

Blacksmiths'  
**'SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE'**  
Launch

20 JULY, 2010  
HAMPTON COURT PALACE

A special 'Wrought Ironwork' event  
to launch our

# HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BLACKSMITH BURSARY PROJECT

and raise awareness  
of the need for developing and promoting good practice  
in the heritage ironwork sector

**National Heritage Ironwork Group**  
Securing the future of our rich heritage of wrought ironwork

# PROGRAMME

- 10.00 Arrival, Registration, Tea & Coffee
- 10.30 Welcome  
*Adrian Phillips, Surveyor of the Fabric, Historic Royal Palaces*
- Why the National Heritage Ironwork Group?  
*Chris Topp, Chairman, National Heritage Ironwork Group*
- Skills for the future, investing in appropriately skilled craftsmen  
*Bethan Griffiths, Secretary, National Heritage Ironwork Group*
- Starting from the bottom up, grass roots training requirements  
*Steve Rook, British Artist Blacksmiths Association*
- How complex can it be? The philosophical debates  
*Martin Ashley, Martin Ashley Architects*
- Often overlooked but not to be forgotten: railings case study  
*David James, National Heritage Ironwork Group*
- 12.30 Buffet Lunch
- 13.15 What's the story? Understanding the historical significance (tour)  
*Susanne Groom, Curator, Historic Royal Palaces*
- A specialist skill, repoussé (demonstration)  
*Paul Allen, National Heritage Ironwork Group*
- Exploring the art, spirit & Chinese whispers of ironwork (exhibition)  
*Brian Hall, National Heritage Ironwork Group*
- Moving forward in achieving our aims  
*Glenn Young, National Heritage Ironwork Group*
- 15.40 Questions & Answers
- 16.00 Networking opportunity, Tea & Coffee



# SECURING THE FUTURE OF OUR RICH HERITAGE OF WROUGHT IRONWORK

## THE NEED

In the United Kingdom we have a precious heritage of blacksmith-made architectural ironwork displaying a mastery of design and superb craftsmanship with, for example, the Tijou Screen at Hampton Court Palace being accepted as a work of art of national importance.

Many items are listed, often at the highest grades, yet currently heritage ironwork is under-represented in both education and standards. Surprisingly it is the one area of conservation where no codes of practice exist and practitioners do not need to be properly trained or qualified.

The conservation of ornamental ironwork demands specialist skills which are hard for the blacksmith to gain and deserve recognition. In other conservation disciplines practitioners are expected to prove themselves by achieving some kind of accreditation. The field of heritage ironwork deserves no less.

The National Heritage Ironwork Group addresses this need. Only by building a system of training and accreditation for heritage blacksmiths can we hope to secure the future of our rich heritage of decorative ironwork.

## HERITAGE BLACKSMITH BURSARIES

We are proud to announce that we have been given a major opportunity to address the need for craft training in the historic ironwork sector thanks to a £350,200 Heritage Lottery Fund grant, awarded under its 'Skills for the Future' programme, allowing us to provide heritage-specific training for advanced students of blacksmithing.

Our Heritage Blacksmith Bursary project is the first specialised training programme for Blacksmith Conservators and will be based on National Occupational Standards for Heritage Blacksmithing which we are also in the process of establishing.

Sixteen experienced or graduate students will benefit from one year's full-time practical skill-based training delivered in specialist conservation and metalworking workshops around the UK. This will be enhanced by a dedicated six-week course of intensive study to deliver underpinning knowledge at Hereford College of Technology.

This project will help towards initiating an acknowledged system of education, evaluation and accreditation to address the lack of a suitable qualification against which smiths can be judged.

Please turn to page 6 for further bursary information.



NHIG.  
National Heritage Ironwork Group



## OUR AIMS

The National Heritage Ironwork Group is dedicated to the safeguarding and preservation of forged ironwork through the promotion of high standards of workmanship, conservation and repair by working towards the development and creation of:

**GUIDELINES** to assist good practice in the specification of restoration work

**ACCREDITATION** for the blacksmith conservator, recognised and adopted by the heritage bodies

**A RESOURCE CENTRE** for ironwork information, to promote its study, origins and history, as well as the techniques and materials used in its creation

**COURSES** studying historic ironwork both for professionals, as part of their Continued Professional Development, and for practitioners working towards qualification in order to attain accreditation

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

We need to secure the future of the rich heritage of forged ironwork and need advice and assistance with funding.

