contributed fresh ideas. Their enthusiasm and commitment are very much appreciated. The Association needs people who are willing to get involved.

Our one-hour webinar in January was entitled 'Helping farriers thrive at work'. Those who attended were engaged and the feedback we received was really positive. If enough people were interested, it would be possible to go a step further with this topic. If you would be interested in doing so, please contact Holly Flack in the office.

The colleges have welcomed their new Block 1 apprentices and we look forward to helping them on their journey to qualification. If you are an ATF with a new apprentice, please encourage them to take up their free membership and benefit from having their own copy of *Forge* and *Forge Knowledge*. All they need to do is email membership@bfba.co.uk

Craig D'Arcy, BFBA President



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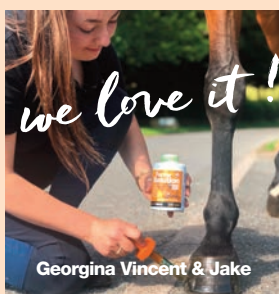
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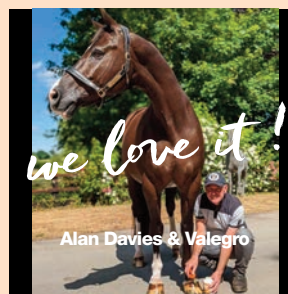
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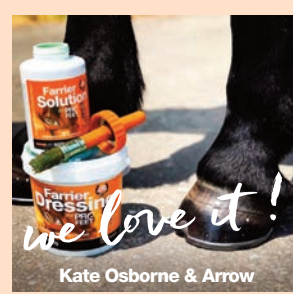
Georgina Vincent & Jake



Ben Benson AWCF Master Farrier and Amy Struthers



Alan Davies & Valegro



Kate Osborne & Arrow

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naf-equine.eu/uk/hooves



Save money on fuel costs *New*

BFBA members can save 3p per litre on their fuel costs by signing up for a UK fuels card as part of a new member benefit led by Executive Committee member Sam Masters DipWCF.

To apply for a card, members should go to <https://apply.ukfuels.co.uk/> and complete the details requested, such as name and contact details, number and types of vehicles, bank details and so on.

UK Fuels, says it is the UK's largest independent fuel card network with a nationwide network thousands of fuel stations. This, it says, has been achieved by extending UK Fuels card acceptance to an additional 75 fuel stations owned by independent forecourt operator Motor Fuel Group (MFG).

Over the past two years, the Crewe-based company has signed up Sainsbury's and the Co-op, adding to the existing Tesco and Morrisons supermarket forecourts and has recently included a further 28 Moto services to its motorway offering.

UK Fuels has a particularly strong presence amongst commercial fleet operators, and in the HGV sector, its cards are accepted at most UK truck stops and HGV-friendly fuel stations. By postcode area, UK Fuels now has 97 per cent of the UK covered.



Flickr / Tony Webster

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BFBA 2022 annual general meeting

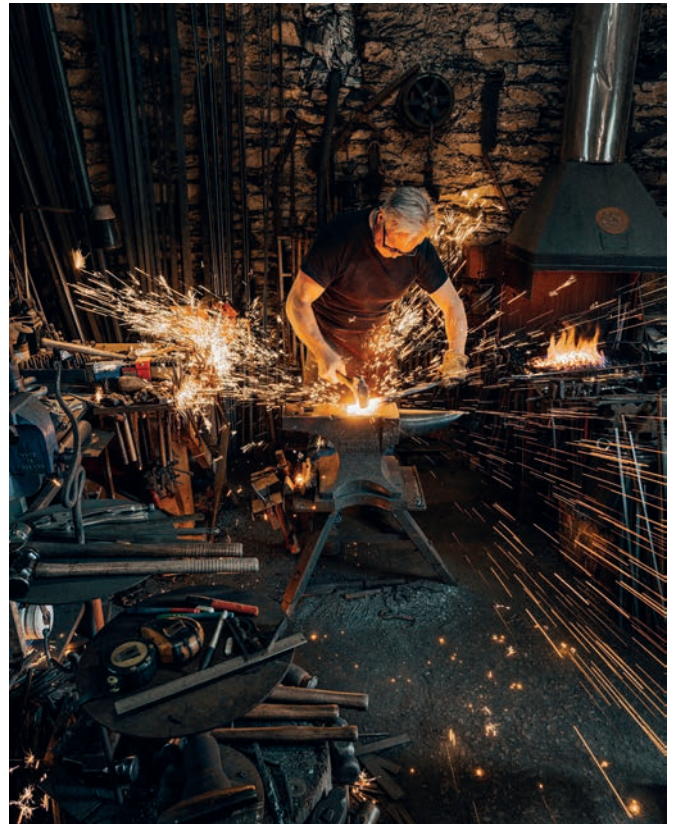
The BFBA AGM will take place on 21 May. This will be a hybrid event whereby members can attend in-person at The Forge, Stoneleigh or online.

BFBA members will need to pre-register (and state whether they wish to attend in-person or online) in order to vote. Full instructions for joining online will be provided in due course.

The AGM will begin at 10am and should take approximately two hours.

All BFBA members are warmly invited to attend and questions will be taken. Attendees last year found the experience a positive one and enjoyed taking an active role in shaping the future of your association. The Executive Committee warmly encourage as many members as possible to join them. To register please email the office on headoffice@bfba.co.uk or call 024 76 696595.

Vice-President Ben Benson said: 'The equestrian and farriery industries are changing and growing rapidly and there are real changes and challenges ahead. Helping BFBA by joining in and being part of the AGM helps the association be more relevant to its members as well as the industry going forward.'



Jonny Cios / Unsplash

Bespoke Pilates for Farriers

Do you suffer from aches and pains? Regular, simple exercises and stretches can have a huge impact on your movement and comfort on a daily basis and we are delighted to offer a bespoke pilates course with Chartered Physiotherapist, Jo Tripp.

The course has been designed with farriers in mind, with a focus on mobility and stability of the lower back and hips.

No previous experience of pilates is needed – beginners are very welcome!

- ▶ **6 week course**
- ▶ **Time: 7.30-8.30pm**
- ▶ **Where: ONLINE via Zoom.**
- ▶ **Cost: £60**

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The first 12 BFBA members to sign up will receive a free initial 30-minute assessment.

For further information, and testimonials, please go to www.pilateswithjo.com.

To register your interest, to book a course or to ask any questions, please call Jo on 07815046005.

Did you know?...that taking instruction and mastering the correct technique for pilates when taught by a qualified and competent instructor could be deemed maintaining your 'fitness for role' and would therefore amount to learning and may form part of your CPD activities. Please note that the subsequent repetition (practice of pilates thereafter) would not.

Developing over **50** different styles



3D HOOFCARE

Derek Poupard is the owner and inventor of 3D HoofCare and HoofCast. Having spent most of his career ambitiously trying to improve the quality of a horse's hoof, his latest efforts have shown positive results in a very short time frame. Through the use of incorporating the latest technologies such as 3D printing to create the HoofCare product, as well as developing this product alongside his own HoofCast product, the goal was to emulate the horse hoof in its natural state of being barefoot.

SPECIALIST HORSESHOES

Research and development for Jim Blurton's growing range of specialist horseshoes takes place at Forden Farriers. Working with local vets Jim Blurton continues to trial and test new horseshoe innovations, designed to address specific equine ailments.

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All Jim Blurton tools have been designed with quality and everyday use in mind. Well balanced, each tool is hand finished offering a unique feel and quality as standard. The tongs have been designed with Richard Ellis. Light, balanced and designed to grip first time every time, They add a little extra to your tool box.

