



ABOUT US

At Raven Forge, our ambition was to be recognized as market leaders in the ancient craft of hot forging and to offer much more by combining creative flair with traditional skills to produce high quality work of outstanding design and craftsmanship.

We constantly strive to provide our clients with the best selection of traditional and contemporary hot forged wrought iron techniques and styles available in today's design conscious world.

Each of our wrought iron pieces is a work of art in its own right. Our in-house design service can cater for your own special requests or design ideas, by encouraging discussion directly with our craftsmen, working alongside us to bring your design concepts to life.

In addition, to designing and fabricating new commissions, we are experts in the restoration and replication of old traditional designs typical of the Victorian age and the beautiful ornate railings that adorn our church yards and public buildings.



CREDENTIALS

RICK DE BOUTEMARD **Blacksmith and entrepreneur**

Interested in engineering from an early age, Rick became an apprentice motor cycle mechanic and then trained to attain the British standard for coded welding. Rick joined a large fabrication company, where he honed his welding skills along with developing skills in sheet metal fabrication.

It was here that Rick first met Jim Cooper which led to a fascination with hot forging and a desire to train as a blacksmith. Once he'd mastered the craft, his passion was to set up a business where the focus would be on creativity and craft, employing the best people and developing a reputation for delivering high quality combined with outstanding design and craftsmanship.

Rick's vision and ethos has led to long standing relationships with Local Authorities on regeneration projects along with prestigious projects for English Heritage. Their quality of work and strong installation skills have also attracted ongoing Corporate commissions, most notably from RRG - one of the UK's largest car dealerships.

But, the best indicator of Raven Forge's reputation, is the wide customer base of private commissions, which is built largely on referrals and repeat business.



JIM COOPER **Master Blacksmith**

Jim's passion for forged ironwork led him to join BABA to hone his forging capabilities - during this time he joined a large Wrought Iron company as a designer/blacksmith, where his work was awarded gold and silver medals from NOMMA. These awards were soon followed by the prestigious Bronze Medal, making him a Master Blacksmith and fellow of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths.

Jim's style of work could be described as eclectic, focused around the hearth and anvil, using power hammer, flypress and plasma cutter. Jim likes to introduce humour or novelty into his designs where possible and always takes time to understand his client, enabling him to use his creativity to add extra personalisation to a project.

PORTFOLIO

Over the years, we have designed and fabricated almost everything you could imagine that can be made from wrought iron, complemented by a wide experience of site installation and working with architects and construction companies.

Our experience spans, artistic commissions, stunning gates, railing and staircases for private & corporate clientele, along with publicly funded restoration projects.

"A wide selection of our work can be viewed in the Gallery section of our website."

Victoria Park



St Chad's, Rochdale Parish Church



Eastburn Play Area



RESTORATION AND HERITAGE COMMISSIONS

ST. CHAD'S, ROCHDALE PARISH CHURCH FOR ENGLISH HERITAGE

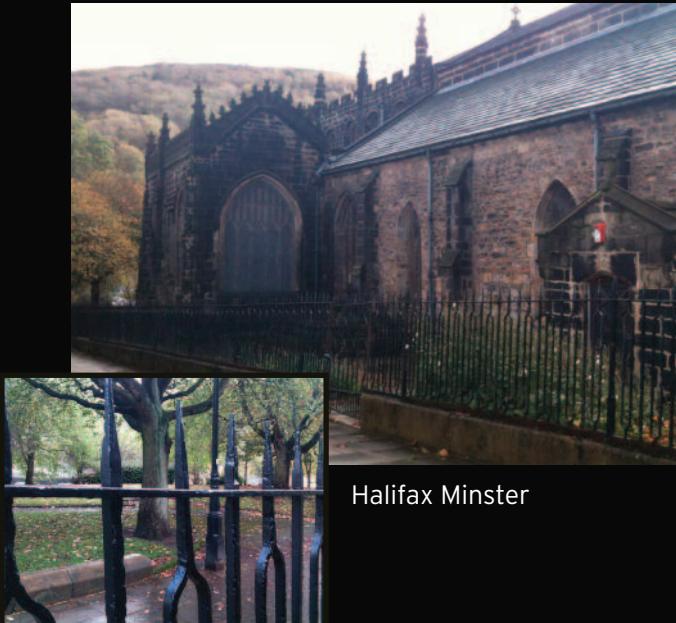
This was a particularly nice project to get involved with as it's such a beautiful building and we had a great brief from the architect.

EAST LANCASHIRE GROUNDWORK

We've been working with them for over 4 years and completed numerous projects - the Dale Street & Fern Street gardens being the latest.

HALIFAX MINSTER

Steeped in history, the building dates back over 900 years. Restoration of the wrought iron railings required us to source reclaimed wrought iron, which we cut to size, re-shaped and fire welded in the place of missing or badly corroded sections.



Halifax Minster



Victoria Park

VICTORIA PARK, HASLINGDEN FOR LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Restoration of gates cast in 'grey iron' - these gates were made in Glasgow in 1901 by Walter Macfarlane & Co. The gates were badly damaged when a car ran into them and snapped off a large section, in addition, they needed an extensive re-furbishment to replace other missing or badly corroded parts.

Due to the difficulties that can be encountered with welding cast to cast and the cost that would be involved with re-making the missing parts in cast iron (making the patterns & the mould of sand to pour the molten iron into) we've developed a more practical and durable solution using mild steel, which will result in a seamless repair and a much more solid structure.

PRIVATE COMMISSIONS

Large estate gates



Modern gates



Ears of wheat themed staircase



Initial design concept

"Through encouraging discussions about our clients own ideas, we are able to bring their concepts to life and produce a truly unique design."

CORPORATE COMMISSIONS

Through undertaking complex private commissions working alongside Architects, our ability to work with detailed plans, quality of work and strong installation skills has led many of those Architects to commission us for their Corporate Projects.

Interior steel staircase



Lexus dealership railings



Exterior staircase



PRESS ARTICLES

SUPPORTING LOCAL JOBS

Rossendale Free Press

Rossendale Council is helping to support traditional craft metalworking skills in Rossendale by using Bacup based Raven Forge Ltd to supply decorative railings for the nearby regeneration project in Dale Street, Bacup.

Raven Forge produce handcrafted hot forged wrought iron work including unique made to measure designs for wrought iron gates, railings, balconies, beds, dining tables, chairs and stunning staircases.

All products are made by craftsmen with years of expertise.

Regeneration Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Bill Challinor said: "We are pleased to use a local firm and to help keep traditional skills alive. The railings look fantastic with amazing scrollwork and detailing."

The Dale Street project is being funded by the Elevate regeneration programme with support from Rossendale Council.

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FORGING AHEAD

The Lancashire Magazine

The word 'blacksmith' conjures up mental pictures of a brawny type in a leather apron hammering out horseshoes amid dark and steamy conditions in a village forge. But Rick and Jim could not be further from that image.

Rick owns Raven Forge in Bacup and Jim is not only the man who inspired him to take up the profession but is an award-winning artist blacksmith whose work is admired internationally.

This is a story of two modern blacksmiths bringing their artistic flair to this ancient craft.

