

# ***The Forge Experience***



***Come and experience being a blacksmith in a traditional forge in the beautiful village of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.***

**Richard Maynard – Artist Blacksmith**  
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## ***Where?***

In the village smithy in Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. The forge dates from 1811, but is in a much older 16<sup>th</sup> century agricultural building. The forge has two hearths – one converted to use an electric blower and one which is still blown by hand-operated bellows.



## ***Who with?***

Your tutor will be the village blacksmith, Richard Maynard. Richard was educated at the Royal College of Art and Cambridge, and is a qualified teacher with 12 years experience in teaching in a practical environment.

Tuition will be on a one-to-one or one-to-two basis.

## ***What will I learn?***

What would you like to learn? You will build your skills from whatever level they are currently at, be that expert, intermediate or complete beginner.

The Experience is absolutely suitable for beginners; you will learn traditional skills such as lighting and maintaining the fire, tapering, bending, twisting, upsetting and riveting.

At the end of the Experience you will be **guaranteed** to take home a finished article, made by you in a traditional blacksmith's forge.

## ***What will I make?***

Almost anything! One thing to bear in mind is that good quality metalwork always takes a lot longer to manufacture than you think it will. Something like candle holder, a boot scraper or a wine rack would be achievable. Richard has a Masters degree in design and will work with you to create something truly unique.



## ***What is included?***

One-to-one (or two) tuition, materials, coke for the forge, digital photos to record the experience, a guarantee of a finished product at the end of the experience and as much blacksmith's tea as you can drink (like ordinary tea but with unidentified bits in).

## ***How much will it cost?***

	For one person	For two people
Half day (4 hours)	£80	£120
Whole day (8 hours)	£150	£200
Insurance (compulsory)	£30 per person	

## ***What should I wear?***

Well, it's likely to be dirty and smelly. Natural materials are good – cotton, wool – fleece is a bad choice! Stout shoes or boots are essential. All specialist personal protective equipment will be provided – gloves, apron, eye protection etc.

## ***Is it safe?***

Well there is always some risk, but the blacksmith is a qualified teacher with 12 years experience of teaching in a workshop environment. There are first aid and burns kits on the premises. Insurance is, however, compulsory, and is charged at cost.



## ***Is it suitable as a gift?***

Absolutely! For Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries (your 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary is iron). Gift certificates are available, and a date can be arranged to suit the recipient.

## ***What do I do next?***

Either buy a gift certificate if you are buying the Experience for someone else, or contact Richard directly to book a time.