BFBA launches newly developed AWCf course

The BFBA is delighted to be able to launch a brand new BFBA course that offers two tailored routes – while providing unparalleled learning support – to achieve the Worshipful Company of Farriers Associate Examination (AWCF).

Following the completion of a 'Diagnostic Day' on 23 April at Hereford School of Farriery, candidates will be advised to take one of two routes to complete the AWCf examination.

- 'Route 1' supports candidates to prepare through participation within a 10-module, level 4/5 course delivered over 12 months, completing the AWCf examination in two parts over a 1-year period.
- 'Route 2' supports candidates to 'Step Up' to the AWCf exam preparation course through participation within a 5-module, level 3 course delivered over six months, before proceeding to then complete the AWCf Examination in two parts through participation within the 10 module, level 4/5 course.

The BFBA AWCf course tutors are **Danny Bennett** AWCf, CertEd, A1 Assessor and **Dean Bland** BA(Hons) DipWCF(Hons) GradDipELR Dip.Ed MAFA.

Following training to become a farrier in the army, Danny left the forces in 2005 to set up his own farriery business. He is a familiar face at farriery competitions both within the UK and abroad. Danny's enthusiasm for education is well-known – he has tutored at Myerscough College prior to his current position at Hereford – in addition to conducting shoeing and shoemaking clinics and hosting his own, world renowned, farriery podcast.

Dean has over 20 years' experience of working as a farrier, educator and welfare advocate. As founder of Well Equine, he has delivered training programmes around the world; and has received awards for his support of education and equine welfare.

These comprehensive courses provide excellent value for money and places will be secured on a first come, first served basis. Numbers are restricted so please don't delay.

- Diagnostic Day - £180*
- Route 1. AWCf course - £2100 BFBA member (£2800 non-member)
- Route 2. 'Step up' & AWCf course - £2950 BFBA member (£3687.50 non-member)

*The price of the Diagnostic Day is refundable when a candidate proceeds to either Route 1 or Route 2

'We are delighted to be delivering this AWCf Exam Preparation course on behalf of the BFBA', Dean said: 'Our aim is to deliver a course that supports candidates complete the AWCf examination in two parts over a one-year period, with each candidate receiving tailored support based upon their own individual needs through a mixture of onsite and online sessions.'

'We want the course to be an enjoyable experience, bringing farriers together to support themselves and each other', Danny continued. 'We would encourage anyone who is interested in joining us to get in touch with BFBA Head Office.'



Redwings: <https://www.redwings.org.uk/>

For an in-depth breakdown of the course structure, to ask any questions and to book please contact BFBA Head Office on 024 76 696595 or email Holly on membership@bfba.co.uk

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BRAND NEW FOR 2022

Diagnostic Day



Route 1

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April 23rd 2022
£180 (refundable when
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AWCF Exam Prep course
10 modules over 12 months
£2100 BFBA member
£2800 non-member

'Step up' + AWCF Exam Prep course
15 modules over 18 months
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COURSE TUTORS

Danny Bennett
AWCF, Cert Ed, A1 Assessor

Dean Bland
BA(Hons) DipWCF(Hons) GradDipELR Dip.Ed MAFA

WHY STUDY WITH US?



Two tailored routes



Clear, structured framework



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Excellent facilities

GRADUATION SUCCESS

A Worcestershire farrier has received national recognition after securing two awards from the Worshipful Company of Farriers.



Pip Rowland (right) at the graduation ceremony

Pip Rowland, from Evesham, was recognised by the Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF) with the award of two prizes in a graduation ceremony that was held at the Honourable Artillery Company in London in January.

He was presented with the David Llewellyn Prize in recognition of the best theory paper across all candidates as well as the Mike Seckington Prize, which is presented to the student with the highest mark in the practical aspect of the exam.

A keen polocrosse player, Pip completed his four-year farriery apprenticeship through Moreton Morrell College, in Warwickshire.

Pip said: 'It definitely surprised me to win the prizes, I worked really hard for those assessments, but it was still a shock to win.

'Polocrosse is one of my biggest passions and I have played at the highest level nationally and competed internationally. I took up farriery because I was tired of having to pay people to shoe my horses.

'It hadn't necessarily been a long-term plan to work in the profession but that's how it has turned out. I'm looking into setting up my own business currently, but in the meantime have been using my skills to support other qualified farriers.

'I really enjoyed my time studying at college and to top off my apprenticeship with these two awards is a proud moment.

'Farriery as a trade has a great history and it is continuing to evolve with the demands of the modern world. It has evolved a lot over the last decade or so, but fundamentally there will always be a need for shoeing horses, and therefore always be a need for farriers.'

Moreton Morrell College, which is part of WCG (formerly Warwickshire College Group), saw 12 candidates graduate on the day. The graduate class was made up of students from three colleges, with more than half of the graduates coming from WCG.

Tim James, farrier tutor at Moreton Morrell College, said: 'It's always a proud moment to see our apprentices graduate at the Worshipful Company of Farriers ceremony. Pip was a truly outstanding apprentice and a deserved winner of both of the prizes. We would like to congratulate all of our apprentices on their achievements and wish them the best of luck as they pursue careers in the profession.'

EXHIBITION

Somerset crafts portraits and voices



(clockwise from top left) James Darlington shoeing Gunner in his yard; Alex Pole forging a knife; Lisa Collins shoeing Pumpkin and blacksmith Ian Whitefield

Kate Lynch - www.Katelynch.co.uk - has spent two years documenting traditional craftspeople in Somerset. In doing so, she visited 30 craftspeople, including farriers, blacksmiths, thatchers, a rope maker and handmade papermaker, wood firing potters, basketmakers, a glass blower, horse collar maker, bee skep maker, sievewright, brushmaker, hedgelayers and a dry stone waller.

Kate has become known for her exhibitions and books of paintings and drawings celebrating craftsmen and collecting the stories of her subjects. This latest project '**Craft - Somerset Portraits and Voices**' will be exhibited at the Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury, Somerset, from 26 March to 5 June. A fully illustrated hard-back book containing the words of the craftspeople, has been published to mark the exhibition.

In the book and exhibition are charcoal drawings of farriers **Lisa Collins** (Butcombe, North Somerset) and **James Darlington** (Merriott, South Somerset) and blacksmiths Alex Pole and Ian Whitefield. The book also includes extracts from Kate's interviews with them. Lisa talks about the craft, describing her work and the tools. James reminisces about his boyhood and his life as a jockey before training as a farrier. James also loves to drive his horsedrawn wagons, enjoying the outdoor life, staying overnight on verges and in fields.

The book is full of insights from the craftspeople featured. At the back of the book are links to relevant organisations, including the BFBA. Kate's own great-grandfather was a farrier working in Victorian London and Kate has researched his life. 'This personal connection with the craft of the farrier has underpinned my project,' she says.

The exhibition Craft - Somerset Portraits and Voices
26 March - 5 June, Somerset Rural Life Museum, Glastonbury,
<https://swheritage.org.uk/somerset-rural-life-museum/>



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Mark of Gold makes a dream come true



Stevie Fisher, a former point-to-point rider and farrier, wears a green and yellow scarf matching the colours of his horse, Mark of Gold. Here, Hayley Moore presents a pre-prepared interview with Stevie, who communicates through an eye gaze computer programme

As Charlie Huggins reported in the *Racing Post* on January 19: 'There were emotional scenes in the winner's enclosure at the East Sussex track after Mark Of Gold, watched by his permanently incapacitated owner Stevie Fisher, landed the 2m maiden hurdle to provide Gary Moore with his 200th winner at Plumpton.'

