

Notices

N.H.I.G. Update:

National Occupational Standard for Heritage Blacksmithing is Written

Bethan Griffiths *Photos courtesy Andy Marshall and Projectbook*

Heritage Blacksmiths Bursary: The Training Plan for this Heritage Lottery Fund Skills for the Future project has been approved (this was a big hurdle) and we are now recruiting students and workshops. In brief, sixteen students will benefit from workshop based training over the next two years, combined with a block release course in Heritage Blacksmith work, leading to the NHIG Award for Blacksmithing Conservation. This is competency work-based qualification with standards derived from Construction Skills National Occupational Standards (see below NOS). Our intention is that the Hereford course will be continued after the expiry of the HLF scheme, and we are asking for expressions of interest from experienced smiths who would like to apply for the block release course alone. For full details of the Bursary Scheme, including application forms please see sidebar (right) or refer to the Bursaries page of the NHIG website www.nhig.org.uk/bursaries.html

National Occupational Standards (NOS): The NOS for Heritage Blacksmithing have been completed and are published on our web site and on www.ukstandards.org.uk. This represents a major achievement for NHIG and the first real box to be ticked. There is now a structure on which to build a qualification in our sector, which will start to put us on a par with other heritage building craft skills.

NHIG Launch (photos, right): Tuesday the 20th July 2010 saw the official launch of the National Heritage Ironwork Group. It was hosted by Historic Royal Palaces at Hampton Court Palace and Adrian Phillips, Surveyor of the Fabric for Historic Royal Palaces, welcomed the delegates and introduced the programme which brought the ironwork of the Palace to life with short talks, a tour and exhibition and then an enlightening and engaging repoussé demonstration by Paul Allen. To get a real feel for the day, you can view a short video produced by 'Projectbook' of the day's events and the delegates' handout, including the programme and delegates list, on the events page of our website www.nhig.org.uk/events.html

This special 'Wrought Ironwork' event not only raised awareness of the need for developing and promoting good practice, but also outlined how NHIG plans to move forward in achieving its aims, including the NHIG Heritage Lottery Fund Blacksmith Bursary project.

NETS: As a result of pressure brought to bear from within the industry funding has been found to carry the Hereford NETS course until July 2011, until which date the roll is full. Please consult Paul Allen for further details:

pureforgework@waitrose.com

Thank you for your continued interest and please do spread the word to anyone who may be interested.

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