

Brian Hill - Short Bio



Throughout Brian's career he has provided a skill based, work related education for students to become able and confident craftsmen and designers. Many have progressed into the industry, making a positive contribution to the health and welfare of the precious metalworking trade.

This was maintained throughout Brian's 40 years at Rochester College leading the silversmithing, Goldsmithing & Jewellery course, where students learnt well in the company of experts through hands on and direct instruction and training. An integral part of the student experience was to participate in competitions and live projects. Rochester won the college trophy countless times in the prestigious Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council (GC&DC) competition. Constantly working with the industry, Brian built a good rapport and strong relationship with the profession, establishing an enviable reputation across the sector. He served as member of the Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council (GC&DC) for 22 years and was its Chairman in 2003 & 2004.

Seven years on from retirement Brian is fully engaged with the industry where his experience, knowledge and skills are in regular demand, he continues to mentor recent graduates and others within the profession. He is consultant to the GC&DC, has served on the Goldsmiths' Company Craft & Industry Committee and now a Trade Advisory Panel, and continues to help in the work at The Goldsmiths' Centre and Goldsmiths' Hall. This is where Brian's inbuilt beliefs lie; to educate, train and foster craft and design skills to the highest possible standards; he strongly supports and upholds these central aims.

A recent author in partnership with Andrew Putland, their book on silversmithing has been well received by industry and education. Brian was in the 2014 Professional Jewellers Hot 100 list as a trail blazer and in March 2015 was presented with the inaugural award for jewellery Skills by the Creative & Cultural Skills Academy. A long serving Freeman to the Goldsmiths' Company, he was made a Liveryman in 2016, and in July 2018 Brian was recognised at the Retail Jeweller UK Awards for his outstanding contribution to the industry. In his acceptance speech he said " My love affair with the jewellery industry started 52 years ago, and I still find myself heavily involved, motivated and inspired to do good things, educate and encourage many to catch the bug and make it their careers. it's great to be actively involved in contributing to the well-being of such a rewarding and creative profession"

Brian believes that there is no substitute for learning the core skills of the craft. Everything then becomes more achievable and possible from such an excellent foundation of learning and abiding by high bench mark standards of fine craftsmanship and creative design.

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