This was Stevie Fisher's first visit to a racecourse since the arrival of Covid-19 and it proved to be a dream come true as he watched jockey Niall Houlihan steer the horse to his first win.

Since his severe stroke in 2014, Stevie has suffered locked-in syndrome.

Surrounded by friends and family, Stevie said of his trainer Gary Moore: 'Gary is a very sensible man and never gets carried away and knows that I have been following racing long enough to know that anything can happen in a horserace.'

He's a very nice horse, but please remember I have 10 great friends in him, especially when it comes to the bills!

'I have always followed racing and enjoyed having a bet. Now, the racing has become more important to me because it gives me something that I really love to follow. The Injured Jockeys Fund have made sure I have the racing to watch by very kindly getting me Sky Sports.'

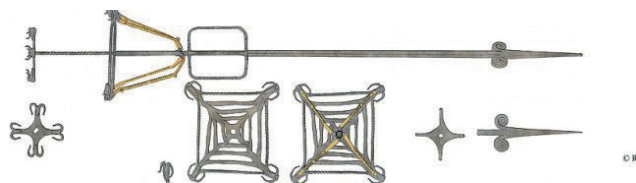
'The better I have become at using my eye gaze, the more I have been able to see the racing paper. To start with on a Saturday, my wife used to email me so I could pick some losers. Now I can see the racing paper I can follow much more. It is giving my mind something to think about and has made following the racing so important to me.'

The trainer's daughter Hayley said of Stevie: 'He's been a very, very good friend of mine for a long time. I remember he used to come in and shoe Sire Du Grugy, he was just brilliant.'

WEBINAR: RECONSTRUCTING ARCHEOLOGICAL IRONWORK

The National Ironwork Heritable Group is presenting a webinar with Rowan Taylor, based on a case study from the Sutton Hoo burial ship, on 29 March at 12 noon.

Blacksmith and historical ironwork specialist Rowan Taylor has reconstructed an iron stand from the Sutton Hoo burial ship by reverse engineering the object based on constructional evidence. In the webinar, he will explain the process and reveal how he thinks the stand might actually have looked. The likely appearance of an iron stand excavated from the Sutton Hoo ship burial in 1939 has been defined several times by academics, but never by a craftsman, until now. In a paper published in the EXARC journal, Mr Taylor suggests that the appearance of the object may have been different



from the current reconstruction. In this webinar, which will appeal to those with general interest as well as ironwork and archaeological specialists, he will explore the constructional evidence provided by the object itself, and explain how the conclusions drawn from it might affect the appearance of the object. Book at <https://nhig.org.uk/events/event/reconstructing-archaeological-ironwork-sutton-hoo/>

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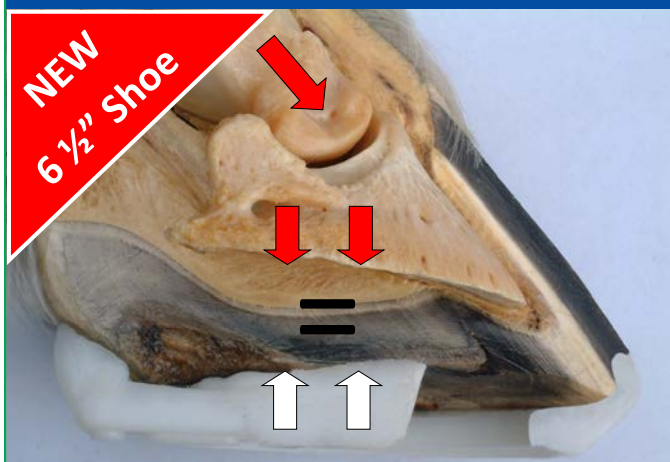
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David Marlin has been involved with horses all his life and is an experienced equine scientist.

Although he was unable to give his lectures at BFBA Focus in person, we are now delighted to confirm that he will be running the two lectures for the BFBA as webinars in March.



16 March 2022 at 7.30 pm

HOW RELEVANT IS SCIENCE TO FARRIERS?

30 March 2022 at 7.30 pm

**TECHNOLOGY FOR FARRIERS - A DISTRACTION
OR A USEFUL ADDITION TO SERVICES?**

These lectures are **FREE OF CHARGE** for
BFBA Members AND to those who attended Focus

To confirm your place, please book online at
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or call Holly on 024 76 696595.

Read further online > <https://bit.ly/3LSPkiR>

In light of the current issues surrounding coal, what are the alternatives?

The Blacksmiths Guild discussed net zero emissions in November 2021. Guild Master, Merv Allen FWCB, writes –

Blacksmithing is a dirty business. The burning of non-renewable fuels to increase the temperature of iron and steel to the levels required for forging has radically increased since the 18th Century and they continue to be used, mostly unabated, by the blacksmiths of today.

We now know beyond doubt that our planet is in crisis due to global warming. It is therefore vital that we all take responsibility to reduce our impact on climate change, however small they may seem in global terms.

As a major provider of blacksmithing education in the UK, the Blacksmiths Guild has a responsibility to ensure that our ancient craft and skills continue to flourish and that our voice is heard amidst the multitude of environmental researchers and political decision-makers.

The following provides the key points of our actions so far.

1. The British Artist Blacksmiths Association has set up a Future Fuels Group (FFG) initiative to discuss the way forward for alternative blacksmithing fuels and forge designs in

NextFuel AB converts fast growing grasses and other types of inexpensive and abundant biomass into a clean copy of coal



order to have a strong voice in the decision-making process. Several Blacksmiths Guild committee members, including Jonathan de Wilton and Nick Peppit actively participate in FFG proceedings.

2. We are in discussion with the Woodland Trust regarding net zero sustainability. The emphasis being on suitable tree planting and the increased use of charcoal and related products as a forge fuel. Once the discussions are complete, the Guild will make appropriate regular donations to the Woodland Trust.
3. The Blacksmiths Guild is making funds available to members who wish to plant trees and other flora on their own property or in their local community.
4. We aim to keep abreast of worldwide research relating to sustainable fuels such as Elephant Grass and alternative forge designs, induction forges for example.
5. The Blacksmiths Guild members are encouraged to try out and report on the latest available fuels and forge designs.

Having a bit of a go with some different fuels

By Tim Puddephatt & Phil Carter

Back in October, an evening was organised for the 'Derbyshire Blacksmiths' at Jess Millward's teaching facility in the Peak district.

The premise was to try out the main fuels currently available, namely:

Anvil coke (supplied by CPL), **Anthracite** (widely available), and a mix of the two, and some coke from **Redcar** (supplied by Bengry's, Herefordshire) - after the event I was put onto a supply available from Smallshaw's in Shrewsbury, which I have since tried. (You should be able to find a coal merchants near you that can help.)

Allow me to set out my needs: I want a fuel that is single-sized, not dusty, dry in the bag and consistent between tonnes. Although many now use it, I have tried Welsh dry

steam in the past and I'm not a fan. As I also teach at Jess's forge, (Peak Blacksmithing Experience) I am after a fuel that's forgiving when used by first timers.

This came about after I had experienced some inconsistencies with the last tonne of **Anvil** coke I'd received from CPL (although CPL has now mostly dealt with these). Due to this, I now have the best part of a tonne of Anvil coke and various bags of other fuels, so this isn't an exhaustive list by any means, but I think it gives a good indication of the general options available to most smiths out there.

The evening was a chance for those who attended to try the fuels themselves and make up their own mind. It was also a chance for me to burn the fuels in an uninterrupted fire for a minimum of three hours and assess how the fuels performed. For example, what clinker they made, how quickly they burnt down, etc. The fires had been cleaned that lunchtime and had previously had Anvil coke on them, so any contamination was from Anvil only.



