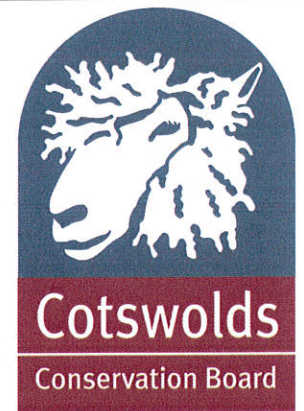


Cotswolds Conservation Board Sustainable Development Fund

**Applicant Name:**

Jak Harrison (no longer works with Churn) Fran Embleton-Smith

Project Name:

Forging Ahead

Location: Cirencester

Total Project Value: £17011.24.

Grant Awarded: £7200

Grant Percentage: 44% of the original estimated costs, 42% of the actual cost



Project Summary

The initial stage of the project saw 12 people who were unemployed take an Introduction to Blacksmithing course. 6 of this initial group went on to English / Maths / IT courses to improve their functional skills, provided through Cirencester College rather than Swindon New College.

7 learners went on to further learning at the RAU. The project had to change tack as the forge at the Old Prison was not ready/ suitable for the proposed work, thus an increase in costs etc.

The project was partly funded by Cirencester Town Council – the participants made a set of gates to be installed at City Bank in Cirencester.

The project partners were Churn Project, Royal Ag Uni, Cirencester Town Council, Glos Wildlife Trust.

Outcomes

Eighteen people participated in all, seven going on to the more technical stage of the project. Six of the initial batch of learners went on to improve their functional skills, three have gone on to find employment.

Of the seven who attended the more technical part of the project, four went on to the third stage of working with the blacksmith to produce the gates. Two of them have applied to do a university course in blacksmithing at Hereford University – we are awaiting the outcome of their application. Two more have gone on to find employment, another is improving his work skills through IT, Maths and English courses at The Churn.

The final product is a pair of beautiful gates for the Cirencester City Bank initiative. The participants designed them with blacksmith, Ben Prothero, using local referenced symbols such as the railway, Roman mosaic, the parish church, hare.