The National Heritage Ironwork Group is the working name of the Heritage Ironwork Trust, a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, set up in 2009. It is run by an active core group of volunteers consisting of conservators, blacksmiths, contractors, architects and training providers. Together our aims and objectives seek to not only protect our valuable ironwork heritage but to provide support and information for blacksmith conservators, fellow professionals and the public.

Totalling **£80,500**, the summary on the next page of immediate projected development and funding requirements allows an appreciation of our funding needs to continue this important work.

## OUR MOST URGENT NEEDS

**Heritage Blacksmith Bursary:** We have secured a £350,200 Heritage Lottery Fund grant awarded under its 'Skills for the Future' programme to set up and run the first specialised training programme for Blacksmith Conservators. This project requires match funding totalling £41,300, which is to be made up of a combination of professional voluntary time and £21,000 in cash. We have already secured voluntary contributions worth £20,300 and received donations totalling £15,500, but cannot proceed without the balance. **We must raise £5,500 by October 2010** to enable us to proceed with our aim of providing a new and sustainable model for progressive learning and evaluation.

**Seedcorn Funding:** To continue in our efforts to undertake additional grant aided projects we need to accrue **£35,000** to provide the financial support to secure and run our organisation.

### OTHER REQUIREMENTS TO ENABLE US TO MOVE FORWARD IN ACHIEVING OUR AIMS

**Conservation Principles & Guidelines:** We must raise **£14,000** to progress the development of conservation guidelines for historic decorative forged ironwork suitable for use by custodians, specifiers & practitioners alike. We have already invested £4,800 worth of professional volunteer time in the conservation principles and presented them to the industry sector at a forum at which we agreed a proposal for peer review.

**Educational Programme:** Our bursary project provides training for practitioners; however a separate educational programme is also required for other professionals. We must secure **£6,000** to fully develop a specialist course for other professionals in this sector, giving them the tools, techniques and underpinning knowledge to assess and specify decorative ironwork. The establishment of this programme would provide a means of income to make the National Heritage Ironwork Group infrastructure costs (as below) self-sufficient.

**Business Costs:** We require **£20,000** per annum to cover the cost of developing and running the National Heritage Ironwork Group's business activities. Cost summary includes: staff @ £10,000; insurances & office overheads @ £6,000; accountancy @ £2,000; stationery, printing etc. @ £2,000. Total £20,000.

The heritage ironwork sector will eventually be sustainable via mainstream funding as accredited programmes come into being. The above sums however reflect our current and short term projected needs. N.H.I.G.'s business plan including projected cash flow is due for completion in October 2010 along with the training plan required by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Heritage Blacksmiths Bursary project. The two are being developed together, as the training plan will form a fundamental part of the next three years' business plan.

## HERITAGE BLACKSMITH BURSARIES

The National Heritage Ironwork Group (N.H.I.G.) is proud to announce that it will be setting up and running a Heritage Blacksmith Bursary project, the first specialised training programme for Blacksmith Conservators thanks to a £350,200 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant awarded under its 'Skills for the Future' programme. N.H.I.G. has developed this project by working together with Historic Royal Palaces, a heritage employer with the need for these skills, and Hereford College of Technology (HCT) as a response to the need for the advanced training.

This Heritage Lottery Fund support will give N.H.I.G. the opportunity to bring together the skills of excellent blacksmithing craft practice and professional conservation practice to provide real and relevant work-based training for those who preserve and protect our ironwork heritage. Currently heritage ironwork, which is a special part of our built heritage, is under-represented in both education and standards. N.H.I.G. will be starting from scratch, as it is a new model in a niche sector, to create a training course in the conservation and restoration of heritage forged ironwork.

### **Adrian Phillips, Surveyor of the Fabric for Historic Royal Palaces said:**

*"With further conservation work to do on the Tijou Screen at Hampton Court Palace over a number of years, we are keenly aware not only of the philosophical complexities involved but of the scarcity of appropriately skilled crafts people to carry out the work. We believe that this project will make a difference to us and to the heritage sector as a whole, by making those skills more widely available"*

These skills are important for the future as national schemes such as the 'CSCS Heritage Skills Card' are set to become obligatory across the heritage sector. At present smiths are excluded because of a lack of a suitable qualification against which they can be judged. This project will help towards initiating a system of education, evaluation and accreditation to address this.