Anthracite and Anvil mix, and clinker

Fuels from the bag

Anvil coke (CPL) Large, dusty and damp (25kg). The fuel size is Doubles (most of the fuel is 30mm x 50mm) with a lot of damp dust in the bag around the fuel.

Anthracite (bought from both CPL & Bengry's) both supplies are similar, singles sized fairly dry and not too dusty the bag – both come in 20kg bags.

Redcar coke (Supplied by Bengry's) Singles size, not very dusty, not very damp 25kg bag.

Smallshaws smaller than single, some half sized mixed in, fairly dry and not too dusty in the bag, comes in a 20kg bag.

On the fire

Anvil coke burns like Doubles, the fire wants to be bigger and the first heats on bars can be varied as the fuel can block the direct heat. Where a larger fire is required this size is useful, however on general sized work you tend to push the fire around with your bar. After three hours it was getting quite jammy, and pulled a decent, solid clinker. the excess dust and large sized fuel can get into and destabilise the clinker making it fall apart.

Anthracite Full blast seems to shift the fire and the fuel more than coke, also the fire needs to set in before it performs like coke (ie, it needs to coke in the fire). I've heard some complaints about it being slow to heat bars up and experienced this occasionally, either when the fire hasn't burnt in well enough or the fire is starting to hollow out in the hotspot. Lots of dust build up but little clinker, which comes out in a few decent clumps. Fire burns down readily, after three hours the fire poked around nicely enough.

Anthracite and Anvil mix Tried this originally at Bringsty Forge. The mix makes it cheaper, the anthracite fills in the gaps of the coke, the coke weighs down the anthracite as it burns down. Decent, manageable fire. The clinker comes out like the Anvil coke, if a little dustier.

Redcar Coke burns well, easy maintenance and work doesn't push the fire around too much. On the evening Phil and I fire welded happily at 8 pm after a three-hour burn without feeling a massive amount of clinker. The clinker came out in one big lump with some small bits directly in front of the Tue iron. (Phil has been using Redcar coke and burns about a bag and a half on a full day)

Smallshaws works like Redcar coke, but gets a bit hotter a bit quicker and burns down a bit quicker due to its size. (As I've used it since, I've found I burn about 30 kg to every 25 kg of Redcar or Anvil coke, including some fire welding). Clinker is very similar to Redcar and Anvil coke.

None of these were especially difficult to work with, however we found the most controllable and usable fuel was



Anvil coke and clinker

the Redcar coke from Bengry's.

Anthracite is a useful fuel, and at £300 a tonne, it hurts the bank balance a lot less than the competition. However, I won't be using it as a main fuel, due to my personal fuel

requirements, I need something that I can teach with, and as the fuel burns down it gets smaller and smaller, without good air control its easy to send a stream of tiny hot bits of fuel from the middle of your fire out the hole your work made directly towards you and I don't need that for my have a goers.

Bengry's and Smallshaws hover around the £500/tonne range and upwards a pallet, and Anvil coke is now £660 a tonne.

I am waiting on my stack to be replaced, and Kevin Moss at CPL has been very helpful in making that happen, so I'll hold my final judgement until then, however my next tonne is coming from Redcar via Bengry's.

How long these solid fuel sources last as they are now is anyone's guess, its inconsistency is one of the main stumbling blocks for us at the moment for sourcing future supplies.

CPL, Bengry's and Smallshaws all buy their supply directly and seem confident in their supply for the near future, and no-one seems threatened by the supply of anthracite, or of Welsh dry steam.

Suppliers

CPL, Killamarsh, Sheffield, tel: 0345 450 1474, coals2u.co.uk

R&H Bengry, Kingsland, Herefordshire HR6 9SF, tel: 01568

708434, bengrycoal.co.uk

J. A. Smallshaw, Shrewsbury, tel: 01743 362482



Fuel size comparison: (above) Anvil 30x50 left and Redcar right. (right) Smallshaws mix 25x10 12x10

Forge is grateful to the Blacksmiths Guild and the authors for kindly giving permission to reproduce the articles on pages 14, 15, 16, 20 and 21 from its newsletter



New metalwork curator at Victoria & Albert museum

Until recently, Alicia Robinson was the senior curator for decorative arts and sculpture at the V&A, and was the person who helped the Guild on the display of its 50th anniversary panel; however, a major restructure following the impact of Covid led to a 15% cut to staff in the Collections Division.

Having joined the museum 36 years ago, Alicia chose to take voluntary redundancy, which means that Angus Patterson is now the Senior Curator in charge of Metalwork. Alicia writes – 'While [having been] responsible for the wonderful ironwork collection and six galleries, with colleagues, I retained my deep, longstanding interest in French Sculpture 1600-1914, and involvement in the 19th century more generally.

'I plan write a new publication on Rodin with the Museum, focusing on the V&A collection, but setting it within a broad



The Guild's 50th anniversary panel

thematic context and making comparisons across media and techniques. I shall be in touch again with those in this field. I hope also to continue lecturing, other writing, consultancy work, in due course, as well as leisure pursuits.

'At the risk of self-indulgence, I totted up the jobs that made me the V&A "chameleon": Assistant Curator in Photo Sales from June 1985; then in Ceramics & Glass, then Sculpture; Assistant to the Director (Elizabeth Esteve-Coll); Head of Special Events (within V&A Enterprises); Director of Apsley House (1996-2004, when it transferred to English Heritage); Head of Grants in Development; Senior Curator in Ceramics & Glass, then in Sculpture, then Metalwork.

'It has been an utter privilege to work for the Museum for so long in so many capacities, alongside gifted and generous colleagues across the organisation and beyond. The friendships I have made have been invaluable. I shall cherish happy memories of collaborations and support in so many contexts.'

Upgraded forge facilities at the Camelia Botnar Foundation

Camelia Botnar Foundation in Cowfold, West Sussex, does important work providing residential training and work experience to help young people learn a skilled trade and embark on a useful career path.

A major re-organisation and change of location of the forging facility provided Guild Master Merv Allen with an opportunity to visit and see the newly opened workshop.

New equipment includes double forges, a power hammer and press, which were installed with particular attention being given to the practice of blacksmithing.

The Hugh Adams Trophy is awarded annually to the best blacksmithing trainee nominated by the Camelia Botnar Foundation, which is presented at the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths Awards Luncheon in October.

Applications from potential trainees – male and female – are welcome from anywhere in the UK, but they must be aged between 16 and 19 and have left full time schooling.

Camelia Botnar Foundation Maplehurst Road, Cowfold, West Sussex RH13 8DQ www.cameliabotnar.com



The Camelia Botnar Foundation's blacksmith instructors Ben and Tim in their new forge



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Mort, Firebird Forge

The coke was consistent and very clean producing a hard compact clinker with very little ash residue. The fire also stayed clean for a decent length of time and it was easy to clear the clinker. I would certainly be happy to use this fuel in my Forge in the future.

Adrian, Bringsty Forge





Kings plate Competition

Over the Christmas period, National Hunt racing provided some superb racing and, more recently, for those that watch racing regularly the battle between Energumene and Shishkin in the Clarence House encapsulates why so many adore the sport.

Iwilldoit provided trainer Sam Thomas with a superb Grade 1 win in the Welsh National at Chepstow. Stamina in the wet conditions and on the final hill proved paramount and Iwilldoit didn't disappoint his supporters. This win was a particularly poignant one for Thomas who rode Iwilldoit's mare, Lyricist's Dream, to win in his career as a jockey.



Iwilldoit

National Hunt racing produces some of the finest stories and we eagerly look forward to following our farriers and their yards at Cheltenham this month. Best of luck to you all and come home safe!

Champagne moments -

★ Many congratulations to **Matt Rees (Wenallt Forge Farriers)** who shod Iwilldoit with Kerckhaert plates to win this year's Welsh Grand National. Iwilldoit is trained by Sam Thomas.

★ Gary Moore-trained Porticello eased to victory under Jamie Moore in the Coral Finale Juvenile Hurdle. Congratulations to **Shane Francis**. Shane (pictured right) shod Porticello with Kerckhaert Kings Extra Sound nailed on with Liberty Carerra Secure Nails.

★ Bravemansgame won the Grade 1 Kauto Star Novices'



Spotlight on... Ryan Potter DipWCF

Ryan Potter is now in his second season with a full license – a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic halting his ambitions on the point-to-point track. Based in Sellack, Ross on Wye, he balances a yard of 16 horses under rules and four point-to-pointers with the demands of running his own farriery business.

At the time of writing, yard pathfinder Jetoile has been declared for the prestigious Belfair Hurdle at Newbury on 12 February following a superb second to Constitution Hill in the Grade 1 Tolworth at Sandown.

We tracked Ryan down (on the end of his phone) at Catterick prior to an afternoon's racing and quizzed him on training, farriery and, of course, Kerckhaert plates!

Farriery or racehorses, which came first?

I have always ridden before training – including eventers and showjumpers – but racing took over when I worked for Andy Oliver in Ireland when I was 15. I had it in the back of my head (as a back-up plan) that I wanted a trade...I didn't know what to do. I considered dentistry, but farriery won!

Describe a typical day

The day starts with feeding at 5.30 am. I have one full-time

member of staff in the raceyard and two part-time staff, they arrive at 6.30 am. The first lot leaves the yard at 7am. Shoeing begins at 11 am – I have two freelance farriers that help me on different days – and the day finishes when the last horse is shod.

Describe your farriery clients

I shoe for P D Evans, racehorse trainer, in addition to other racing yards – a mixture of National Hunt and flat yards. I also have one hunting yards and one showjumping yard.

Which race you would most like to win and why?

The Gold Cup. The winner of this race is the best horse in the country at that time. It would be great to win the Grand National, but you also need luck on your side!

Give us one advantage and one disadvantage of shoeing your own horses

It definitely saves money...the downside is you always know when they need doing and the lost shoes are all yours!

Chase for trainer Paul Nicholls and jockey Harry Cobden. Congratulations to **Tom Bougourd**. Bravemansgame is shod with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound.

★ Epatante won the Ladbrokes Christmas Hurdle for trainer Nicky Henderson and jockey Nico De Boinville. Congratulations to **Chapel Forge Farriers**. They shod Epatante, with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Nails.

★ Constitution Hill claimed the Unibet Tolworth Novices' Hurdle for trainer Nicky Henderson and jockey Nico de Boinville. Congratulations to **Chapel Forge Farriers**. They shod Constitution Hill, with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Nails.

★ Stage Star won the MansionBet Challow Novices' Hurdle. Congratulations to **Tom Bougourd** who shod Stage Star, with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound. Stage Star was trained by Paul Nicholls and ridden by Harry Cobden.

★ Shishkin won an awesome Clarence House battle for trainer Nicky Henderson and jockey Nico de Boinville. Congratulations to **Chapel Forge Farriers**. They shod Shishkin, with Kerckhaert Kings Super Sound, nailed on with Liberty Nails.



What do you look for in racing plates?

Pitch is really important. Good quality.

Jetoile was wearing Kerckhaert Extra Sound in the Tolworth. What is it you like about these plates in particular?

I used these plates as an apprentice and they are brilliant. The pitch in the toe is great. They are not the cheapest, but they are easy to fit which saves time and money.

Best of luck to Ryan for the remainder of this season, and going forward.



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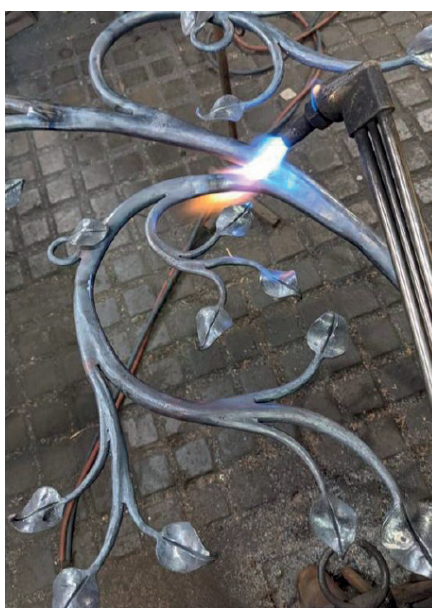
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Forge garden in the medals at RHS Chelsea Flower Show



In early 2020, champion blacksmith Simon Hall AWCB received a call from a company called the Blue Diamond Group – a garden centre group with 37 sites in the UK and the Channel Islands – who told him they would be designing a garden at the Chelsea flower show for the first time. It was to be a traditional forge garden.





The forge was lit up at night

The design was to be based on a traditional thatched forge and as Simon's workshop was thought to be the last working thatched forge in the country, a meeting was arranged. The design team duly arrived in Branscombe for filming and to take photographs. During the meeting it was discussed that he would supply them with forged nails and hinges.

After a couple of months, he received another call asking him to supply a decorative panel along with a small sculpture.

During this call Blue Diamond said they wanted to add to the authenticity of the forge garden by having it fully functional on press day, and he jumped at the chance to promote himself, along with blacksmithing in general.

The construction of the garden took the team of builders from Conquest Spaces a total of 16 days from the ground up, this included getting a thatcher on site for three days, along with a set designer who spent a further day ageing the roof using a mixture of oil, paint, and moss.

Simon said press day was a very surreal experience as it was also VIP Day. He explains: 'Imagine spending most of your life watching tv shows and films only to have these people watch you work. Even Dame Judy Dench stopped to take a photo!

'With lots of interest from the BBC to have the fire running during their daily filming schedule, this turned my one-day visit into five. Overall, the garden won a silver medal along with the award for Best Artisan Garden.'

Simon Hall AWCB is a third-generation blacksmith, Reserve British Live Forging Champion 2015, three-times British Live Forging Champion in 2017, 2018 and 2019 and National Champion Blacksmith in 2019.

'At Branscombe Forge we supply an array of traditional and contemporary ironwork to suit any home or garden including candlesticks, fireside accessories, door furniture, lighting, wall art, wine racks, wellie accessories and a range of garden furniture and sculptures.

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**Branscombe Forge, Branscombe, Seaton, Devon
EX12 3DB, telephone 01297 680481,
email branscombeforge@gmail.com**

*With thanks to Simon Hall AWCB and the Blacksmiths Guild for allowing BFBA to publish this piece in Forge,
www.blacksmithsguild.com*

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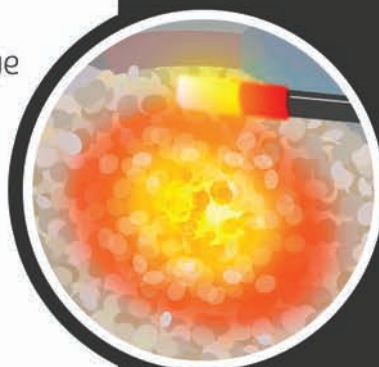


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A brief history of a creative creature

By Jim Cooper, FWCB Silver Medal

Jim Cooper was presented with a Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths (WCB) Silver Medal in October 2021. Here, Jim describes his artistic journey.