Only by building a system of training and accreditation for heritage blacksmiths can we hope to secure the future of our rich heritage of forged ironwork.

### **BURSARY DETAILS**

N.H.I.G.'s Heritage Blacksmith Bursaries project will offer practical skill-based training to semi-skilled blacksmiths over the age of 19 years delivered in a workshop environment. To gain a broad range of experience it is expected that students will spend time at more than one workshop during their bursary. This will be enhanced by underpinning knowledge delivered by block release at HCT who have had a primary role in the training of blacksmiths for over 60 years. Each bursary will last for 12 months with a total of 16 being offered over two years. The course structure is currently under development and due to be completed early in November.

## OUR SUPPORTERS

The initial response to the National Heritage Ironwork Group has been magnificent. Among our more well-known supporters, we have English Heritage; The National Trust; Historic Royal Palaces; Institute of Historic Building Conservation; Historic Houses Association; Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the York Consortium for Conservation and Craftsmanship. Within the specific field of blacksmithing we have the support of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths; the British Artist Blacksmiths Association and the Herefordshire College of Technology.

### WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS SAY

**Bill Martin, Conservation Director for English Heritage, said:**

“The field of architectural metals conservation has for too long awaited a framework to successfully bind together the essential skills of the metals conservator and the conservation blacksmith; the aims of the National Heritage Ironwork Group will go a long way to deliver this. English Heritage fully supports these aims and we intend to contribute in every way that we can to ensure their successful development.”

**Rory Cullen, Head of Building for the National Trust, said:**

“The number of true craftsmen and women in terms of building skills has been in decline for far too long, as identified in the recent documentation on heritage craft skills commissioned by the Government. The National Trust is therefore very keen to support the National Heritage Ironwork Group initiative, which we hope will help safeguard the future of this wonderful skill and promote an understanding of the intricacies involved in the process.”

**Kevin McCloud, author, broadcaster and designer said:**

“I’m delighted that the National Heritage Ironwork Group exists to promote the conservation of historic forged metal. As a former forge-owner, I know the value of training and traditional skills in this most specialised of disciplines and have often marvelled at the ability of a talented smith to form a penny-end from a bar of iron or the wriggling, fluid shape of a water-leaf or acanthus from a piece of plate.

When the traditions of a craft are not taught, it instantly dies. The N.H.I.G. bursaries project keeps the torch of learning alive, through study of historical metalwork and the teaching of the craft.”

## DELEGATES

Hugh Adams	Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths
David Alexander	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Paul Allen	National Heritage Ironwork Group
Martin Ashley	Martin Ashley Architects
Nicola Ashurst	Adriel Consultancy
Julian Bagg	Institute of Historic Building Conservation
John Barnes	Historic Royal Palaces
John Bellamy	The Blacksmiths Guild
Tessa Blundy	Parliamentary Estates Directorate
Nigel Brake	Penybryn Engineering
Richard Burton	Landmark Trust
Mike Bussell	Consulting Structural Engineer
Liz Campbell	West Dean College
John Challen	Ironbridge Gorge
Terry Clark	British Artist Blacksmiths Association
Erica Cotton	Architect and Historic Building Consultant
Neil Daniels	Cadw
Michael Day	Historic Royal Palaces
Kate Dew	National Apprenticeship Service
Sean Doxey	Chatsworth
Rob Dunn	Hereford College of Technology
Veronica Dunn	The Chartered Institute of Building
Keith Falconer	English Heritage
Rik Fox	The Morton Partnership
Rod Giddins	Historic Royal Palaces
Terry Gough	Historic Royal Palaces
Bethan Griffiths	National Heritage Ironwork Group
Suzanne Groome	Historic Royal Palaces
Monica Grose-Hodge	Artworkers Guild
Brian Hall	National Heritage Ironwork Group
Andrew Harris	Martin Ashley Architects
Gill Harris	National Association of Farriers, Blacksmiths & Agricultural Engineers
Rupert Harris	Rupert Harris Conservation
David Hills	Purcell Miller Tritton
Dave Hodgson	Ironwork Consultant
David Humphreys	Historic Towns Forum
John Hutchinson	National Heritage Ironwork Group
David James	National Heritage Ironwork Group
Jo Kirby Atkinson	The International Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works