Art and Craft were my favourite subjects at school; I could always draw effortlessly and enjoyed it. I was fortunate enough to go to Art College in the 1960s where I studied ceramics. I did the postgraduate course at North Staffordshire College of Technology and then worked in the ceramic industry for a few years in Stoke-on-Trent, making designs for tableware. But I'd gone on a route that had taken me away from the craft and I wanted to get back to being more hands-on.

I became an art teacher which I enjoyed; the art department was well staffed and had great facilities – pottery, sculpture, print-making and photography – all of which I could experiment with. After eight years of teaching I decided to set up my own pottery and found a nice old building that turned out to have been a blacksmith's forge in the past.

I was intrigued by the thought of blacksmithing: the building had the remains of line-shafts and flues and I decided to get it going again. I rebuilt the hearth and sorted out the flues. I found a nice 3 cwt anvil, a big set of bellows and a leg vice, also a six-horsepower horizontal open crank oil engine to run the line-shaft and got started. That was when you could find blacksmith tackle in scrap-yards cheap.

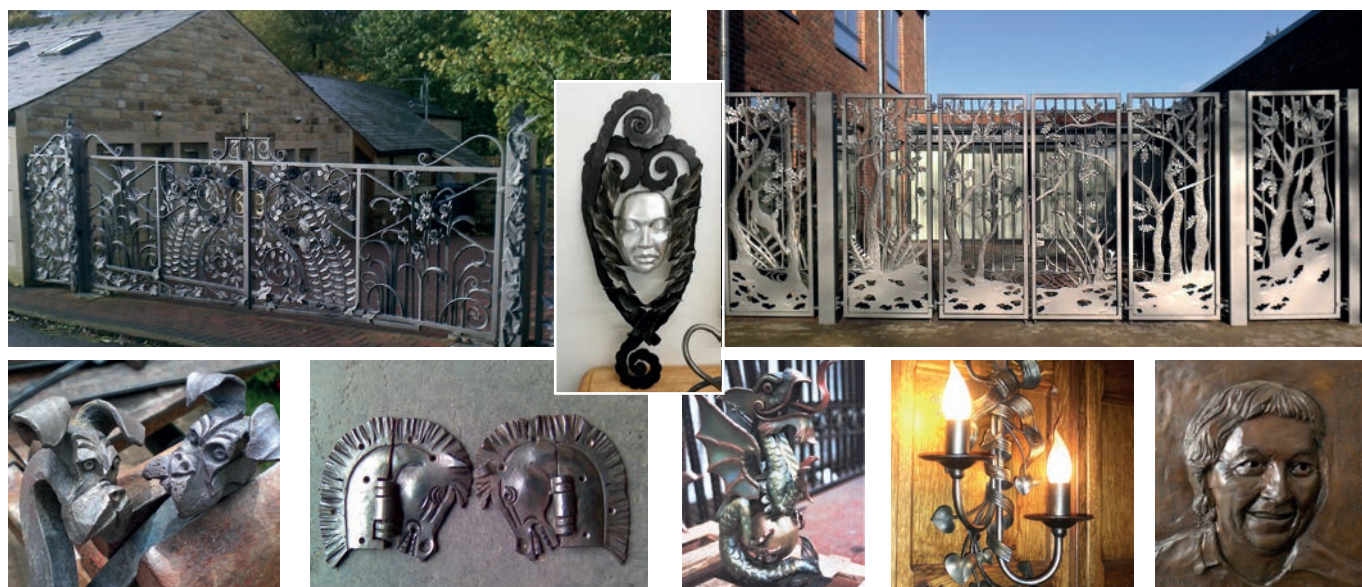


At the time, the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (COSIRA) was offering the opportunity to have one of their smiths come round for a day to get you started, so the late John Hill came round and 'stoked my fire', so to speak. I was totally hooked. I went on a weekend tong-making course that he was running and he suggested that I go to a BABA forge-in at Harrogate. I attended that and was allowed over the barrier to join in. I'll never forget that day.

Of course, I had to have more of this and went to lots of forge-ins, mixing with what was almost a family atmosphere of blacksmiths.

As I tinkered away in my workshop, people found out about me from the demonstrations that I did at local craft markets and museums and gradually the ironwork took over from the pottery. At that time, I was doing a lot of latches, hinges and door furniture for the old stone buildings that people were renovating. I spent some time working at Rourke's, which was a big components operation where I got to use power hammers and to be involved with bigger projects. I got a lot of useful experience there and won a couple of NOMMA's (National Ornamental and Miscellaneous Metal Association) gold and silver awards.

With my better skills and my old customers still wanting things made, I set up on my own again in a bigger workshop with a couple of power hammers, a 3 cwt and a 1 cwt, lathe, plasma cutter etc. Then, I was offered a chance to go



to Canada to do some wonderful architectural projects, not much in the forging line, but I did some interesting concrete sculptural work.

After three years I returned and joined my friend Rick, adding my forging skills and equipment to his fabricating business where I spent the next seven years until 'retiring' and messing about in my shed, fixing stuff, playing my fiddle and drawing cartoons. I still have my basic pottery equipment and forging set-up to play with so I'm never short of something to try my hand at.

These pieces are reproduced with permission from the WCB Newsletter, Autumn 2021, as are the pieces on pages 28 and 31.



Paul Gilbert, FWCB, is also a WCB Silver Medal Winner

Take a train from Barnstaple to Exmouth and as you pass through Lymptstone, you will look twice at the shining form of a horse, standing poised and glinting in the sunlight. Named 'Prince' by the commissioner, he stands nuzzling a foal over the fence, a stunning work of wrought iron – the culmination of over 117 hours' work by Master Blacksmith and Silver Medallist, Paul Gilbert.

Paul Gilbert's client had grown up on a farm which kept shire horses, but Paul thought he was joking, at first, when he said that he wanted him to create a full size sculpture in metalwork. Soon after, he was asked to create a highland cow and set to work right away on the beast, which secured Paul's position as double first prize winner and Champion Blacksmith at the Devon County Show. The Highland Cow presented the challenge of cutting just over 10,000 pieces of hair, each individually cut, finished, carefully bent and welded into the frame.

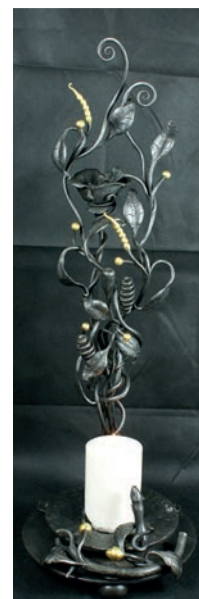
Paul employed the same technique in constructing the three sculptures, first constructing the skeleton: 'I enjoyed creating the shape, and thinking, "How am I going to make this? What's the next step?"' The shire horses were made completely by eye, starting with the frame and building in the detail. The most challenging part was the head, for which Paul acknowledges the help of his wife, Jane. For the Highland Cow, he drew out designs and then created the skeleton under size, with an overlay of 3mm steel to make the hair. The whole project took in the region of 235 hours.



Paul became a blacksmith in the 1990s, when he left his job to join a friend who was making iron furniture. He is self-taught. By going to the different County Shows, watching the blacksmiths whom he most admired and, as he modestly puts it, 'having a go' himself, he learnt from the masters over the years. His client base now includes cathedrals, churches, architects and developers, as well as domestic homes.

Paul says that what he loves about being a blacksmith is taking something so hard like steel and making it soft, creating shapes and different forms. He especially enjoys the opportunity of contemporary design because it gives the opportunity for a free creative flow. He loves the opportunity of projects that he can get his teeth into, and notes that it has taken 20 years of learning and experimentation to get to where he wants to be.

'To be a blacksmith is to be passionate about what you can make and to think outside the box. If you want to make something, make it. Try to be different.'



NAF @ The Forge

Five Star Farrier

This month we met up with Alex Hall DipWCF to discuss his pathway to success and unveil exclusively to you, some interesting facts about our Five Star Farrier.

When did you qualify as a farrier?

Summer 2014.

What is the most enjoyable thing about your job?

Being outdoors, new surroundings everyday, meeting so many different people and amazing horses, what's not to love.

If you could spend a day in someone else's shoes, whose would they be? Why?

There's far too many to list, but the main person who stands out to me is Jim Blurton. A truly talented man, very knowledgeable and has put so much back into the farriery world, created so many different products that make our day to day lives easier. Would love to spend some time with him to help me further my understanding of shoeing to help continue my career for the better.

What is your most memorable appointment with a client and why?

Not a client but most memorable experience would be winning the best shod armed forces team at royal Windsor in 2019 with the Avon and Somerset mounted constabulary and being presented my award in front of the Queen.

What is your most treasured possession?

I have 3 things that I couldn't do my day to day job without, my handmade Jonathan Nunn nailing hammer, which Jonathan helped me make and give me guidance with. Daniel Bennett made me a shoe making/turning hammer which I also use everyday. Finally my Neal Baggett handmade straight blade knife with deer antler for a handle. All of the above I would class as my treasured possessions to help me everyday with my job.

Best refreshments from your clients?

I'm a easily pleased person, a good cup of tea, milk and one



Alex Hall at work (www.alexhallfarrier.co.uk)

sugar or a glass of squash on a hot day. If I'm lucky a bacon sandwich always goes down a treat

What top tips would you give to up and coming apprentices

*Definitely try and spend as much time seeing other farriers work, gain as much experience as you can, learning new techniques to help develop your practical experience. Don't shy away from theory, learn to enjoy it, it's amazing now how much everyday shoeing revolves around theory.

What top tips would you give to horse owners to help with hoof care

*Talk with your farrier, ask if there are any changes in the feet or anything that can be done to help. Every horse and environment is different. Daily application of Farriers Solution or Farriers Dressing goes a very long way in helping maintain a healthy, strong foot. If your horse needs that extra help, then the Profeet hoof pellets are a fantastic option for that extra bit of help.

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Farrier wins people's choice

By Bob Tunks, Craft Warden, Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

My wife Kerry and I attended the Devon County show on 4 July 2021, and were treated to a glorious summer's day Devon style, which naturally meant that after stepping through the show gates the heavens opened to try and dampen everyone's enthusiasm. But we had all been cooped up for too long to be made miserable by a little rain.

The show was very impressive. Despite the visitor numbers being controlled, we were surprised at just how many exhibitors and participants there were. After a good look round we made our way over to the Blacksmiths area, introduced ourselves and were invited backstage where hot beverages were promptly produced. We were made very welcome as the introductions and re-acquaintances were made.

Our host, John Bellamy explained that due to the high number of county shows being cancelled they had organised a daily competition for smiths to produce a piece of work within a two-hour time frame. At the end of each day the pieces were displayed and an unsuspecting member of the public would be asked to select their favourite piece. The winning piece would produce a cash prize for the smith while the member of public got to take the winning piece home.

At this point I would like to state that I am fairly sure my wife Kerry played a small part in the Great Britain Equestrian success at the Tokyo Olympics. This statement is a bit tenuous but plausible.

The smiths at the Devon County show selected Kerry as the unsuspecting member of public to select her favourite piece from those on display. Kerry, doing her best impression of a rabbit in the headlights, desperately cast around for advice and support, but John Bellamy was adamant that she was on her own, so she selected a very nice set of barbecue tongs and fork.



This produced a friendly audible groan from the assembled smiths as we were informed that the winning smith was Andrew Bowyer who was actually not a smith at all but a farrier. They accepted Kerry's choice with good grace and in conversation with Andrew it turned out that not only was he an Associate of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, but also a farrier to the Olympic discipline Podium Potential squads (dressage, jumping and eventing). So to my earlier statement: I like to think that by his win over the blacksmiths at the County show it lifted his game for Team GB at Tokyo enabling them to ride away on fine shod hooves with a clutch of medals.

Originally appears in the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths Newsletter, Issue 58, Autumn 2021, and is published with permission

WCB celebrates 450 years

The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths marked its 450th Anniversary of the first Royal Charter of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths during its Michaelmas Luncheon and awards ceremony in October 2021.

To celebrate this significant moment in its history, Prime Warden Jim Cook explained to the Company how he had petitioned the College of Arms to issue a Badge and Standard for the Company to reflect its association with Elizabeth I. As a result, the Letters Patent were presented to the Company at the Epiphany Court Luncheon on 13 January 2022.

The Prime Warden also acknowledged Third Warden Alderman Alistair King's 'exceptional endeavour in ensuring

that the Company continued to thrive during the months of pandemic with regular Zoom meetings and an outstanding series of online interviews with senior members of Government, captains of industry and leaders of public life, for the Institute of Directors.'

The Prime Warden also reflected on the values of the Company, which have sustained us across the centuries and by which we continue to develop: City, Craft, Charity and Culture. He exhorted those present to participate in City initiatives such as the Livery School Links and to support our talented craftsmen, in and outside of London. He looked forward to finalising our Government Apprenticeship Scheme for young novice blacksmiths. He also encouraged Liverymen, Freemen and Apprentices to the Company to take the lead in charitable giving, to adopt the Lord Mayor's Green Horizons initiative and to actively promote the diversity of the Company.'

HISTORY

20 years since MSPs banned hunting in Scotland

Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) voted for The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Bill in February 2002, ending the tradition of hunting in Scotland.

At the time, Forge magazine reported that among the last-minute efforts to support hunting, the Scottish Countryside Alliance launched an advertising campaign involving giant posters with the words 'BRAVEHEARTS OR BONEHEADS? – true patriots will vote for the countryside and against the Watson Bill'. On the date of the vote, supporters gathered at Kelso race course along with packs of hounds from the northernmost parts of England. Despite their efforts, the Bill was passed.

Supporters of the bill were delighted that Scotland would be the first part of the UK to ban mounted hunting with hounds, effectively outlawing fox-hunting, fox-baiting and hare coursing, the BBC said.

Shortly after the Bill gained Royal assent, the government released its statement on 'the way forward' for hunting with dogs in England and Wales, which was eventually banned in 2004.



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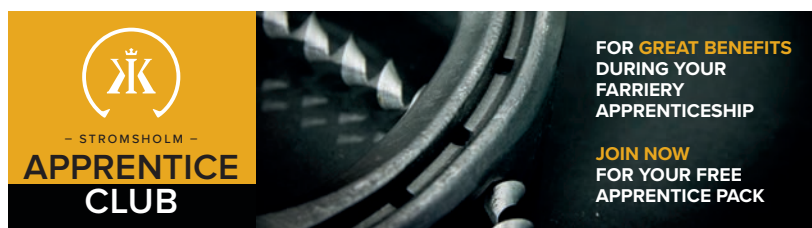
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The College Block Award

Introduced to highlight apprentices 'going the extra mile' or gaining super end of block results, the College Block Award is made to apprentices following nomination by their college tutors. Successful apprentices receive a certificate and Stromsholm voucher.