## DELEGATES

Patricia Leš	Historic Royal Palaces
Elizabeth Long	National Trust
John Maddison	Artist
Bill Martin	English Heritage
Peter Meehan	Dorothea Restorations
Simon Metcalf	The Queen's Armourer
Caroline Miller	The Radcliffe Trust
Peter Millington	Wrought Ironwork Historian
Elizabeth Moore	English Heritage
James Mott	Project Book
Andrew Naylor	National Heritage Ironwork Group
Adrian Phillips	Historic Royal Palaces
Karen Pratt	National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies
Richard Quinnell	Ironwork Consultant
Nick Randell	Heritage Lottery Fund
Richard Regan	Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths
Alison Richmond	The Institute of Conservation
Sarah Robinson	The Churches Conservation Trust
Emma Robinson	The Heritage Alliance
Elizabeth Robinson	The Victorian Society
Richard Rogers	The Institute of Conservation
Steve Rook	British Artist Blacksmiths Association
Chris Rowley	Heritage Crafts Association
Helen Sant	The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers
Mike Shepherd	Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths
James Simpson	Simpson & Brown Architects
Kellymarie Smith	Listed Properties Owners Club
Robin Stummer	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
Proctor Taylor	Editor, "Artist Blacksmith" Magazine
Jonathan Taylor	Building Conservation Directory
Chris Topp	National Heritage Ironwork Group
Joanna Wachowiak	John Simpson and Partners, Architects
Geoff Wallis	National Heritage Ironwork Group
Martyn Western	Opus International Consultants
Clara Willet	The Traditional Building Skills Building Scheme
Vikki Wood	Historic Royal Palaces
Sean Wood	Linford Group
Chris Woods	The Institute of Conservation
Glenn Young	National Heritage Ironwork Group

## COUNCIL

The following have given freely of their time and expertise on the Council of N.H.I.G.:

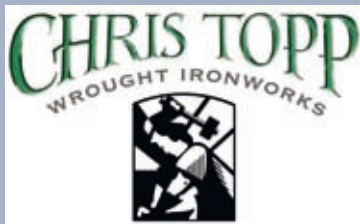
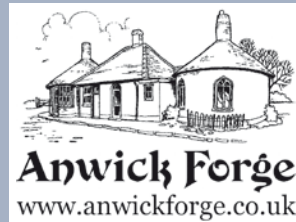
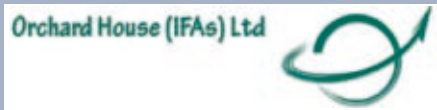
- **Adrian Legge**, Senior Tutor in Forgework, National School of Blacksmithing, Hereford College of Technology
- **Andrew Naylor**, Hall Conservation Ltd, Sculpture & Metalwork Conservator, formerly of Naylor Conservation
- **Bethan Griffiths**, The Ironwork Studio, Ironwork Design & Consultancy, B.A. in Three Dimensional Design, Manchester Metropolitan University
- **Brian Hall ACR**, Hall Conservation Ltd, Sculpture & Metalwork Conservator, trained at Naylor Conservation and Hereford College of Technology 1987-1992
- **Chris Topp**, Chris Topp & Co Ltd, Blacksmiths & Conservation Contractors, 33 years experience in the restoration of ironwork and the production of wrought irons for conservation purposes
- **David James**, George James & Sons, 33yrs experience, fifth generation of a family blacksmithing business established in 1841. Blacksmiths, restoration and conservation of heritage ironwork
- **Geoff Wallis**, Consultant on Metalwork Conservation, former Director of Dorothea Restorations Ltd
- **Glenn Young**, Heritage Craft Alliance Ltd, Training Consultancy in the maintenance, conservation & restoration of Britain's built heritage.
- **John Hutchinson**, BSc (Hons) DipArch RIBA MCI Arb, Consultant Conservation Architect, Formerly of the Parliamentary Works Directorate
- **Keith Gabriel**, Warden, The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths
- **Paul Allen FWCB**, Motcombe Forge, Hereford College of Technology NETS Forgework Consultant, Liveryman Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths
- **Rory Cullen**, Head of Building, The National Trust.
- **Simon Linford**, Former executive Chairman of Linford-Bridgeman & Dorothea Restorations and member of Executive Committee NHTG.

# NOTES

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# SPONSORS

York CCC



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