In this issue we congratulate

WCG MORETON MORRELL COLLEGE

Hugo Serisier (44L) 'For an outstanding result in his end of block test'. Hugo is trained by **Joe Rose AWCF**.

Ellis Frost (44L) 'Who had made huge progress with his theory since he was last in college'. Ellis is trained by **Lee Collins DipWCF**.

Harry Fairlie (43L) 'Who has worked very hard to improve both his practical and theory since his last college attendance'. Harry is trained by **John Howett DipWCF**.

HEREFORD COLLEGE

Theo Williams (44L) 'For overall effort in skills, knowledge and behaviour on block 3'. Theo is trained by **J Goddard DipWCF**.

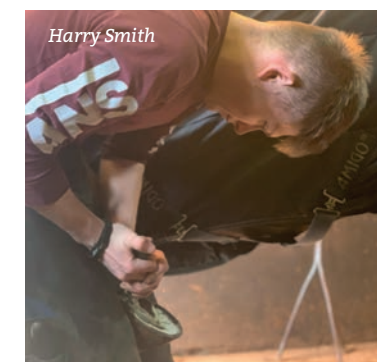
Dean Murray (43L) 'For most improved in block 5'. Dean is trained by **R Matthews DipWCF**.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

Alex Haworth (44L) 'For being a good all-round student who achieved an excellent end of block theory result'. Alex is trained by **Richard Helliwell DipWCF**.

Harry Smith (42L) 'Who works hard at college and achieves consistently good practical and theory results'. Harry is trained by **Paul Smith DipWCF**.



Edenbridge and Oxted show

By Abigail Farr, Liveryman WCB and editor of the Company's newsletter

Travelling down by train and a shuttle bus, which provided a very regular service to and from Lingfield station, I visited the Edenbridge and Oxted Show on the final weekend of August, with the family in tow.

And what was not to love? Greeted by water buffalo, we enjoyed exploring a full range of livestock and watched an impressive equestrian display.

The demonstration of ferreting was intriguing to say the least, while the exhibitions of carriage-driving in the main ring were magnificent – a celebration of a much more civilised mode of travel. Around the periphery, we encountered ferruginous pygmy owls, goshawks, chinchillas and a tarantula; we watched with bated breath as gun dogs competed to complete a course in record time; we had a go at basket weaving and we ate some delicious pies.

But our destination – the blacksmith forge and display – was the highlight of our visit. Warmly welcomed by Simon Hall (pictured bottom right), we watched, fascinated, as competition items took shape – literally – in front of our eyes.

The competition was won by the Cambridgeshire blacksmith Richard Hillam for his inspired creation, a grasshopper.



OBITUARY

Brian Hill

John Bellamy, of Westpoint Forge Blacksmiths, writes – it is with great sadness and regret that I need to report that our great friend Brian Hill passed away on 6 December 2021, after a long battle with ill health.

For many years Brian has been one of the unsung heroes who work so hard in the background, supporting and passing on the blacksmith's skill.

It is fitting that as a Cornishman one of his many achievements was to be instrumental in encouraging and establishing the Cornish Blacksmiths presence at the Royal Cornwall Show. He was very proud of his Cornish roots and visited whenever he could along with his son Jason.

He also supported many other shows and events like Finch Foundry's St Clement's day, taking great pleasure from helping and just being there.

So please ring your anvils for him and have a quiet two minutes recalling your memories of him. Cheers Brian you will be missed.

- I am sure that all Guild members will echo John's words and that all that knew Brian will join me in passing our sincere condolences to his family. They can take comfort in knowing that Brian will live on in our hearts and will not be forgotten – Merv Allen



The tale of the talking dog

Stevie Fisher has kindly offered to share some of his stories with Forge magazine to keep you entertained. He says it'll be a lot better than the scientific stuff!

My name is Stevie Fisher and some of you will know me. I was a farrier and I and my team of three or four apprentices used to shoe between 75 and 100 horses a week. This consisted of a few racing yards as well as a mixture of different types of horses.

In 2014, after just getting back from the shoeing competition in Calgary, Canada, I suffered a massive stroke leaving me with locked-in syndrome. I used to really enjoy shoeing competitions, but I totally understand that it's not for everyone.

Locked-in syndrome means the only thing that still works is my brain, and even that's not working 100%! If you would like to learn a bit more about me, I have just written a book about my life called 'Blinking ell'. I have been told it is a good book and, as most farriers have only ever read Hickman's Textbook of Farriery, this is an easy way of telling people you have now read two books!

I've always liked a good joke so here's with one of my favourites.

A Dublin man sees a sign outside a Kerry farmhouse: 'Talking Dog For Sale'. He rings the bell, the owner appears and tells him the dog can be viewed in the back garden. The man sees a very nice looking black labrador retriever sitting there.

"Do you really talk?" He asks the dog.

"Yes!" The Labrador replies.

After recovering from the shock of hearing the dog talk, the man asks: "So, tell me your story!"

The Labrador looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the



Newtonapple/Flickr

government, so I joined the Garda. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and drug lords because no-one imagined that a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years, but the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger, so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at Dublin airport to do some undercover security work, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded several medals. I got married, had a few puppies, and now I've just retired!"

The man is amazed. He goes back into the house and asks the man how much he wants for the dog.

"Ten quid!" The owner says.

"A tenner? But this dog is absolutely amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheaply?"

"Because he's a lying bugger. He's never been out of the garden!"

Cheap wormer promotion may undermine efforts to combat anthelmintic resistance, BEVA says

The British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) is concerned about a recent online promotion from a pet care retailer advertising cheap horse wormers, which it says is potentially damaging.

The advertisement was promoting 'Horse wormers from £4.33'. The association believes this could motivate horse owners to make the wrong decisions about equine worm control based solely on costs rather than clinical need. The issue is being discussed within equestrian media and *Horse & Hound* recently published an article on the topic.

David Rendle, Chair of BEVA's Health and Medicines Committee, said: 'It is exceedingly disappointing to see de-wormers being advertised in this way by companies who are putting their short-term profits above equine welfare and the long-term effectiveness of these products. We now

have resistance to every class of de-wormer and it is grossly irresponsible to be promoting these products based on their low cost. These products should only be used where there has been careful consideration of the risk of clinical disease and appropriate diagnostic testing.

The company involved has subsequently expressed its regret about the content of the promotion and plans to review its communications to ensure the right advice is given.

BEVA recommends that all horse owners should have a veterinary-led parasite control programme for their horse(s) and should only use de-wormers where they are essential to reduce to risk of clinical disease. To find out about the latest science behind equine de-worming visit www.beva.org.uk/home/news-and-views/latest-news/details/More-evidence-shows-traditional-frequent-worming-is-unnecessary

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In the March issue of *Forge Knowledge*

Forge Knowledge is a member-only benefit offering an opportunity for gaining CPD. BFBA membership is free for apprentices.

Dissimilar feet: Associated lameness and remedial solutions

By Andrew Poynton FWCF



This is a case study of a 24-year-old appaloosa mare that has dissimilar feet and has been affected by this over time. Many horses have less than ideal hoof/limb conformation yet perform well for many years with little or no attention paid to these discrepancies. This is not a reason to justify this approach as it could be argued that performance could have been better and longevity of athletic function prolonged.

Mechanical or overload laminitis

By Griselda Beaumont
ANutr(Animal). NAF
Nutritionist

While we all know the common causes of Laminitis and its debilitating nature to both horse and pony, what is not as often discussed, but is widely seen, is the mechanical overload that creates an inadequate blood supply to the laminae itself.

Research summary

Royal Veterinary Colleges study reveals associations between hoof-ground interactions and upper body movements of horses and their riders





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